

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 21 1989/Āsadhā 30, 1911
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Modernisation of Railway Stations

*61. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a pro-

posal to modernise some railway stations during the year 1989-90;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for this programme; and

(c) the zone-wise number of railway stations identified for modernisation during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Modernisation of railway stations, including remodelling of station buildings, is continuous process and the same is being done on a need-based programme. Besides, 67 stations have been identified for being developed as model stations. The approximate total amount earmarked during the year 1989-90 for the modernisation of stations, including these model stations is Rs. 15 crores.

(c) Modernisation is a gradual and continuous process, covering most of the stations on Indian Railways, where there is significant passenger traffic. However, a statement indicating the number of model stations, Railway-wise, is given below.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the Railway	No. of stations identified
1	2	3
1.	Central Railway	8

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Railway</i>	<i>No. of stations identified</i>
1	2	3
2.	Eastern Railway	7
3.	Northern Railway	11
4.	North Eastern Railway	6
5.	Northeast Frontier Railway	5
6.	Southern Railway	7
7.	South Eastern Railway	5
8.	South Eastern Railway	9
9.	Western Railway	9
Total		67

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what facilities are being provided under the model railway stations scheme. In his reply, he has stated that modernisation is a continuous and gradual process and is being done on a need-based programme. It is true. But model station is a new concept which he has also mentioned in his Budget speech. When I have asked for the allocation under modernisation separately, he has mixed up the two and has stated that an amount of Rs. 15 crores has been earmarked for this year both for the expenditure on model stations and also for modernisation. I would like to know as to what facilities are being provided under this new concept of model stations and how they have been selected as also what is the expenditure under modernisation and model stations separately. I would like to draw his attention to his Budget speech. He had said that Rs. 100 crores would be the expenditure for developing 67 stations as model stations but now, under both the heads only an amount of Rs. 15 crores is provided this year.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCIṆDIA: I think

the hon. Member has rightly stated that an amount of Rs. 15 crores is provided this year. The total sanction for model stations is, I think, somewhere in the region of what the hon. Member has talked about. But I have talked about allocations this year. I am not trying to confuse the issue. Modernisation and upgradation of stations is a continuous process and there are several heads under which the expenditure on these works are allocated. Therefore, it is very difficult to be specific about every item which may come under modernisation and rehabilitation. There is an area, however, where we could be totally specific in this whole exercise and that is the amount spent on model stations. Therefore, I have tried to bring out as many areas as possible where I could specifically and categorically state what the amount was and specify that amount. So, there is no confusion that we have tried to create. A total amount of about Rs. 68 crores is proposed to be spent in 1989-90 on passenger and other railway user amenities. It is spent under six various heads but the bulk is spent under two planned heads, that is, under passenger amenities and other specified works. Modernisation of stations in the main is carried

under other specified works for which the allocation this year is about Rs. 11 crores but a considerable amount of money is also spent under passenger amenities which is a further amount of Rs. 25 crores.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, according to the reply of the hon. Minister, nine model stations are being developed in South-Eastern Railway. Which are stations being developed as model stations and how many of them are in Orissa? In view of the awful and miserable condition of the railway stations in Orissa and lack of passenger amenities, what are the proposals of the Railway Ministry with regard to modernisation, development of railway stations and providing the required facilities at various stations in Orissa.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The stations that have been chosen as model stations in South-Eastern Railway are Bilaspur, Raipur, Kharagpur, Vizag, Gondia, Durg, Tatanagar, Bhubaneswar and Ranchi. The total amount sanctioned for the Bhubaneswar model station amounts to Rs. 1.63 crores, and the expenditure so far is about Rs. 28 lakhs approximately. This year another over Rs. 33 lakhs will be spent on Bhubaneswar model station.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: What about modernization of other stations? As you know Orissa is the heart of South-Eastern Railways. There is only one station, Bhubaneswar, that is being developed. Orissa is not getting its due share.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: In addition to this model station, face-lifting and construction of new station buildings and remodelling are taking place in various stations in Orissa. At Puri, there is remodelling, in Kendrapara there is remodelling of the station building, in Gopalpur there is again remodelling of station building which is in hand and then we have the face lifting of the station building at Behrampur. There are also improvements being done at various other stations in Orissa and they number about eighteen. If the hon. Member wants, I

can give these names.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: The Minister has very categorically stated the modernization of stations is taking place. Modernisation is a continuing process, as he has himself stated, but the process has also to be in line with the requirements of fast moving trains. We recently saw on television that the Government was negotiating with France for a superfast train. A number of accidents that take place are because of the faulty lines, the shorter length between junction boxes etc. Does the modernization, upliftment and modern facilities being provided at stations keep in view the requirements of these faster trains? And what are the steps being taken?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: This is an omnibus question which requires an ominous answer. If the hon. Member meets me separately, I would certainly explain to him in great length.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: I have a shorter question—say, yes or no.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: To some extent—yes and in respect of other areas—no.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: This is a non-aligned answer.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a half way policy.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Sir, the Government, as a policy has decided to modernise the State capitals in the country. As such, Bhubaneswar which is the State capital of Orissa is being modernized and it comes under that category. And thus, not a single station of the South-Eastern Railway has yet been modernized in Orissa because Bhubaneswar cannot be taken as being modernized as per the norms fixed by the Railways for modernization of all State Capitals. Bhubaneswar comes in that category only. As such not even one station in the South-eastern Railway has been modernised. I

would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether Behrampur—Ganjam is going to be modernised. The hon. Minister has said just now that there is some improvement in the buildings which is not worth the improvement. I would like to have a categorical answer from the Minister as to whether Government is thinking of modernising the Behrampur Railway Station.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: As I said, modernisation and upgradation of facilities is an on going process and quite naturally sometimes the State capitals also come with in this programme. But there is no definite policy that every state Capital is specifically going to come under the model station or under the scheme of modernisation. The general scheme will be applicable to them. Therefore, Bhubaneshwar was specially picked up not because it was State Capital but it was picked up as a Station to be developed as a model station on that particular division.

As far as Behrampur is concerned, I have already said that we are doing some improvement work. As I have mentioned, there is some face lifting of the Station building that is taking place.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARARAO: Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the modernisation process is slow and delayed because there is no allocation of fund. For example, in Hyderabad-Secunderabad division, the Nampalli station is not working till today because there is no allocation of fund.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: In South-Central Railways about five stations are being taken up as model stations and a scheme costing about Rs. 8,20,00,00 has been sanctioned for these five stations. For Hyderabad, a scheme costing about Rs. 3 crores has been drawn up to develop Hyderabad as a model station. The work has now commenced on Hyderabad also.

Edible Oil Stock with STC

*64. **SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI †:**
SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has invested huge sums for raising the stock of edible oil of different varieties;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether there is any likelihood of the STC incurring loss on this count?

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

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The stock level of imported Edible Oils with the State Trading Corporation at the end of June, 1989 was approximately 1.56 lakh tonnes, valued at about Rs. 110 crores (CIF).

(c) State Trading Corporation's import and distribution operation of edible oils is done on Government Account and all surpluses/deficits are allocated to Government Account. The extent of deficit on Government Account, if any, will depend on the price at which Government decides to finally issue these oils. Thus, the question of State Trading Corporation incurring any losses does not arise.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the varieties of edible oil which have been imported by the STC and the names of the countries from which they are imported. I would like to know whether the Government has come to know that there already a lot of fluctuations in the market as far as edible oil is concerned; if so, does the Government propose

to stabilise the market.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, we are importing edible oil from different countries through STC. For example, we are importing Soyabean Oil from U.S.A., Brazil, Argentina and Europe. So far as Rapeseed Oil is concerned, which is used for vanaspati and PDs, we are importing it from Canada, Europe and China. We import Sunflower Seed Oil from U.S.A., Argentina and Europe. The Neutralised Palm Oil is imported from Malaysia. RBD Palm Oil and RBD Palmolein is imported from Malaysia and Indonesia.

It is not in the hands of STC to stabilise the market. In view of the fact that there is a very good oilseeds production this year, the growers do require a good market and they are demanding remunerative prices. Therefore, we thought not to release all the stock in the market, especially for the vanaspati units and also not to release the stock in the open market because the growers felt that when the supply was enough from the domestic production, then the prices would crash. Therefore, Sir, we had to maintain certain stock with us which was not released for the vanaspati units and we also increased the STC release price to vanaspati industry. That is why the stock is there so that there is no destabilisation in the market.

SHRIMATIBASAVARAJESWARI: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have decided to import oil during this year also by spending a lot of foreign exchange. If not, what is the alternative plan before the Government so as to see that the farmers grow sufficient quantity of oil seeds during this year?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: It is a pleasure for us once again to inform the hon. Members of the House that our plan for 1988-89 was to import more than 21 lakhs metric tonnes of edible oil but we did import only about a little over 10.5 lakhs metric tonnes. It is because we thought that the country's production is enough. It was an arrangement made between our Civil Supplies Department and the other concerned agencies,

keeping in view the oil-seeds production, that we should provide remunerative price to the farmers in the oilseeds sector. It is once again an achievement of the Government for having done a genuine import substitution in this country. To that extent, we did reduce the import. After having reduced it, whatever little over 1 lakh tonnes that was left in our hands, we did not deliver it to the Vanaspati units. It is because we on our own increased the price, keeping in view that the vanaspati units can purchase at a higher price from the international market which is more than the release price. However what we have decided now is that if at all, Palmolein Oil is required, we may think of having it or whatever is suggested by the Civil Supplies Department. That we may do. As such there is no big plan to import edible oil at the moment.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: The question related to the prices of imported edible oils.

Is it a fact that the stock worth about 110 crores, which is accumulated, of the imported edible oil will result in the loss to the STC? Now, the Government takes a view that the STC has nothing to do with this because it is on the Government's account. I want to know whether there is going to be any loss because of the huge stock being accumulated by the STC. I would also like to know as to what is the pricing policy and whether it is also a fact that this pricing policy is resulting in profiteering, that is, keeping the imported edible oil at a lower rate and then inflating the price and selling the edible oil at a very higher rate to the consumers.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI: I would like to inform the hon. Member that it was never the practice of the Government or the STC to increase the prices of edible oil for making profits. On the contrary, based on available international prices by which we used to buy the edible oil from time to time, we only used to add service charges along with transportation. Keeping all those things into account, whatever we used to supply to the Civil Supplies agencies or the PDS even that was

much cheaper than the usual market prices in the country. So, there was no tendency of profiteering.

As far as pricing policy of the STC's edible oil is concerned, as I stated earlier, it was never planned to make profit out of it. It is a commitment made to the civil supplies agencies to maintain PDS. Thereafter, after importing the oil at the imported prices, we do add our service charges, tinning charges, transportation charges and also other details. So, all that is accounted for and it is credited into the Government's account totally. It is not an individual profiteering tendency on the part of STC.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that edible oil worth nearly Rs. 110 crores has been lying in the stock for quite a long time. If edible oil remains blocked for more than 4 to 6 months in the stock, it starts emitting foul smell and it becomes unfit for human consumption. Has the Government taken this factor into account? What is the quality of this oil and in which condition it is at present? No one in Maharashtra is willing to accept it even free of cost. How much loss Government will incur if it is not purchased by the consumers and instead used only in the manufacture of soap etc.?

[English]

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: There should not be any impression that stock itself should be treated as a glut. It is not like that. The stock is precisely worth Rs. 110 crores or a little over 100 crores as was stated by the hon. Member—the crude stock and not the refined stock. Its quality gets deteriorated month after month. We have taken experts' opinion regarding refined crude stock of soybean, refined crude stock of rapeseed

and also the neutralised palmoil. Even after eight or 10 months, if the quality of neutralised palmoil gets deteriorated, it can be usually replaced by fatty acid industries so that the country may not import fatty acid and they can use neutralised palmoil.

It is in our stock from last October. We have also calculated its life taking into account all the angles. The life of this will remain intact, without being deteriorated before refining, for 8-10 months. Still there is a demand of 7 lakh tonnes and our stock is a little over one lakh tonnes. So, it is not a dead stock. It will be refined for the use of consumer. Therefore, there should not be any anxiety on the part of the hon. member as well as the consumer. We will do something about it. But, first, I would like to inform the hon. member that we take all precautions and safety measures while refining it for improving its quality, whatever stock we have with us, whether it is meant for consumers or others.

Train Accidents

*65. SHRI D.B. PATIL†:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHER-
JEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway accidents/derailments occurred from January to June, 1989 zone-wise and the number of trains involved;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured in these accidents;

(c) the quantum of compensation paid to the families of the deceased and to the injured persons;

(d) the loss to railway property as a result thereof; and

(e) the findings of inquiry commissions/committees set up to go into the causes of accidents and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e). A state-

ment is given below.

(a) and (b) Zone-wise number of consequential train accidents, derailments, number of trains involved, number of persons killed and injured during the period January 1989 to June 1989 is as under:-

STATEMENT

Railway	No. of consequential train accidents	No. of derail- ments.	No. of trains involved	No. of persons killed and injured											
				Passengers						Other than Passengers					
				Kill ed	Injured	Grie- vous	Mi- nor	Kill ed	Injured	Grie- vous	Mi- nor	Kill ed	Injured	Grie- vous	Mi- nor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Oral Answers															
JULY 21, 1989															
Oral Answers															
Central	41	35	45	61	99	142	111	6	12	72	105	154			
Eastern	36	28	43	6	22	56	2	4	5	8	26	61			
Northern	38	29	40	—	—	—	12	13	18	12	13	18			
North Eastern	16	8	18	1	1	4	6	9	11	7	10	15			
Northeast Frontier	38	35	39	—	5	23	2	2	3	2	7	26			
Southern	26	24	27	—	1	47	—	5	14	—	6	61			
South Central	24	20	26	—	—	1	4	1	1	4	1	2			
South Eastern	57	55	58	26	45	62	2	2	4	28	47	66			
Western	26	18	26	—	—	25	49	23	50	49	23	75			

Note: Figures are provisional

(c) Ex-gratia payments to all the injured and the next of kin of the identified dead have been arranged.

No compensation has yet been paid, since compensation payment is a judicial process and is payable as per decision of the Ad hoc Claims Commissioners.

(d) The cost of damage to railway property in train accidents has been estimated at Rs. 1063 lakhs approximately.

(e) Inquiries have been completed in 291 cases and 11 cases are still under investigation. As per provisional findings, 186 accidents occurred due to failure of railway staff, 29 due to failure of persons other than railway staff, 42 due to failure of railway equipment 17 due to sabotage and another 17 due to other factors. Appropriate action, as deemed necessary, is taken.

SHRI D.B. PATIL: Whenever a railway accident takes place, it is generally presumed that the accident might have taken place due to negligence and lack of safety consciousness on the part of the railway staff as well as due to lapses in safety management. This general presumption is not without any basis. In 1989, from January to June, in six months, three hundred and two accidents had taken place. Out of these three hundred and two accidents, inquiries have been completed in 291 cases. As per provisional findings, it has been found that 186 accidents occurred due to failure of railway staff and 42 accidents occurred due to failure of the railway equipment. That means due to laxity on the part of the Railway Department these major accidents have taken place. The number of passengers killed in these accidents is 94; the number of persons other than passengers killed due to other than accidents is 188. This is a serious matter. The Railway Ministry is on record that nearly 20 percent of the Indian Railways' rolling stock and tracks need immediate replacement. But, according to my information, nothing has been done in this matter. This has resulted in the accidents of a serious

nature. So, what safety measures are they going to take to avoid these accidents, particularly the lapses that have occurred on the part of the railway staff?

11.24 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I would like to point out in all humility that safety is given the maximum priority in the working of the railways, and we are not prepared to compromise where the safety of passengers and safety of trains is involved. Our efforts are continuous in the direction to minimise train accidents and, in all humility, I will say that a fair deal of success has been achieved in this direction. In the last four years, there has been a reduction of 32.9 percent in the total number of accidents on the Indian Railways; there has been a reduction of almost 40 percent in total accidents to passenger trains. If you take million train km., which is a correct index to take, then as the volume of traffic goes up, it is obvious that some of the accidents are going to go up, but, in spite of that, as I said, the total number of accidents has come down by 32 percent. But if you take million train km., which is a correct index, it has come down as much as 42 percent. But this does not mean that we are satisfied with our performance or we are complacent. There is a need for continuous improvement all the time. And there is still a very great margin where we could make improvement. We understand that each accident brings out our weaknesses and our failings and it is our effort to try and overcome these weaknesses and failings as they occurred on the Indian Railways.

I would like to request the hon. member to kindly study the last three or four years' railways budgets in greater detail as far as renewal of rail track is concerned and renewal of rolling stock is concerned. We are renewing as much as approximately 4000 kilometers of railway track every year in the Seventh Plan against an average of about 1900 kilometers only in the Sixth Plan. We are spending, if my memory serves me right,

approximately 20 to 23 percent of our total Plan budget on track renewal, and we are spending as much as 30 to 33 percent on renewal of rolling stock together making up 50 or 60 percent of the total railway budget on these two heads alone. We will have renewed approximately 19,300 kilometers of track by the end of the Seventh Plan, and that was our target in the beginning of the Seventh Plan. By 1995 we will have cleared the entire backlog that we inherited of track renewal in 1985. The point the hon. member has made is totally relevant, it is totally correct, and we understand the importance of these points we are doing our best with in our budget to give maximum priority to these areas or railway working which the hon. member has pointed out.

As far as measures for improving safety are concerned, there is, as I said, an increased emphasis on renewal of tracks and rehabilitation of bridges, introduction of modern technology like panel inter-locking, track-circuiting etc. Train accident warning device has been tried on certain level crossing gates and if it is found successful it will be employed on other railway crossings. Modernisation of workshops is taking place at a more accelerated rate; a very large amount of allocation is set aside for modernisation of workshops because it has a direct effect on the state of the rolling stock. Psychological tests for operational categories like drivers and pointsmen etc. are conducted. These have been drawn up by our RDSO and various other organisations and are being implemented, especially after the age of 45. Revamping and training of staff to adoption of modern teaching aids, etc., are also taking place and intensive field inspections are also taking place. And as I said, in all humility, it has yielded results, there has been a drop of approximately 42 percent in railway accidents for million train kilometers and 32 percent—almost 33 percent—in the number of railway accidents over the last four years. But, as I said, our efforts are continuing in the direction, we are still not satisfied with our performance, we feel that there is still a margin for improvement, that we have to endeavour to bridge and our efforts in this

area will continue with the same vigour as they have been in the last four years.

SHRI D.B. PATIL: It has been stated in the reply that, "no compensation has been paid since compensation payment is a judicial process and is payable as per the decision of the *ad-hoc* claims commissioners". The process has not been completed. It is also stated, that "ex-gratia payments to all the injured and the next of kin of identified dead have been arranged". I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the maximum that is being paid to the next of kin of the deceased in general and what is the quantum of ex-gratia payment made to the next of kin of the identified persons.

I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether any differentiation has been made over the compensation to the passengers and to the non-passengers.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: No compensation is payable to the non-passengers because under the Railway Act is not the responsibility of the Railways; road-users for instance in respect of unmanned railway crossings are not really the responsibility of the Railways. The responsibility does not devolve on the Railways, but it devolves on the road-users. In fact, quite frankly, we are probably one of the few Railways which include accidents at unmanned level crossings in our figures. Normally, Railways abroad do not even include this in figures of railway accidents because it is not considered their responsibility. So, really compensation is payable, unless in some tremendously exceptional case, only to passengers. The ex-gratia payable is Rs. 5000/- in the case of death; Rs. 1000/- in the case of hospitalisation for a short period of time and Rs. 2000/- if it is for a longer period of time in the case of grievous injuries and Rs. 250/- in the case of simple injuries. I would repeat over and over again that ex-gratia should not be confused with compensation. Compensation is a totally different category, the quasi judicial proceedings, because in the case of death especially, litigation can follow; we have to know who the successors are and to whom

the compensation is payable. And that is why, *ad hoc* Claims Commissioner is appointed in consultation with the State Government. The *ex-gratia* is paid only for immediate out of pocket expenses, to give immediate relief and it is not to be confused with compensation. As far as compensation is concerned, approximately upto a lakh of rupees is paid in the case of death and also in the case of serious injuries, compensation is paid upto a lakh of rupees. But the amount has to be determined by the *ad hoc* Claims Commissioner appointed as I said in consultation with the the State Government. And also the person to whom the compensation is payable has to be determined by the *ad hoc* Claims Commissioner. We have found that it takes a considerable amount of time and a considerable amount of exchange of letters and correspondence with the State Government in the appointment of *ad hoc* Claims Commissioner. Almost sometimes it takes three to six months. And then the payment of compensation also takes a very long time because the *ad hoc* Claims Commissioner takes some time to come to his conclusion. And to obviate that process and to expedite, we had put up a proposal of setting up Railway Claims Tribunals, which has been passed by the Houses of Parliament. Probably, I think, within the next two or three months, Railway Claims Tribunals will be set up and all the appointments made. One the Claims Tribunals are set up, it will greatly help in expediting the process of payment of compensation, which we ourselves feel is too long.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, the Railway Minister has taken great pains to conclude that things have relatively improved though he said that he is not happy. Sir, in 1987-88, there were 604 accidents. During the first five months of 1989, the no. of accidents has gone up to 302. Is it a sign of improvement? And to my knowledge, one more accident has been added to the dubious honour of South Eastern Railway, where I travel and the figure had gone up from 57 to 58. Therefore, the results of track renewal, etc. probably are being over-estimated a little, which figures show. In reply to part (e)

of the question, it has been stated, as already mentioned by my predecessor, that 186 accidents were occurred due to the failure of railway staff and 42 accidents due to failure of railway equipment. I would like to know how this very subtle distinction is being made by the safety authorities between the failure of the railway man and the failure of the railway equipment. Recently there was an accident in our South Eastern Railway due to brake failure. The wagons have hit the cabins, the cabins fell down and the people died. I would like to know in which category this accident comes, whether this is a mechanical failure or human failure. I am asking this question because I feel that the inquiries are conducted in a way which really covers up the failure of the railways to properly maintain their equipment and also their way of track renewal. I would like to know whether this kind of very peculiar way of trying to throw the blame on the railway staff will be reduced by actually increasing the railway staff by filling up the posts that are lying vacant.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I have already prefaced my answer by saying that whereas there has been an improvement of 40 percent in the last four years on the number of railways accidents, we are by no means satisfied. It is our effort to continuously minimise the number of accidents and continually improve in the process. But I would like in all humility to point out that we are carrying 11 million people every day. We are running 11,000 trains everyday. We are not supermen. It is not possible to have a totally accident free railway. In many places in the world where the technology is far more advanced than in our railways, their record is much poorer in accidents in many areas of railway working than ours. I will just take an example. In the matter of accidents at railway crossings, our accidents are only 55 of which almost half or more than half are unmanned level crossings which is not the responsibility of the Railways. Even than we are including it in the railway accidents. In America, level crossing accidents are as many as 6,000. In Japan they are as many as 700. The latest figures of French Railways of

1987 show 294 level crossing accidents. I am not trying to quote these figures to hide behind them. We are not satisfied. We have got 55 level crossing accidents on the Indian Railways. I do not want to have 55. I want to have zero. That is what we are working towards. I am not trying to take cover behind these figures. But I just in all humility want to point out that we are not supermen. It is not possible to have a totally accident free railway.

Again, figures, I suppose, are not really relevant where human suffering and human tragedy is involved. But I would like to point out that as far as modes of transport are concerned, we are carrying as many passengers as the road transport is carrying. Where there are 40,000 deaths on the Indian roads, there are only approximately 200 deaths on the Indian Railways. Again I am not taking cover behind these figures. I am not trying to manifest complacency.

As far as railway staff is concerned, the hon. Member has asked how these categorisations are determined, how accidents are put under failure of railway staff or how they are put under the failure of railway equipment. I am not a technical person. But technical people go into these railway accidents. Enquiries are made. Where deaths are involved, Commissioner of Railway Safety gets involved. In other accidents, our own senior officers get involved. There are certain norms and certain yardsticks by which categorisation of railway accidents take place. I am afraid, I am not a technically equipped to be able to give you details how exactly these categorisations take place. But if you so desire, I am prepared to set up a meeting between my technical people and the hon. Member in my office. Certainly we will try to satisfy the hon. Member and dispel her doubts or apprehensions whatever they may be.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I am surprised at the statement of the hon. Minister that accidents on unmanned railway level crossings are not the responsible of the Government.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I did not say the Government but I said the Railways.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Railway belongs to the Government. Is it not a fact that very large number of level crossings on the Railways of the rural roads are still unmanned? It should be the responsibility of the Government and should not be left to the devices of the people themselves in rural areas to cross the railway lines as they like. I would like to know what is the programme of the Government, after hundreds of years of working of the Railways in this country, to man these level crossings on rural roads and by what time will they all be covered and manned, and is it the responsibility of the Government also to pay compensation to the people whose life and property is lost on account of accidents on rural roads because of unmanned level crossings.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, nowhere the world over are all level crossings manned. It is not physically possible and it is not always totally necessary. There is a certain amount of responsibility which devolves on the road users. If you are supposed to drive on the right side.. (*Interruptions*). I am not yielding, Sir. I have listened to hon. Member's question and I would like to answer it. In the Railways, as I have said—I am quoting what is there in the Railways Act—the responsibility devolves on the road user, and it should because unmanned railway crossings do not come under the control of the Railways, and nowhere in the world are all railway level crossings manned. It is like saying that compensation should be payable for a person driving on the left side of the road when he should actually be driving on the right side. There are certain responsibilities that do devolve on the road users. We have, in the Railways, launched an awareness campaign. Through wide publicity, we are trying to educate and create an awareness in the road users. I am afraid, it will not be possible to man all level crossings because it would cost four to five hundred crores of rupees, if not more. As I said, nowhere in the world are all level crossings

manned. In fact, a large majority of them remains unmanned. There are certain norms. Where traffic units increase beyond a certain amount, manning of level crossings is then contemplated between the various agencies involved. If you talk of safety at unmanned level crossings, then why stop at manning? I shall put it to the hon. Member that we should make a fencing along the entire 60,000 kilometers railway lines throughout the country. Certainly I would be prepared to do it if the hon. Member manages to get for me thousands of crores of rupees which would be required.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I leave it to you to decide whether you are convinced with the argument of the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, that is all.

ROA BIRENDRA SINGH: Is it to be expected that the people who want to cross the railway lines in rural areas, where very large number of roads are being constructed, should wait the whole night to cross the railway line to reach their homes from *mandis*? Is it not the responsibility of the Government to provide manned level crossings where roads are being constructed?

11.44 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay okay. Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Sir, we are aware that the hon. Minister is doing a lot to improve the functioning of the Railways. Now that some positive results have been achieved, there is scope to minimise these accidents in some more areas also. I would like to enquire from the hon. Minister whether some of these accidents are taking place due to the fact that the engine drivers or guards are made to work for more than ten hours from signing on to signing off. Sometimes they are made to work for twenty-four hours also in a single duty. In such cases naturally due to the

stress and strain, sometimes accidents may take place and in that even it is not fair on the part of the Railway administration to penalise the unfortunate driver and the guard. I would like to know whether it has come to the hon. Minister's notice that some time back a goods train was operated without a guard and a passenger train which followed collided and met with a fatal accident in Bihar. So, in these circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister to issue very strict instructions to all his officers that the loco running staff should not be made to work for more than ten hours from signing on to signing off.

Sir, regarding the compensation, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that this *ex-gratia* payment is a very very paltry sum. The Government should take a decision in this matter, not the Railway, because the Railways is one of the public sector undertaking run by the Government. The Government should certainly see that the person who dies because of the fault of the Railways, is adequately compensated for the loss of his life. His family should be given help taking into consideration how much money he would have earned had he been alive and because of his death due to railway accident how much money his family has been put to loss. Unless the Government take into account all these things, no amount of compensation would be adequate. The accidents will go on and on like this. So, will the Government take suitable action in this regard?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, a great vigilance is kept and the employees are keeping an eye on the duty hours of the Engine Drivers. The hon. Member has made very valuable suggestions. In the case of compensation, I have said that *ex-gratia* payment should not be confused with compensation. The *ex-gratia* is only for immediate out-of-pocket expenses. However, the hon. Member's suggestions are very constructive and we will certainly keep them in mind.

Revision of Bank Officers Salaries

*66. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the salary and allowances of officers of public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details of minimum and maximum gross salaries of bank officers at various levels after the revision; and

(c) how the salaries of bank officers

compare with scientific and technical officers in CSIR, ICAR, ICMR and such bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Effective from 1.11.1987 the revised maximum and minimum of the pay scales for various categories of bank officers and their gross emoluments are proposed to be as follows:-

Grades/Scales	Revised Pay Scales	*Gross Emoluments	
		Minimum	Maximum
I.	2100-4020	2715	5324
II.	3060-4390	3889	5715
III.	4020-4910	4954	6264
IV.	4520-5350	5482	6729
V.	5350-5950	6359	7362
VI.	5950-6550	6992	7996
VII.	6400-7000	7467	8471

* Gross emoluments indicated above include various allowances such as DA as on 1.11.87, and admissible minimum/maximum CCA and HRA—CCA ranging from nil to Rs. 220/- and HRA ranging from Rs. 168 to Rs. 375/-.

2. A statement showing the pay scales of scientific/technical officers in CSIR, ICAR and ICMR is annexed.

ANNEXURE

Rs. 3000 - 4500

Pay Scales for Scientific/Technical Officers in CSIR, ICAR and ICMR

Rs. 3700 - 5000

CSIR

Rs. 4500 - 5700

Rs. 5100 - 6300

Effective from 1.01.1986:

Rs. 5900 - 6700

Rs. 2000 - 3500

Rs. 5900 - 7300

Rs. 2200 - 4000

I C A R

Effective from 1.01.1986:

Scientist	Rs. 2200 - 4000
Senior Scale	Rs. 3000 - 5000
Selection Grade	Rs. 3700 - 5700
Principal Scientist	Rs. 4500 - 7300
- do -	Rs. 5900 - 7300

HRA, CCA, DA etc. as per Government orders.

I C M R

Research Officer	Rs. 2200 - 4000
Sr. Research Officer	Rs. 3000 - 4500
Asstt. Director	Rs. 3700 - 5000
Dy. Director	Rs. 4500 - 5700
Director General Scientist	Rs. 5900 - 6700
Director	Rs. 5900 - 7300
Director General (Fixed)	Rs. 8000

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Sir, according to the latest revision of pay-scales, more than 4 lakh bank employees have been benefited. An Accountant will get Rs. 2100 per month as his basic pay. Similarly, the General Manager will get Rs. 7000 per month. This is excluding the allowances and other benefits. But, Sir, whenever in the organised sector, whenever the employees pressurise the Government, they immediately come down and they will increase the salaries of the employees in the organised sector. But in the case of those working in the unorganised sector, labours working in various establishments under contractors or working in different other sectors they are never being looked after. I would like to know from the

hon. Minister whether, according to this pay revision, there is any immediate impact on the galloping inflation and what is the impact on the general price index.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Sir, the question as it is, put by the hon. Members as also the inflation effect on the general price index and other things, do not become relevant. But even this revision is still to come into force. It is only a proposed one because there is a stay order issued by the Calcutta High Court and therefore it has not come into force.

DR. VIJAYA RAM RAO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether similar demand from the remaining banking sector or other public sector undertakings employees has been received by the Government. If so, what would be the cost burden on the Exchequer?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: There are already demands and we consider them. With all other public sector undertaking employees, the agreements are being entered into and they are signed and approved. Likewise for the banks also the agreement has been signed and for other officers below the Grade-I rank is also decided under the Industrial Disputes Act.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister why in this matter of revision of salaries and allowances of bank officers, the Government has gone in for discrimination between the officers of the State Bank of India which is the largest public sector bank and the officers of all the other nationalised public sector banks. Does he not know that due to this discrimination, there is a great deal of unrest and in fact the officers of the other public sector banks, other than the State Bank, are proposing to voice their protests by means of one day strike even on the 11th of August? What you have done is that in the case of State Bank Officers, they have been given the fitment benefit in the new scale to the tune of Rs. 459 whereas in the other banks, the officers have been given no fitment benefit. And you will be surprised to hear, the lady officers in the

other public sector banks under the new agreements have been deprived even of their maternity benefits, facilities which they were being given. I don't understand how such a thing can be done. Sick leave has been abolished, maternity benefit for lady officers has been abolished and no fitment benefit is given to them while State Bank officers are being given all these facilities. Due to this unnecessary discrimination they have precipitated the crisis and one section of bank officers are going on strike on the 11th of August. So, they should look into this matter and do something.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Thank god! Maternity is not abolished.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: So far as the revisions are concerned, they have been agreed to by the associations. It is the conclusive discussion between the Indian Bank Association and others and they have all signed and as per their agreement it has been arrived at and therefore, there is no discrimination between the State Bank and other officers. It is wrong to say that there is discrimination, but these agreements have been arrived at in consultation with the officers associations.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You cannot confuse like this. After the agreement was made with all bank officers, in the State Bank of India unilaterally they have given some extra benefits. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Sir, revision of the pay scales is arrived at after the agreement between the various associations of officers. That is what I said, and they have agreed. *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Sir, If some special benefits have been given after the agreements have been arrived at by the State Bank of India, we will look into that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If you abolish the maternity benefits, tomorrow you will abolish maternity also.

SHRI HET RAM: The duty of officers working in the banking industry, whether RBI, IDBI, SBI or other nationalised banks or private sector banks, is the same and their pay scales should be the same. Officers of RBI and IDBI are getting more than what the officers of the State Bank of India are getting while the State Bank of India officers are getting are getting more than what the officers of nationalised banks are getting and officers of nationalised banks are getting more than what the private sector banks are getting. In view of this, what the Government is going to do the implement the policy of same work, same pay?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Sir, this is the wage revision with regard to the officers belonging to the scheduled banks and that has been arrived at. There has been no question of RBI being included, IBA has been associated with this and for Mr. Indrajit Gupta, I would say that so far as the State Bank of India is concerned, it has been by the Government not to discriminate. We have already told the State Bank of India not to discriminate and give something more to their officers.

Aid India Consortium Meet

*67. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD†:
DR. DATTA SAMANT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various points raised by India in the Aid India Consortium Meet held at Paris on 19 June, 1989;

(b) the assistance asked for by India and agreed to at the meeting alongwith terms thereof;

(c) how does this amount compare with the assistance given during the last two years and to what extent it would help the country to tide over its widening fiscal deficit; and

(d) the details of projects in which the aid is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) At the India Consortium Meeting held in Paris on 19-20 June, 1989, the Indian delegation apprised the consortium members of the performance of the economy during the past year and of our plans and programmes for the immediate as well as medium term future. The Indian delegation also emphasized the role of external assistance, particularly on concessional terms, in assisting India in its development goals.

(b) and (c). It is not the practice for Government of India to make a specific request in terms of the precise figure of aid, as the India Consortium is a Group set up at the initiative of the World Bank to consider availability of aid to India in the context of the country's requirements. The aid pledges indicated at the meeting total to about US \$ 6.7 billion for 1989-90 as compared to US \$ 5.4 billion and US \$ 6.3 billion for 1987-88 and 1988-89 respectively.

(d) The details of projects in which the aid is likely to be utilised will be determined only after aid negotiations are finalised with each donor agency during the course of the year.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister as to what was the composition of the Indian delegation in the Aid India Consort Meet and who lead it? Compared to the last two years, for 1989-90, the aid is about 6.7 billion US dollars, which is slightly more. To my question part (b), in the reply, no specific allocation has been clearly mentioned. But I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will keep in mind that the lion's share of the aid should be utilised for agricultural development, there by to help the rural masses.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Sir, I have already stated that so far, we have not determined

about the details of the projects in which the aid is likely to be utilised and it will be determined only when the aid negotiations are finalised during the course of the year. Therefore, it will be premature on our part to say right now as to which of the projects we will be taking up.

Naming India as 'Unfair Trading Nation' by the U.S.A.

*68. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY†:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has named India as 'unfair trading nation' under Super 301 provision of the US Trade Act;

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

(c) the reaction of Government of India thereto and its implication on Indo-US trade relations?

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

STATEMENT

Under "Super 301" provision of the US Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act, 1988, the US Government has identified India, Brazil and Japan as "priority foreign countries" for action under the Act. Section 301 of US Trade Act provides for initiation of retaliatory action by US Trade Representative when any policy or practice of their trading partner is in the judgement of US authorities unfair or inequitable or inconsistent with an international agreement. Retaliatory action is mandatory where US rights under an international agreement are found to be infringed and discretionary in other cases. Retaliatory action may take the form of imposition of duties or other import restric-

tions on the goods or fees or restrictions on the services of the foreign country concerned.

The "priority practices" identified in respect of India are: i) trade-related investment measures that prohibit or burden investment (limits on foreign equity participation, export and local content requirements etc.); and ii) barriers to trade in services, specifically the closure of India's insurance market to foreign insurance companies. On 16th June, 1989, the US Trade Representative has initiated investigation of the priority practices in order to determine whether they are actionable under Section 301 of the Trade Act. According to the provisions of the Act the determination of unfairness of the practices is to be made generally within 12 months after the date on which the investigation has been initiated.

It is difficult to say at the present moment what action US would take eventually against India. But by initiating investigation under its laws, the US has brought about some uncertainty in our export trade to USA. The US Government has not yet approached us for negotiations in the context of Super 301 decision. We have, however, made it clear that Government of India will not participate in any negotiations under threat of retaliation. We have used every opportunity in GATT as well as in the various negotiating groups of the Uruguay Round to voice our concerns. India's stand has received wide support and the US action has been criticised by both developed and developing countries. We hope that the pressure of international opinion will deter US from pursuing its path of unilateralism and that no action would be taken that would affect adversely the Indo-US trade relations.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Sir, the basic question involves about the economic freedom of the country and our option to formulate our own economic policy to suit our situation. But, unfortunately the USA's pressure to introduce a free trade, free access to markets and free enterprise is being built up. India should not compromise at any stage on any of the basic policies of our

country. We must get an assurance from the hon. Minister. The Prime Minister also made it clear in Karnataka. But, I am apprehensive because the private sector in the country is pressurising the Government through various ways, to have some compromise in different areas, so that they can have better opportunity to have joint investment in India, a new policy which has been evolved by USA that they should have investment not by aid or loan but through collaboration with the India private enterprise and in this way they are also pressurising the Government.

Hence, I would like to know whether the Government will stand by its own policy. Also, I want to know which are the countries that have supported us in the Uruguay round of discussions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Member that the Government should not get pressurised from any external sources in determining our domestic policies and I can assure the hon. Member that this Government will not be pressurised by any outside interference in our policy.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Sir, one part of my question has not been answered. Which of the countries have supported us in the Uruguay round of discussions?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Large number of countries have supported us in the stand we have taken against the "Super 301"; both developed countries and developing countries. In fact, no country has supported the United States.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: If you have got the information, kindly place the list of countries which have supported us.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I am saying that no country has supported United States. So, you should take that all others have supported us.

Loans advanced under Self Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth

*69. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans given under the scheme for Self-employment of the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) whether any study has been made to assess the implementation of this scheme, its efficacy, how far it benefited the educated unemployed in providing self-employment etc.; and

(c) if so, the findings of the study made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Under the Self Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) an amount of Rs. 469.91 crores, Rs. 259.76 crores and Rs. 394.78* crores has been sanctioned during the years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 respectively.

(b) and (c). A sample study was carried out by Reserve Bank of India to find out the utilisation of loans sanctioned under the SEEUY Scheme during 1985-86 and 1986-87 covering 2181 beneficiaries all over the country. The major findings of the study are as under:

- 1) Assets were found in good condition in 1465 cases forming 67.2 per cent.
- 2) Income generation was regular in 1298 cases forming 59.5 per

cent of the total.

3) Major reasons for misutilisation of funds or for investments not succeeding in generating regular/adequate income were:

- i) Selection of beneficiary/activity without considering the skill/aptitude of the beneficiary, technical and financial feasibility of the activity undertaken, absence of proper market and other infrastructural support.
- ii) Improper maintenance of assets following from lack of training facilities for familiarisation with equipment, lack of capacity to run units as viable commercial ventures.
- iii) Switching over to other activities, shifting of business, abandonment of project etc.
- iv) Delay in making arrangement for suitable premises/shed, power connection etc.

The finding of the study have been brought to the notice of banks and State Governments for taking remedial action.

* Data Provisional

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Sir, in respect of IRDP, at the district level, periodically, meetings are taking place with the Collector, MPS and MLAs. But, in respect of Self-Employment Programme for the urban poor, there is no such review taking place. So, will the Government issue suitable instructions to all the Banks and financial institutions to hold some review meetings in respect of implementation of such Self-Employment Programme for urban poor?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Certainly we are monitoring. We will evaluate.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: In respect of SEEUY, it is so happening that the bank manager is present during the process of selection of the beneficiary as well as the scheme. But, after the beneficiary is selected, the bank manager is raising objection and saying, that the scheme is not possible, though he is present in the initial stage. Will the Government take notice of this fact and issue instructions to all the banking institutions to ground these schemes because the bank managers are very much present in the initial processing stage?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: We know that there are certain complaints. We have received certain complaints and we have taken a view and, therefore, we will certainly streamline the procedure within two months.

MR. SPEAKER: the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MMTC Assistance to Andhra Pradesh

*62. **SHRI T. BALA GOUD:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India has any plan to assist the Andhra Pradesh Mining/Mineral Corporation in the production and sale of barytes, granite, bauxite and other minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any negotiations are going on with the Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (b). A statement is given below.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). MMTC has entered into an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) to assist them in the sale of barytes. Financial assistance by way of loans was extended by MMTC to APMDC for export production of Barytes to the extent of Rs. 2.32 crores since August, 1984 to February, 1988.

Further loans of Rs. 85 lakhs for mechanization of Barytes mines and Rs. 85 lakhs for development of Granite mines has been sought by APMDC.

D.A. Increase to Central Government Employees

*63. **SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the All India Consumer Price Index for industrial workers as on 30 June, 1989 (base 1960: 100);

(b) whether the Central Government Employees have become eligible for any more instalment of D.A. from 1st July, 1989; and

(c) if so, the percentage of increase which has fallen due and the time by which orders sanctioning the next instalment due will be issued and amount of increased D.A. paid to Central Government employees and pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). As per the revised Dearness Allowance formula based on the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission, compensation for price rise has to be paid to Central Government employees twice a year on the basis of percentage increase in whole numbers in the twelve monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (General) (Base 1960=100) for the period ending June and December each year over the index average of 608, w.e.f. 1st July and 1st January respectively with the salary for September and March respectively. The Consumer Price Index Number for the period ending June, 1989 is likely to be available only in the first half of August. Revised rates of Dearness Allowance due to Central Government employees w.e.f. 1.7.1989 can be calculated only after receipt of Consumer Price Index Number for this period.

Use of Lalmasia Coal Field Farakka Railway Line for Passenger Traffic

*70. PROF. SALAHUDDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to utilise the National Thermal Power Corporation Railway line from Lalmasia Coalfields (ECL) to Farakka for the purpose of passenger traffic; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Books

*71. SHRI P.M. SAYEED:
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 31st March, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 4300 regarding import of books and state:—

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has submitted any report on the outflow of foreign exchange on import of technical and medical books through open general licence:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government thereon; and

(d) the number of cases in which illegal practices have been detected and the amount of foreign exchange siphoned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has reported that certain unscrupulous importers are importing books declared as educational literature, but having no commercial value, at over-invoiced prices in the names of fictitious firms; the intention being to remit foreign exchange out of India through legal channels.

(c). The Customs authorities have been alerted. The persons found involved in such activities are penalised in departmental adjudication and are also prosecuted in Courts of law in suitable cases. They are also detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974, if considered necessary.

(d) The Enforcement Agencies have recently detected six cases in which such illegal practices have been found to have resulted in the alleged siphoning of foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 40.44 crores approximately.

Use of Black Money on Marriage Functions

*72. SHRI R.M. BHOYE:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAN-
DAL:

(a) whether Government are aware that a lot of wasteful expenditure on various ceremonies connected with marriages is being incurred in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) the number of raids/surveys conducted by the Income Tax Authorities under Section 133A of the Income Tax Act during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter so as to check proliferation of black money and thus curb tax evasion?

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

(b) and (c). Provisions of Sub-section (5) of Section 133A of the Income-tax Act empower the Income-tax authorities to conduct survey for collecting information with regard to the nature and scale of expenditure incurred by an assessee in connection with any function, ceremony or event. Survey

operations undertaken under Section 133A(5) help in checking ostentatious expenditure on marriages. These survey operations may result in detection of expenditure incurred out of undisclosed income. During the financial years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89, the number of survey operations conducted under Section 133A(5) were 178, 1162 and 562 respectively.

Completion of On-Going Railway Projects

*73. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PAR-
ASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concerted efforts have been made for the completion of those new railways lines/conversion projects for which the foundation stones were laid either by the Prime Minister or the Minister of Railways more than ten years ago;

(b) if so, the exact progress in this regard in respect of each such project, zone-wise;

(c) the likely date by which the projects have targeted for completion along with the estimated cost in each case; and

(d) if not, the fate of the projects as on date and whether such efforts would be made during the remaining period of the Seventh Five Year Plan for their partial or total completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

S.No.	RLY.	Name of the Project	Foundation stone laid by & Year	Progress (as on 31.3.89)	Estimated cost (Rs. Crs.)	Year of completion	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	C	Apta-Roha	Min. of Rlys.	1978	Since opened to traffic	23.34	1986
2	N	Rohtak-Bhiwani	— do —	1974	— do —	7.94	1980
3.	N	Nangal Dam Talwara	— do —	1974	17%	90.00	7 km opened in 1985
4.	N	Shahdara-Saharanpur	P.M.	1973	Since opened to traffic	34.38	1980
5.	N	Dalmau-Daryapur	P.M.	1973	— do —	1.52	1976-77
6.	N.E	Rampur-New Haldwani	P.M.	1974	50%	38.52	
7.	N.E.	Janjharpur Laukaha Bazar.	Min. of Rlys.	1974	Since opened to traffic	2.58	1976
8.	N.E.	Chhitauni-Bagaha (Restoration)	P.M.	1973	9%	Rly. 40.00 Dep. 60.00	9 km opened in 1978

S.No.	RLY.	Name of the Project	Foundation stone laid by & Year	Progress (as on 31.3.89)	Estimated cost (Rs. Crs.)	Year of completion	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	N.E.	Sakri-Hasanpur	Min. of Rlys.	1974	Since deleted		
10.	S.	Tirunulveli Nagercoil	P.M.	1972	Since opened to traffic	38.71	1981
11.	S.C.	Bibinagar-Nadikude	P.M.	1974	Since opened to traffic	56.04	1988
12.	S.E.	Howrah-Amta Champadanga	P.M.	1974	46%	60.00	24 km opened in 1984
13.	W	Kapadvanj-Modasa	Min. of Rlys.	1978	9%	30.00	
14.	S.	Ernakulam-Alleppey	Min. of Rlys.	1979	78%	60.90	30.6.1989

Efforts have been made within the available resources to expedite progress of projects where foundation stones have been laid by Prime Minister or Railway Minister. Completion of the projects at S.No. 3, 6, 12 & 13 will, however depend on availability of resources during the subsequent Plan periods.

In case of Project at item 8, further progress is held up due to Ministry of Irrigation (Central Water Commission), and State Governments of Bihar and U.P. not agreeing to bear their share of cost of protection works.

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Issue of Bonus Shares by Companies

*74. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI:
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposals to relax the guidelines governing the issue of bonus shares by companies; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The various guidelines relating to capital issues are kept under review and changes made periodically as may be needed. Suitable modification (s) to the Bonus guidelines would also be made if and when such changes appear desirable in the interest of the capital market.

(b) Does not arise.

Price of Imported Rubber

*75. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of imported rubber have been exorbitantly increased by the State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the rubber prices since January this year indicating the prevailing prices in January and in June this year; and

(c) whether shoe industry, especially the small manufacturers, have been affected thereby?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c). The release price of imported natural rubber till November, 1988 was Rs 20,000/- per MT ex-godown, Madras. Subsequent to November, 1988, further releases were effected in April, 1989 at a release price of Rs. 23,573/- per MT ex-godown Madras. The releases made by STC effective from 10th July, 1989 is at a release price of Rs. 27,400/- per MT ex-godown, Madras.

The prevailing prices of indigenous rubber in January and June, 1989 respectively were Rs. 17,550/- per MT and Rs. 22,840/- per MT.

The rubber consuming industry, including shoe manufacturing industry, has represented against this release price.

Iron Ore Export to Japan

*76. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of iron ore imported by Japan from India during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the export of iron ore to Japan during 1989-90; and

(c) if so, the quantity of iron ore proposed to be exported to Japan during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Total quantity of iron ore imported by Japan from India during the last three years has been as under.

(Million tonnes)

1986-87	21.59
1987-88	19.94
1988-89	21.34

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. During 1989-90 the quantity of iron ore anticipated to be exported to Japan is 23.45 million tonnes including an optional quantity of 1.2 million tonnes.

Ad Hoc Appointments in Coffee Board

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

(a) whether any norms have been laid down for ad-hoc appointments in the various offices of Coffee Board.

(b) if so, what are these norms;

(c) whether these norms were followed in respect of ad-hoc appointments made recently in Coffee Board, Bangalore; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether these appointments are being cancelled?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). Since no ad-hoc appointments are made in the Coffee Board no norms for the same have been prescribed. In exigencies of work when the vacancies arise the practice is to appoint

daily wagers till these vacancies are filled on a regular basis.

(c) and (d). No appointments have been made on ad-hoc basis recently. Only a few appointments on daily wages had to be made to cope with the work in work charged units due to vacancies arising on account of mass promotion of a large number of group "D" employees. These vacancies have already been notified to the employment exchanges concerned as per the prescribed rules for selection of suitable candidates.

[Translation]

Railway Line in Chambal Division

*78. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval of the Planning Commission has been received from 1985 till date for laying any new railway line in the Chambal division of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir, as part of the Guna-Etawah line.

(b) The completion will depend on availability of resources.

[English]

Debt Servicing Ratio

*79. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the present debt servicing ratio of the country and the ratio in 1980 and 1984?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): The debt service ratio calculated as a percentage of current receipts is estimated to be about 24 percent in 1988-89. It was about 9 percent in 1980-81 and 12 percent in 1984-85.

[Translation]

Increase in Prices

*80. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA
SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been continuous increase in the prices of consumer and other goods during the first ten weeks of the current financial year,

(b) if so, the rate of such increase in comparison to the rate of increase during the corresponding period last year;

(c) the reasons for increase in prices; and

(d) what effective steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). During the first ten weeks of the current financial year the all commodities Wholesale Price Index (1970-71= 100) recorded an increase of 3.3 per cent against 1.2 per cent in the corresponding period last year

The increase in prices is mainly due to seasonal pressures which affect the prices

of agricultural or agro based commodities such as fruits & vegetables, sugar, Khandsari and gur, and edible oils.

The Government has adopted a package of measures to keep the prices under reasonable check. These include supply of essential commodities through Public Distribution System, augmenting domestic supply through imports as feasible, exercising strict fiscal and monetary discipline, strict monitoring of prices and action against hoarders and black marketeers.

[English]

Sick Units

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

(a) the total number of large and medium industrial units declared sick, State-wise and year-wise from 1986 to 1989 (till June);

(b) total amount of bank capital locked in these units, state-wise and year-wise during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken to make these units viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). The State-wise and year-wise position in connection with number of (1) large sick industrial units (i.e. those individually enjoying aggregate credit limits of Rs. 1 crore and above from Banking System) as at the end of December, 1986 and (2) Non-SSI (i.e. medium and large) sick units as at the end of December, 1987 (latest available) and amount locked up in the above mentioned units are set out in the Statement below.

(c) RBI has issued guidelines to banks regarding formulation and implementation of rehabilitation packages in respect of potentially viable sick units. The packages may provide, inter alia, for phased repayments with reliefs concessions like reduced rates of interest, etc. All India financial institutions also consider rehabilitation packages in respect of potentially viable units. As re-

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

(Rs. in Crores)

State's Name	December, 1986*		December, 1987	
	No. of units	Amount Outstanding	No. of units	Amount outstanding (Non-SSI Sick) **
1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal	146	779.81	151	422.38
Maharashtra	161	893.83	252	832.61
Karnataka	43	220.52	62	127.43
Gujarat	68	323.21	131	356.57
Tamilnadu	53	184.08	107	228.90
Andhra Pradesh	44	126.09	70	119.09
Bihar	17	50.28	29	56.66
Haryana	17	50.95	33	50.66
Rajasthan	11	40.33	44	80.40

State's Name	December, 1986*		December, 1987	
	No. of units	Amount Outstanding	No. of units	Amount outstanding (Non-SSI Sick) **
1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	26	998.58	36	87.59
Orissa	10	29.55	9	33.15
Uttar Pradesh	6	251.08	68	136.37
Kerala	2	142.35	27	124.75
Punjab	6	17.80	21	12.73
Assam	7	34.89	4	7.30
Delhi	7	14.85	23	51.43
Pondicherry	3	11.34	4	3.33
Goa	4	10.27	15	25.52
Chandigarh	2	4.35	23	40.00

State's Name	December, 1986*		December, 1987		
	No. of units	Amount Outstanding	No. of units	Amount outstanding (Non-SSI Sick) **	
1	2	3	4	5	
Tripura	1	2.86	1	0.74	
Meghalaya	—	—	1	0.79	
Mizoram	—	—	1	0.11	
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	1	1.40	
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	5	1.31	
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	1	0.57	
Total	714	3287.02	1119	2801.84	

* Those enjoying aggregate bank credit of Rs. 1 crore or more from Banking System.

** As defined in SICA, 1985.

Sources of Foreign Loans

577. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the sources of the foreign loans/ aids;

(b) the total amount received during the last three years from each source;

(c) the rate of interest/charges therefor;

(d) the total amount of such interest/ charges paid during the last three years;

(e) the total amount, out of these loans/ aids, granted to the State/Union Territories and the public sector units, and the rate of interest charged thereon during the above period; and

(f) the total amount of such interest paid by the State/Union Territories and the public sector units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). The details regarding sources of foreign loans/ aids, amount of aid source wise, terms and conditions of aid and the amount of interest paid upto 1987-88 is contained in the Brochure on External Assistance published by the Ministry of Finance. A copy of the Brochure for 1987-88 has been placed in the Library of the House.

(e) and (f). The external assistance received by the Government of India enter the Central pool of the resources available for the entire Economy and are allocated among Central/State Governments, Union Territories, etc., according to our Plan priori-

ties. It is, therefore, not possible to identify its allocation to State Governments, Union Territories etc.

Freight Charges on Sugar Cane

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

(a) whether Indian Sugar Mills Association has represented to withdraw the steep hike in railway freight on sugar cane effected by the current Railway Budget; and

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

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

(b) There is no proposal to exempt this traffic from the freight increase effected from 1.4.1989.

Opening of Bank Branch in Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir

579. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Udhampur): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey for opening of a branch of Vijaya Bank at Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir was conducted twice i.e. during 1980 and 1984; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not opening the bank branch there so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Assistance by Banks under Self Employment Scheme to Registered Unemployed

580. SHRI MATILAL HANSDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recommendations made by the State Governments to the banks under self-employment scheme for registered unemployed during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the loans sanctioned and disbursed by the banks to the applicants of different States, State-wise and year-wise, during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per its information "Self Employment Scheme for Registered Unemployed" is a Scheme of the State Government of West Bengal for providing assistance to unemployed registered with employment exchanges in the age group of 18 years to 40 years. Minimum educational qualification for beneficiary has not been prescribed. Under the scheme, a composite loan not exceeding Rs. 35,000/- is admissible per beneficiary and subsidy at the rate of 25% of loan is provided by the State Governments. The loan is repayable in 5 to 7 years and attracts interests as per RBI

directive on interest rates. As this is a State sponsored scheme, the progress under the scheme is not monitored by RBI. United Bank of India, convenor, State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) for West Bengal has reported that a sum of Rs. 35.89 crores has been sanctioned in 19121 cases during the programme year 1989-89 under the scheme.

Opening of Bank Branches in Malabar Region, Kerala

581. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks opened in Kerala during the first six months of 1989;

(b) the details of parent banks and locations at which each branch was opened; and

(c) whether Government propose to open more branches of nationalised banks in Malabar region of Kerala; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that during the first six months of 1989, Public Sector Banks have opened 9 branches in Kerala as per details given below:-

<i>Name of Bank</i>	<i>Name of District</i>	<i>Name of Centre</i>
1. Union Bank of India	Idukki	Senapathy
2. Syndicate Bank	Kasargode	Chullikara
3. Vijaya Bank	-do-	Kalichamaran
4. Union Bank of India	Kozhikode	Poozhithode
5. State Bank of Travancore	Mallapuram	Karipoor
6. Canara Bank	-do-	Karukthani
7. Canara Bank	-do-	Perupur
8. Indian Bank	Quilon	Thannikamukku
9. Indian Bank	-do-	Poovathur

(c) Under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, RBI has allotted 33 rural/semi-urban and 3 urban centres to banks for opening branches in Malabar Region of Ker-

ala. In addition, RBI has allotted 8 rural centres to banks for opening branches in Malabar region under Service Area Approach.

A.C. Coaches for Madras-Trichy Trains

582. SHRI S. SINGARAVADIVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether none of the Express trains on the main line between Madras and Trichy via Thanjavur is provided with AC coaches;

(b) whether there is a demand for the introduction of coaches with AC-2 -Tier sleeper and AC Chair Car in some of the Express trains on this line;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is always rush for 1st class in the trains on this section; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce AC 2-Tier sleeper in Rameshwaram Express and AC Chair Car in the Cholan Express to benefit the passengers?

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

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. At times.

(d) When sufficient additional AC Coaches become available provision of the same on this route will be kept in view.

Loss to Railway Property in South Bihar

583. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was damage to railway property in different parts of South Bihar during the bandh on 9 June 1989;

(b) if so, whether any assessment of loss to railway property has been made; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). There were 4 cases of sabotage on South Eastern Railway during the bandh on 9th June, 1989,

but the damage to railway property was negligible.

Export of Mangoes

584. PROF. MADHUDANDAVATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of mangoes in the financial year 1988-89;

(b) the foreign exchange earned through these exports; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase their export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Exports of mangoes during the year 1988-89 and the total foreign exchange earned on their export are estimated at 16,000 tonnes and Rs. 17 crores respectively.

(c) The steps proposed to be taken to increase export of mangoes include organisation of expositions in potential countries, arranging buyer-seller meets, despatch of samples of different varieties of mangoes to potential buyers etc.

Frequency of Rajdhani Express

585. SHRIR.P. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to run Rajdhani Express between New Delhi - Bombay and New Delhi Howrah on all the seven days of the week; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Joint Ventures Between India and USSR

586. DR. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have joint ventures in various fields with the U.S.S.R.;

(b) whether teams of officials have been detailed for discussion with Soviet officials; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Both Governments of India and USSR are making continuous efforts to encourage organisations in both the countries to set up joint ventures both in India and in the USSR. As on date, two joint venture proposals have been approved for setting up joint venture restaurants in the USSR and as regards setting up of joint ventures in India, five proposals in the fields of freight forwarding, marketing of Soviet technology in India processing and manufacture of jute goods, making of films and fruit processing have been approved. At present a number of joint venture proposals are in various stages of negotiation between Soviet and Indian organisations. The proposals are in the fields of tannery and leather goods, textiles, forest based products, wood pulp, newsprint, electronics, chemicals and plastic chemicals etc.

(b) and (c). To facilitate and promote new forms of cooperation including getting up of joint ventures, production cooperation with private sector, third country cooperation, etc., a new Indo-Soviet Working Group on New Forms of Cooperation has been set up, under the aegis of Indo-Soviet Joint Commission. The first meeting of this new working group recently took place in Moscow from 20th to 26th June, 1989. Apart from the Government officials, representatives of the business organisations of Indian trade and industry such as India USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Confederation Engineering Industry and ASSOCHAM also participated in the of meeting. In this meeting, discussions took place between the two sides covering a wide range of issues aimed

at promotion of new forms of economic cooperation.

[Translation]

Fire In New Delhi Railway Station Godown

587. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an incident of fire in the Ajmeri Gate based Godown of New Delhi Railway Station during May, 1989;

(b) if so, the assessment of total loss occurred; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c). The amount of loss incurred in the fire incident and the cause of fire are being enquired into by an Enquiry Committee consisting of three officers.

[English]

Project Exports

588. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects abroad awarded to Indian companies during 1986-87 and 1988;

(b) the names of countries concerned;

(c) the value of the project, year-wise and country-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government and the official agencies concerned to promote project exports?

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

STATEMENT

(Value : Rs. Crores)

Name of the Country	1986				1987				1988			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

Algeria	...	116	2	8								
Y.A.R	...	—	1	4								
Kuwait	...	4	1	—								
U.A.E.	...	—	1	1								
Sudan	...	—	2	24								
Oman	...	7	0.25	0.20								
Saudi Arabia	...	2	143	1								
Qatar	...	—	0.20	—								
Iraq	...	213	197	35								
Syria	...	—	2	3								

<i>Name of the Country</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>1988</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Malaysia	26	22	121
Nepal	12	4	—
U.S.S.R.	—	112	—
Ethiopia	—	3	—
Iran	6	—	—
Uganda	4	—	—
Sri Lanka	1	—	1
Bangladesh	3	—	36
Jordan	132	—	—
Maldives	—	—	19
Malawi	—	—	18
P.D.R. Yemen	—	—	2

Name of the Country	1986	1987	1988
1	2	3	4
Taiwan	—	—	2
Thailand	—	—	1
Bahrain	—	—	19
Libya	—	—	8
Mozambique	—	—	1
Zambia	—	—	9
Kenya	—	—	2
Turkey	—	—	35
Total	526	490.45	350.2

Source · EXIM BANK

(d) With a view to promote exports of projects and consultancy services the Government has *inter-alia* taken the following measures:—

- (i) Grant of project assistance to the tune of 10% of net foreign exchange earnings from the services portion of the contracts.
- (ii) Market Development Assistance for reimbursement of 50% of cost of preparation and submission of bids.
- (iii) Market Development Assistance for opening and operating overseas offices by consultancy firms.
- (iv) EXIM Bank, in addition to supplier's credit and Buyer's credit, has also been extending lines of credit to various developing countries with a view to encourage export of projects.

Investment by International Institutional Investors in India

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

(a) whether the international institutional investors are now more interested in investments in India; and

(b) if so, the crucial reasons for this renewed interest in India as well as the details regarding official representatives of some of the top international financial institutions who have expressed their desire or have opted their interest to expand their operations in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Yes, the political stability, policies of liberalisation and the buoyant state of the capital market in India are among the main reasons which appear to have generated increasing interest among institutional investors in investment in India.

Irrigation Potential of Goa

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

(a) the irrigation potential created by the Salauli and Anjumon irrigation projects in Goa;

(b) whether it is a fact that irrigation potential is being under utilised with respect to the two projects;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a). 4.5 thousand hectares and 2.1 thousand hectares respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Mainly on account of delays in construction of field channels and farmers switching over to irrigated agriculture.

(d) State Government have established a Command Area Development Authority which is carrying out the construction of field channels, introduction of warabandi and training of farmers.

Export of Groundnut

591. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the groundnut export for the past three years and upto June 30, 1989;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether the groundnut exporters association have felt that the cash compensatory support for HPS groundnut announced by Government is insufficient; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The quantum and value of export of HPS groundnut since 1986-87 are given below:—

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1986-87	32,151	29.79
1987-88	4,822	5.12
1988-89	36,985	34.75
April 1989- June, 1989	9,712	9.27

(Source: Indian Oil & Produce Exporters Association Bombay)

(c) and (d). The Indian Oil & Produce Exporters Association, Bombay while submitting cost data in March 1989 for review of Cash Compensatory Support (CCS) applicable from April 1989, had requested for increase in CCS rate on export of HPS groundnut. However based on the cost data submitted by the Association, an increase in the rate of CCS was not considered justified.

Model Bill on Regulation of Ground Water

592. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Model Bill on Ground Water Circu-

lated' appearing in Indian Express dated 2 May, 1989; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Bill are:

(1) Creation of a Ground Water Authority to administer the legislation.

(2) Empowering the State Government to regulate, in public interest, the extraction or use of ground water in any form, in any area so notified, based on a report from the

Ground Water Authority of the State.

(3) Registration of the existing users in the notified area.

(4) Regulation of drilling activity in the notified area.

Late Running of Kerala Express

593. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI T. BASHEER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to his notice that there is unusual delay in the running of the Kerala Express from Trivandrum to New Delhi and New Delhi to Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure its punctuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Punctuality of Kerala Express has not been satisfactory on account of recent upsets in the running of North-South trains due to unforeseen circumstances such as accidents, alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities and certain equipment failures. More time is now proposed to be provided at New Delhi to offset such time losses.

Rajdhani Express Between Delhi and Bangalore

594. SHRI H.C. RAMULU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Bangalore and vice-versa; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Not operationally feasible.

Trade With China

595. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently taken steps to expand trade ties with China; and

(b) if so, the various fields in which Indo-china trade has been expanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) During the visit of our Prime Minister to China in December, 1988, it was inter-alia decided to set up Mixed Economic committee headed at Ministerial level on both sides. A sub-committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation has also been set up. India is participating in the Beijing International Fair being held this month.

(b) According to the provisional data supplied by DGCI&S, Calcutta, our exports to China during 1988-89 were of the order of Rs. 64.47 crores as compared to Rs. 33.73 crores during 1987-88. Our imports during 1988-89 were of the order of Rs. 132.46 crores as compared to Rs. 159.31 crores during 1987-88. Exports of drugs, pharmaceuticals & Fine chemicals, chrome ores, dyes, intermediates, crude drugs were main items which recorded an increase in our exports.

Excise Duty Evasion by Cigarette Companies

597. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cigarette industry has

been charged with alleged evasion of Excise Duty of Rs. 2,300 crores;

(b) whether some cigarette manufacturing companies sold cigarettes during the last three years in retail at prices much higher than those printed as the maximum retail price on the packs;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made into the matter and with what results;

(d) the estimated amount of excise duty evaded by the various cigarette manufacturing Companies; and

(e) the stage at which the recovery proceedings against each one of these Companies stand at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) As per show cause notices issued since 1983 the cigarette industry has been charged with alleged evasion of Central Excise duties to the tune of Rs. 2220.24 crores.

(b) and (c). This was the ground for show cause notices issued after necessary investigation in 11 cases involving a total amount of Rs. 1,380 crores.

(d) As per show cause notices issued to various cigarette companies the alleged evasion of Central Excise duties as mentioned in reply to Part (a), is as follows:—

<i>Name of Company</i>	<i>No of SGN issued</i>	<i>Amount involved (Rs. in crores)</i>
I.T.C. and Job workers	28	1180.66
N.T.C. and job workers	21	225.28
G.T.C. Industries and job workers	18	268.95
Godfrey Phillips (India) Ltd., and job workers	7	542.93
Masters Tobacco Company and others		2.42
Total:	69	2220.24

(e) Out of the above, two show cause notices have already been adjudicated. In one case recovery has been stayed by the Tribunal on pre-deposit of Rs. 20 lakhs and the other case has been stayed by the Court. All the other show cause notices are pending adjudication. All Question of recovery of any dues will arise only after these show cause notices are adjudicated and the amounts confirmed. However, one cigarette company has made voluntary payment of Rs. 2.41

crores even before the adjudication of its cases.

Customs shops in Hyderabad and Secunderabad

598. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY:
SHRI G. BHOOPATHY:
SHRI MANIK REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of the customs notified shops in Hyderabad and Secunderabad;

(b) whether Government are aware of illegal customs notified shops in Hyderabad and Secunderabad;

(c) if so, the measures taken to curb them; and

(d) the articles generally made available to the public through these customs notified shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of premises raided</i>	<i>Value of goods seized (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1987	32	9.86
1988	43	10.41
1989 (upto June)	20	4.19

The seizure cases are adjudicated and where appropriate the confiscation of the seized goods is detected and the persons concerned penalized.

(d) The articles made available to the public through Customs notified shops are: Electronic items, calculators, wrist watches, cosmetics, textiles and other miscellaneous consumer goods.

Fast Passenger Train between Trivandrum Kottayam

599. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from Kerala Government to in-

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Number of Customs notified shops located in Hyderabad and Secunderabad are 132 and 52 respectively.

(b) and (c). Government is aware that certain shops illegally operating as customs notified shops have sprouted in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Raids have been conducted on such illegal shops from time to time on the basis of specific intelligence and the goods displayed in them have been seized. The number of such premises raided and the value of goods seized from them during the last three years are given in the table below:—

roduce a new computer fast passenger train between Trivandrum and Kottayam; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) No found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Development of Irinjalakkuda Railway Station (Kerala)

600. SHRI K. MOHANDAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to

develop the Irinjalakkuda station in Trichur district of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Works of extension of platform shelter and face-lifting of the station building have been sanctioned in the current year (1989-90).

Posting of Husband and Wife at Same Station

601. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 5th May, 1989 to Unstarred Question No 8175 regarding posting of husband and wife at same station is State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur and state;

(a) whether any time limit has been prescribed by which transfer is to be effected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further action taken in effecting transfer in the remaining twenty four cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K GADHVI): (a, to (c). State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur has reported that request of posting of husband and wife at the same station are considered on compassionate grounds subject to administrative convenience and availability of vacancy at the concerned place. The bank has also reported that the 24 cases in question relate to postings

at such centres where the bank does not have any vacancy at present and as such those requests would be considered by the bank as and when suitable vacancies occur at those place.

Indianisation Companies Evading Excise Duty

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

(a) whether Government propose to Indianise the shares of those companies who have evaded excise duty and to whom show cause notices for excise duty evasion for more than ten crores have been issued during the last three years; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) No proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Change in U.S. Opium Policy

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

(a) Whether a staff study mission of US Congress has recommended a gradual change in the current American Policy of Opium required for its pharmaceutical industry which may affect India, being a traditional opium exporter;

(b) if so, whether U.S. reserves 80 per

cent of the illicit opium imports for Turkey and India;

(c) the extent to which the change in opium policy will hit India; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). In 1981, the U.S. promulgated a regulation by which it was required that at least 80 per cent of imports of opiate raw materials into the U.S. should be from traditional supplier countries like India and Turkey. A report has since been submitted by a Staff study Mission on "U.S. licit opium imports: foreign policy issues" to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives. The report inter-alia concludes that "given the complexity of these issues and the myriad of consequences which result from any policy changes, it would seem advisable to continue this policy of deferring to the executive branch", the question of deciding which countries should gain access to the U.S. licit opium market. It has also been stated that "any change in the current policy should probably be effected gradually in order to avoid dislocation in the worldwide market".

Exports of Indian Opium to U.S.A. accounts for about 50% of the total exports to the international market. However, in recent years due to a number of factors, the exports declined. While at the moment there is no change in the U.S. policy regarding its licit opium imports, it is difficult to say whether there would be a change and if so what would be its consequential impact on exports of Indian opium to that country.

(d) The matter has been taken up suita-

bly with the U.S. authorities inter-alia pointing out the historical reasons for accumulation of any stocks of opium by India and the fact that she has been recognised as a traditional supplier country requiring support by countries importing opiate raw materials.

Visit of Indian Team to Washington

604. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-
WARI:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team from India visited Washington in June, 1989 to negotiate a loan proposed by the World Bank;

(b) if so, whether the same has been finalised; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVJI): (a) No Indian team visited Washington in June 1989 to negotiate loan agreements with the World Bank.

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

Assistance by NABARD to Co-operative Banks and Co-operative Societies in Maharashtra

605. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:
SHRI PRATAPRAO B.
BHOSALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial help

provided by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during the last two years and the current year to cooperative banks and cooperative societies in Maharashtra to help needy farmers in their agricultural operations;

(b) whether the NABARD is insisting on certain conditions to be fulfilled by the above cooperative bodies to become eligible for the financial help from NABARD and these bodies are finding it difficult to fulfil them; and

(c) whether the above matter is being examined to facilitate the flow of finance

from the NABARD to the cooperative bodies referred to above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the following financial help has been provided by them during the last two years and the current year (upto June 1989) to cooperative banks and cooperative societies in Maharashtra to help needy farmers in their agricultural operations:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Purpose	1987-88		1988-89		1989-90	
	Sanction	Utilisation	Sanction	Utilisation	Sanction	Utilisation
1. Short Term Seasonal Agricultural Operation and other crops	9265	—	12235	1175*	600 0	Not available
National Oilseeds Development Project	350	—	700	—	—	—
2. Medium Term Approved Agriculture Purposes	171	113.54	270	—	—	—
3. Medium Term (conversion)	3434	2000.70	620.95	297	—	—

* As on 25.8.80

(b) and (c). Besides the usual criteria for eligibility for refinance, NABARD had advised vide its circular dated 29th November, 1988 all the State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and State Land Development Banks (SLDBs) that refinance from NABARD will henceforth be subject to their compliance with various instructions laid down by RBI/NABARD relating to issue and repayment of loans, interest rates, rescheduling/deferment of loan

etc. and asked these banks to give an undertaking stating therein that they would follow the instructions/guidelines issued by RBI/NABARD, and in the absence of such undertaking the refinance facilities would be discontinued.

NABARD has further reported that it had stopped providing refinance to Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) in

December, 1988 since interest subsidy scheme in vogue in the State of Maharashtra was implemented through Cooperative Banks thereby violating the instructions issued by NABARD/RBI and affecting the financial viability of Cooperative Bank. NABARD advised MSCB that refinance could be resumed provided MSCB furnish a written undertaking that there would not be any violation/contravention of the instruction issued by NABARD/RBI. As the MSCB did not furnish the requisite undertaking till 12th June, 1989, NABARD could not release any refinance to MSCB. NABARD held discussions with the SCB and Government official on the issue. Finally on 12 June, 1989 MSCB gave the undertaking as required by NABARD and refinance has been resumed to Maharashtra SCB since 16th June, 1989.

[Translation]

Crisis in Tea Industry

606. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea industry is facing crisis;

(b) if so, whether a central team has been deputed to study the condition of tea industry; and

(c) if so, the finding of the study team and action taken by Government thereon?

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

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

[English]

Investigation against Former President, NCCF

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

(a) whether the Centralised Senior Assessing Officer of Income-tax Department has completed the indepth investigation and finalised assessments pertaining to former President, NCCF; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No, Sir. Investigation in the relevant cases is still in progress.

(b) In view of answer to Part (a), does not arise.

Bank Loan Under Anti-Poverty Programmes

608. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has undertaken studies to streamline the distribution of bank loans to the poor under anti-poverty programmes;

(b) if so, the details of the steps the RBI propose to take in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which the new system would help in providing loans to the real

beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). Presumably the Hon'ble Members are referring to the scheme of cash disbursement of loans and subsidy under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) introduced in 22 selected blocks in April, 1986. The purpose of the scheme is to ensure to the beneficiaries freedom of choice in acquiring assets. The scheme was introduced on an experimental basis.

The performance of the above system was last reviewed jointly by RBI and NABARD during 1987 which revealed that the experiment of cash disbursement in the selected blocks was a mixed experience of having both advantages and disadvantages. However, recently it has been decided to extend the scheme to 22 more blocks in the country, bringing the total to 50.

Excise Duty Evasion Cases in Delhi

609. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units of Delhi producing items attracting excise duty;

(b) the number of surprise checks carried out on these units during the last three years;

(c) the number of visits which were headed by senior officers of the status of Assistant Collector, Deputy Collector etc;

(d) the number of cases of duty evasion that came to light during surprise visits or otherwise; and

(e) the action taken against defaulting units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) 7953 (Seven thousand nine hundred fifty three).

(b) 414 surprise checks were carried out on the above units during the last three financial years, viz, 1986-87 to 1988-89.

(c) 49 (Forty nine).

(d) 282 (Two hundred eighty two).

(e) 260 show cause notices have since been issued to the defaulting units during the above three financial years, demanding total duty of Rs. 31.16 crores approximately. A number of show cause notices have already been adjudicated confirming duty to the tune of Rs. 1.91 crores and imposing penalties aggregating approximately Rs. 40 lakhs. Prosecutions have also been launched in 10 cases.

On-going Major and Medium Irrigation Projects in Orissa

610. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position with regard to on-going major and medium irrigation projects in Orissa;

(b) whether any progress reports from State Government on such irrigation projects have been received by Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Seven major and twenty one medium projects.

(b) to (d). Quarterly progress reports on Physical and financial status in respect of five major and two medium irrigation projects which are under Central monitoring are being received regularly. While Sunder is likely to be completed during the Seventh Plan, Upper Kolab (Irrigation), Mahanadi Birupa, Upper Jonk and Potteru Projects are likely to be completed during Eighth Plan. Rengali (Irrigation) and Upper Indiravati (Irrigation) Projects will spill-over beyond Eighth Five Year Plan.

Adoption of Villages by State Bank of Indore in Madhya Pradesh

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

(a) the criteria laid down for adoption of villages for rural development by the nationalised banks;

(b) the total number and names of villages adopted so far by the State Bank of Indore in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the names of villages in Madhya Pradesh proposed to be selected for adoption by the Bank during 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) In terms of guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for allocation of villages to bank branches, all villages in the country are required to be allocated to rural and semi-urban branches of commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). The norms for allocation of villages are as under:—

1. On an average about 15 to 25 villages should be allotted to each rural and semi-urban branch including RRBs.
2. The branch concerned to which villages are allotted should be within the proximity of the villages.
3. As far as possible villages within a Gram Panchayat should be allocated to the same branch.
4. Villages allocated to a branch should be contiguous.
5. Bank branches located in urban centres may also be allotted few villages in their vicinity, if they are already engaged in rural lending, to a sizeable extent.

(b) and (c). RBI has reported that a total of 4096 villages in Madhya Pradesh have been allocated to 191 rural and semi-urban branches of State Bank of Indore. The time and labour involved in preparing the statement showing names of these villages may not be commensurate with the result to be achieved.

Coca Cola Proposal for Export Oriented Unit

612. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked Coca Cola company to resubmit their proposal for setting up a 100 per cent export-oriented unit with fresh commitments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holding Inc., had indicated that they would be submitting some additional proposals involving increased exports subject to their application for the project in the Noida Export Processing Zone being approved as sought for. These proposals have since been received and are under examination. The company has since indicated that it would make further commitments for making additional exports from India and investing in the Food Processing Industry.

Kurla Terminal (Bombay)

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

(a) whether Kurla Terminal in Bombay suburban has been completed;

(b) if not, when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) what will be the effect of Kurla Terminal in giving more long distance and suburban trains?

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

(b) The ownership of a portion of land required for the terminal has been disputed by a private party and the case is sub judice in Bombay High Court. The completion will depend on vacation of the injunction imposed by the court.

(c) On completion of Phase-I of Passenger Terminal at Kurla, 5 pairs of main line trains can be dealt with. Suburban trains are not proposed to be dealt with at the new Kurla terminal.

Conversion of Sawai Madhopur-Jaisalmer Railway Line

614. SHRI VISHNU MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to convert the Sawai Madhopur-Jaipur-Phulera-Jodhpur-Jaisalmer Metre Gauge line into Broad Gauge and if so, the result thereof;

(b) whether in view of the defence requirements and speedy movement of steel grade limestone from Jaisalmer area, work on the conversion of the said line will be accorded priority;

(c) if so, when the work is likely to start; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). Surveys were carried out for various alternative routes along the existing MG lines to link Jaisalmer and Barmer with BG. The Planning Commission, after considering the proposals, directed that Final Location Survey for gauge conversion of Sawai Madhopur-Jaipur-Phulera-Merta Road-Jodhpur and Merta Road-Lagarh (Bikaner), as first phase for linking Jaisalmer and Barmer with BG be carried out. The survey has since been taken up.

Increase in Staff of Life Insurance Corporation

615. SHRI SAMBHAJIRAO KAKADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corpora-

tion has increased its business manifold in recent years;

(b) if so, whether the policy-holders have been provided with adequate and satisfying services;

(c) whether the present staff is adequate to meet the increasing demands of the policy-holders;

(d) whether more staff is being recruited to meet the increased demands; and

(e) if not, how the Life Insurance Corporation propose to provide satisfactory services to the policy-holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Workload is assessed regularly and whenever there is increase in workload, additional staff is recruited.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Apples

616. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received requests for making a comprehensive scheme to step up the export of apples produced in hilly areas;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been prepared in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). Government has not received request for making a comprehensive scheme to step up the export of apples produced in hilly years. However, Government has taken a number of steps for increasing export of fruits, including apples.

[English]

Conversion of Railway Lines in Bihar

617. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress is being made in the conversion of the metre gauge rail line in North Bihar to broad gauge;

(b) if so whether any time bound programme has been finalised; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Gauge conversion projects under consideration in North Bihar are: (i) Muzaffarpur-Bettiah-Narkatiaganj, and (ii) Samastipur-Darbhanga. A Survey is in progress for Muzaffarpur-Bettiah-Narkatiaganj Gauge Conversion Project.

Samastipur-Darbhanga gauge conversion is an approved Project, but could not be taken up due to acute constraint of resources.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

External and Internal Debts

618. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether loan repayments by India are on the increase;
- (b) if so, the amount of domestic and foreign loan repayments as at present, separately;
- (c) whether Government have prepared any programme to put a stop on raising loans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) The trend of repayment of internal market loans and external loans on Government account from 1986-87 onwards is given in the table below. The repayment of external loans includes increases due to variation in the exchange rates.

(Rs. crores)				
	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89 RE	1989-90 BE
Repayment of				
— Internal market loans	1038	823	475	639
— External loans	895	1146	1515	1787

(c) and (d). It is always Government endeavour to maximise revenue receipts and curtail inessential items of expenditure so that dependence on loans is kept to the minimum. Government has at the same time to ensure that the process of development is not hampered.

[English]

Credit Deposit Ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks

619. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the credit-deposit ratio of all scheduled commercial banks has risen at very low rate in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase the credit deposit ratio of banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). The credit: deposit ratio of all scheduled commercial banks increased from 57.5 percent as on the last Friday of December, 1988 to 60.1 percent as on the last Friday of March, 1989. Fluctuations in Credit: Deposit ratio has to be viewed with reference to overall policy measures. Increase in statutory reserve requirements affects the growth of credit: deposit ratio of banks. However, with the expanding deposit base, total credit of the banks increases even if the Credit: Deposit Ratio falls.

Orders Under COFEPOSA

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

(a) whether orders passed under the COFEPOSA were revoked in some cases of smuggling activity, misutilisation of foreign funds and misuse of licence as reported in the Indian Express dated 20 May, 1989;

(b) if so, the facts of these cases; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Detention orders under the COFEPOSA Act, 1974 were passed against Shri Abdulla Gani and Patan Lal Didwania as referred to in the newspaper report of Indian Express dated 20th May, 1989. However, the case of Shri Abdulla Gani was subsequently examined by the Central Government in the light of a representation received, and, as it was found that the evidence against Shri Abdulla Gani was mainly circumstantial, the detention order was revoked.

The detention order passed against Shri Ratan Lal Didwania has not been revoked, and the same is pending execution. Shri Ratan Lal Didwania has been proclaimed an absconder under section 7 of the COFEPOSA Act, 1974. Departmental proceedings are in progress in both the cases.

Introducing of Electronic Voting Machines during next General Elections

621. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of **LAW AND JUSTICE** be pleased to state:

(a) the States and Constituencies in

which Electronic Voting Machines would be introduced; and

(b) to what extent the rural people in those constituencies would be able to cast their votes through machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The electronic voting machines are proposed to be pressed into service by the Election Commission in constituencies identified by it as sensitive. This process of identification has not yet been completed.

(b) The electronic voting machine is very simple to operate. People in the rural or backward areas are not likely to experience any difficulty in exercising their franchise through the machine.

Setting up of Constitution Benches

622. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTHY: Will the Minister of **LAW AND JUSTICE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seven judges constitution bench is being set up to clear the cases pending since 1968;

(b) whether two more constitution benches are also proposed to be set up to dispose of ten to fifteen years old matters; and

(c) if so, how many cases falling under the above two categories have been pending in the Supreme Court, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The Supreme Court of India has informed that a seven-judge constitution bench is being set up to hear six cases consisting of five tax matters and one service matter. The age of these cases range from 21 to 3 years.

Two constitution benches are proposed to be set up, to decide matters involving interpretation of the provisions of the constitution.

Policy regarding Negotiations with LIC Employees

623. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has in recent times changed its policy to hold negotiations with their employees in settling their charter of demands;

(b) whether the demands made by LIC employees in their charter of demands in 1977 were prolonged to April, 1985;

(c) whether the negotiations started from 8 January, 1988 for the revision of pay scales of LIC employees have been settled; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to restore the old practice of settling the demands as expeditiously as was done in 1970 and 1974?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. A notification has also been issued on 12th May, 1989, revising wages and other service conditions of Class III and Class IV employees of L.I.C. of India.

(d) Does not arise.

Indravati Multi-Purpose Project of Orissa

624. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES

be pleased to state:

(a) whether Upper Indravati Multi-Purpose Project is under construction in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, since when, the amount sanctioned and the area (acres) going to be irrigated alongwith the locations; and

(c) whether Government have made any assessment regarding its progress and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). Upper Indravati Multipurpose Project was taken up for execution in September, 1978 at an estimated cost of Rs. 208 crores envisaging irrigation to about 1.85 lakh hectares in Kalahandi District. The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 619 crores. The assessment made on its progress indicated that by the end of Seventh Plan, an irrigation potential of 4600 hectares would be created.

IMF Loans to Pay External Debts

625. SHRISAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the country's external debts at present;

(b) whether Government are considering for another IMF loan to get rid of these debts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The total external debt out-

standing of the country if estimated to be Rs. 68831 crores as on 31.3.1989.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Relaxation in Ban on Filling Vacant Posts

626. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of different cadres in Ministries/Departments are lying vacant;

(b) whether due to ban on creation of new posts and filling up of vacant posts, this situation is continuing since long; and

(c) if so, whether Government have given some relaxation in this regard specially in regard to technical posts in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and its subordinate offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Data regarding the number of vacant posts of different cadres in various Ministries/Departments is not centrally being compiled.

(b) and (c). The guidelines regarding filling up of vacancies, as relaxed in 1986, permit filling up of vacancies in Government departments—both plan and non-plan—arising due to promotion, retirement, death, resignation, dismissal, removal or deputation etc. subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions. These instructions apply equally to the posts in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Late Running of Trains

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

(a) the percentage of trains running late during last six months;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 15.7% on B.G. and 5.3% on M.G.

(b) Alarm chain pulling, miscreants' activities, agitations, accidents and some equipment failures.

(c) Regular monitoring to improve their performance continues.

[Translation]

Import of Fax Machines

628. SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed import of second grade building drum and press for manufacturing auto tyres;

(b) if so, whether Government also propose to give relaxations in the rules for importing fax machines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. Import of Second hand building drums and presses for export

of auto-tyres has been allowed subject to export obligation of 20 times the c.i.f. value of imported machinery over a period of five years vide Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 123-ITC (PN)/88-91 dated 15.5.89, copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

(b) and (c). Provisions for import of Fax machines by registered exporters, Export Houses and Trading Houses have been relaxed during the current licensing year, vide Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 126-ITC (PN)/88-91, dated 17.5.89, copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

Conversion of Baroda-Maharajganj Railway Line

629. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made as on March 1989 in converting Metre Gauge line into Broad Gauge line of Maharajganj-Baroda Section on North-Eastern Railway;

(b) whether the work on this section is behind the schedule; and

(c) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be completed and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). There is no MG section Baroda-Maharajganj on N.E. Railway. There is, however, an MG Branch line Duraundha-Maharajganj. Survey for conversion of this line from MG to BG was conducted in 1978. The project was found to be financially unremunerative. The line has already been closed to traffic and there is no proposal for its conversion to B.G.

[English]

Derailment of Frontier Mail near Gangapur

630. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN:
SHRI HET RAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay-Delhi Amritsar Frontier Mail derailed near Gangapur in Sawai Madhopur district recently;

(b) if so, the number of casualties, if any and the number of persons injured;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof;

(d) the outcome of the inquiry conducted in this regard; and

(e) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e). 11 coaches of 3 Down Bombay-Amritsar Frontier Mail derailed about 16 km from Gangapur City station on 22.6.89. As a result of the accident, 2 persons sustained minor injuries and another 27 trivial injuries. Loss to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 1.65 lakhs. The cause of the accident is being inquired into by a Committee of Senior railway officers.

[Translation]

Fly-over in Shamli

631. CHOWDHRY AKHTAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken the work regarding construction of a fly-over at big railway crossing in Shamli, district Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which it is proposed to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor despite the fact that action was initiated in this regard years ago?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Railways have not so far received any proposal for construction of road overbridge in replacement of the level crossing at Shamli, from the State Government.

[English]

LIC Scheme

632. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has introduced some schemes during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir. LIC has not introduced any new plans under individual assurances business in the current financial year.

(b) Does not arise.

Implementation of Central Income-Tax Laws in Sikkim

633. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Direct Taxes had invited suggestions from people of Sikkim before implementation of the Central Income-tax Laws to Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made;

(c) whether Government have examined the suggestions; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The direct Tax Laws namely the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Gift Tax Act, 1958 stand extended to the State of Sikkim with effect from 1st April, 1990 i.e. in respect of assessment year 1990-91 relevant to the previous year 1989-90 starting from 1.4.1989.

The Central Government has constituted a Committee of officers of the Central Government and the State Government of Sikkim to examine if there are any difficulties in the implementation of the above mentioned Central Direct Tax Laws in Sikkim and to suggest solutions thereof. In this regard, an advertisement was published in newspapers wherein the residents of Sikkim and others were invited to write to the Convenor of the Committee, constituted by the Government, if they envisaged any difficulties in

complying with the provisions of the Central Direct Tax Laws.

(b) to (d). The Committee is examining the difficulties brought to its notice in complying with the Direct Tax Laws and will offer its comments and solutions in its Report to the Government.

IBRD's Proposal to Study India's Patents Act

634. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has recently proposed for studying India's Patents Act;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to such a proposal; and

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

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

Foreign Aid Lying Unused

635. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA:
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the

'Hindustan Times' of 25 June, 1989 wherein it has been stated that Rs. 28,000 crore aid-bilateral and multilateral has been lying unused for a long period; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Most of the External assistance is tied to specific projects and the disbursements are therefore linked to the project implementation schedule. The pace of actual implementation varies from project to project. However the loan amount not utilised during a particular financial year does not normally lapse and would be carried forward for utilization in the subsequent years. Government have taken a number of steps to accelerate the implementation of externally aided projects and the utilisation of external assistance.

Frauds in Branches of State Bank of Indore in Calcutta

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

(a) the total number of cases of fraud which came to light in the branches of the State Bank of Indore in Calcutta during the last three years and upto 30th June, 1989;

(b) the details thereof including the amount involved;

(c) the particulars of persons found guilty in these cases and the action taken against them; and

(d) the present position of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). State Bank of Indore has reported that no case of fraud has come to light in its branches at Calcutta during the last three years and upto 30-6-89. The Bank has, however, reported that some cases of granting large advances in excess of the discretionary powers at its Cotton Street and Brabourne Road branches in Calcutta have come to notice. In these cases, the net liability as on 22-6-89 was to the extent of Rs. 377.38 lakhs. Besides making efforts for recovery/strengthening the security, Bank has also specially posted a senior officer at Calcutta for follow-up and recovery.

Yen Loan Raised by Industrial Finance Corporation of India

637. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India has raised a loan of twelve billion Japanese Yen from a consortium of foreign banks with the Bank of Tokyo acting as agent;

(b) whether any agreement was signed for this purpose;

(c) the rate of interest and the maturity period; and

(d) the purpose for which the above loan has been raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The rate of interest applicable is 0.3% below Japanese Long Term Prime

Rate (JLTPR) prevailing on the date of borrowing i.e. at 5.4% p.a. and the Maturity is 12 years from the date of draw-down.

(d) The proceeds of the loan will be utilised for on lending to the borrowers for meeting their foreign currency requirements.

Tea Trading Corporation

638. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTANARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited is running at loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in last three years to improve the performance of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The losses in Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited are mainly due to less buying of tea by traditional buyers like Iran and Iraq, increased domestic consumption and shortfall in production of tea in the gardens managed by TTCL.

(c) Various steps have been taken to bring improvements in the performance of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited. They are:

1. Preparation of Garden revamping scheme.
2. Increase in business base.
3. Attempt to give special attention to green tea exports.
4. Rationalisation of labour force.

Asian Development Bank's Assistance for Setting up Gopalpur Port in Orissa

639. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has decided to extend financial assistance for the setting up of an all weather Gopalpur Port in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the proposal has been cleared by the Central Water Power Research Station, Pune?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

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

Conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga Railway Line

640. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga narrow gauge line into broad-gauge during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga MG section (37 km long) to BG was approved in 1974-75 at a cost of Rs. 4.75 crores. Recently, a fresh survey was conducted for a parallel BG line, instead of conversion and the cost thereof was estimated at Rs. 26 crores. The project was not found financially viable and, as such, it could not be taken up.

The decision whether it could be taken up during the 8th Plan, will depend on the availability of Plan resources.

Investment for Railways in Eighth Plan

641. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment in the 8th Plan demanded by the Railways; and

(b) what is the response of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The Working Group on Railway Programmes for VIII Plan, set up by the Planning Commission is understood to have recommended an investment of about Rs. 41,600 crores to the Planning Commission for various Railway Programmes. The Ministry of Railways are not aware of the response of the Planning Commission.

Outlay for S.C.R. during Eighth Plan

642. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be utilised by Railways in South Central Zone during Eighth Plan;

(b) whether the funds proposed to be allocated for South Central Zone are adequate; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to provide sufficient funds for this Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). The VIII

Five Year Plan for the Railways has not been finalised.

Tea Output

643. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea output in the second half of 1988 has shown a downward trend; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to arrest this trend?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Change in the Pattern of Investment of Non-Government Employees Provident Fund

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

(a) whether Government have changed its pattern of investment of non-Government Employees Provident Fund from April, 1986;

(b) whether Government of Maharashtra has suffered heavy financial losses due to change in pattern of investment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the compensation paid by Union Government has been found insufficient by State Government for the losses it has suffered due to change in the pattern;

(e) whether Government propose to increase the compensation during current as well as next financial years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (f). The pattern of investment by non-Government employees provident funds was revised from 1.4.86 as per which these funds are not allowed to be invested in Post Office Time Deposit Accounts.

It is not possible to estimate short-fall in collections in Maharashtra due to this revision. With a view to compensate the states for the shortfall, the State's share in Small Savings Collections was increased from 2/3rd to 3/4th from 1.4.87. New Small Savings Schemes, namely Indira Vikas Patra, National Savings Scheme, Post Office Monthly Income Scheme, Kisan Vikas Patra and National Savings Certificate VIII Issue have been introduced to improve small savings collections and augment resources of States. Plan assumption of small savings loan for 1988-89 for Maharashtra is Rs. 567.70 crores. As against this, loan of Rs. 636.61 crores stands released.

FICCI Suggestion for Graded Incentive Scheme for Industrial Units

645. SHRI S.M. GURADDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested a graded incentive scheme for industrial units depending on their export performance;

(b) whether a scheme in this regard has been submitted to Government by FICCI;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has considered the suggestions; and

(d) to what extent the same has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). A suggestion has been made by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry for grant of graded incentives for industrial units depending on their export performance.

(c) and (d). This suggestion was examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries. It was felt that it would be difficult to monitor grant of graded incentives.

Joint Strategy with Japan to Counter US Action Under Super 301

646. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI ANANTA PRASAD
SETHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Japan have worked out a joint strategy to counter the unilateral US action of imposing Super 301 provisions of its Trade Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting was held in this regard between the two countries; and

(d) if, so the outcome of the talks held?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Additional Railway Lines on Kharagpur-Howrah Section

647. SHRINARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether decision has since been taken for construction of third railway line from Kharagpur to Panskura and a fourth line from Panskura to Howrah;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Examination of the Survey report has not yet been completed.

Customs Retail Shop in Delhi

648. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Customs Retail Shop functions in Delhi Customs House;

(b) if so, the main items sold through it during the last six months and the amount of revenue collected therefrom;

(c) whether there is need to strengthen and streamline the working of the Retail Shop; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve its working?

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

(b) Textiles, garments, electronic goods viz V.C.Rs, V.C.Ps, watches, cameras, audio and video cassettes and miscellaneous consumer goods, etc. were sold through the Retail Shop. Revenue earned during the last six months, i.e. from 1.1.89 to 30.6.89 by sale through the Retail Shop is Rs. 49,82,885.00/-.

(c) and (d). The strength of the staff working in the Retail Shop has been increased. Further, some space has been added and the display of goods for sale has been improved.

Tea Plantation Industry in Kerala

649. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Planters Association of Southern India and the Association of Planters of Kerala have given a master for rehabilitation of the tea plantation industry in Kerala;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to help the tea industry in general and Kerala in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Master Plan for rehabilitation of the tea plantation industry in Kerala broadly envisages a district-wise action plan for increasing production with an investment of Rs. 235 crores during the next ten years to a level of 100 M.kgs by the turn of the century as against the present level of 56.9 M.kgs, with concerted efforts by all agencies like Central Government, State Government, Tea Board, Financial Institutions, etc.

(c) All the tea gardens in the country irrespective of size are eligible to avail of the benefits of the various on-going develop-

mental schemes under which Tea Board provides financial assistance in the form of loan and subsidy. Considering the special circumstances certain parts of Idukki and Wyanad districts of Kerala have been declared as non-traditional areas for purposes of the New Tea Units Financing Scheme for non-traditional areas of the Board. This scheme provides for financial assistance by way of long-term loan and subsidy for opening New tea gardens on a commercial scale. Special assistance is also being provided for setting up of a tea nursery and a tea factory in Manantody Taluk for tribals.

[Translation]

New Railway Lines in Bihar

650. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to construct new railway lines in Bihar has been sent to Union Government by Government of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decisions taken by Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). Government of Bihar had suggested, in the past, construction of the following new railway line projects:—

i) Lalmatia—Kahalgau.

ii) Ranchi—Giridih, via Hazaribagh.

iii) Deoghar—Dumka.

iv) Dehri-On-Sone—Pipradih—

Jadunathpur—Bhavnathpur.

v) Arrah—Sasaram.

Surveys were carried out for the above lines, but none of the projects was found to be viable. There is, therefore, no proposal at present to take up their construction.

[English]

Assistance Provided by Banks in Alleppey District, Kerala

651. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the villages in alleppey district in Kerala which are being provided assistance by the public sector banks under the village adoption scheme;

(b) if so, whether the villages under Kuttanad Paddy fields, known as 'the rice bowl of Kerala', have been included under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to include these villages under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Scheme of Spices Board for Development of Spices

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

(a) whether the spices Board has formulated any comprehensive scheme for the development of spices in Kerala and other spices growing States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated for the development of spices in the current year?

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

(b) The Spices and the States identified under the scheme for spices development in selected states are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Crop	States
1.	Ginger	Kerala, Orissa, West Bengal, M.P.
2.	Turmeric	A.P., Orissa, T.N. and West Bengal.
3.	Coriander	A.P., Rajasthan and M.P.
4.	Cumin	Rajasthan and Gujarat.
5.	Fennel	—do—
6.	Fenugreek	—do—
7.	Celery	Punjab.
8.	Saffron	J and K.

Under the scheme it is proposed to multiply planting material of promising varieties layout demonstration plots and supply input kits to the farmers.

(c) The total financial requirement of the scheme is Rs. 1.21 crores.

Superfast Train Between Trivandrum and Varanasi

653. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum from the South Indian Welfare Movement, Allahabad unit requesting the introduction of a super-fast train from Trivandrum to Varanasi has been received; and

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

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

(b) Presently not found operationally feasible.

[Translation]

World Bank Report on Evaluation of Economies of Developing Countries

654. SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the comments made by the World Bank with regard to the Indian economy in particular, in their report presented on the evaluation of the economies of developing countries of the World;

(b) whether the World Bank has made some suggestions to strengthen the Indian economy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The World Development Report 1989, published recently by the World Bank focuses on the role of financial systems in development, as the special topic of this year's Report. While discussing financial systems in developing countries the Report refers to India's indigenous banking systems. The impressive growth of capital markets in India has also been referred to.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Construction of Sea Walls in Coastal Areas of Orissa

655. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have constructed sea walls in the coastal areas in some States;

(b) if so, the names of the States where such sea walls have been constructed with Central assistance;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to build such sea walls along the coastal line of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the amount sanctioned by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Considering the severity and dimension of the problem of sea erosion, the Central Government is giving loan assistance only to Government of Kerala for constructing sea walls in certain specified reaches.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Non-Basmati Rice to African Countries

657. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export non-basmati rice to African Countries; and

(b) if so, the quantity of different variety of non-basmati rice proposed to be exported to different African Countries during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). During 1989-90 export of non-basmati rice has been allowed within a limited ceiling. The export ceiling has been placed at the disposal of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for issue of ceiling slips to the exporters. APEDA has not received any application indicating any African country as the destination of export so far.

Suggestions made by Aid India Consortium

658. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:
SHRI R.M. BHOYE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aid India Consortium suggested to Government of India to reduce the widening fiscal deficit in order to establish a sound base for sustained higher growth;

(b) whether any specific suggestions have been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). At the India Consortium Meeting held in Paris on June 19-20, 1989, members appreciated the progress achieved by Government of India in reducing the budget deficit. Some of them said that they looked forward to further improvement in this direction. However, no specific suggestions were made in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Damage to Railway Properties during Agitations

659. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the damage done to Railway property during March-June, 1989 as a result of various agitations, zone-wise;

(b) the steps taken to protect railway property in future and whether any cooperation has been sought from the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) As a result of various agitations which took place during the period from March to June, 1989, damage was caused to railway property over Eastern, Northeast Frontier and South Eastern Railways, as under:—

Eastern	—	Rs. 5,000/-	Approx.
N.F.	—	Rs. 17,56,000/-	Approx.
S.E.	—	Rs. 3,75,000/-	Approx.

(b) and (c). For protection of Railway Property during such agitations, the following steps are taken:—

- i) On receipt of information about likely agitations, the concerned state authorities are requested to take all preventive steps for the protection of the railway property and for maintaining law and order on Railway premises.
- ii) While the State Government police authorities deploy Police/ GRP to maintain law and order in the railway premises, the RPF protects vital railway installations and Railway property with the assistance of State Police.
- iii) Government Railway Police escorts passenger carrying trains and the goods trains are escorted by armed RPF personnel.

iv) Railway bridges are guarded by the State Police.

v) Railway tracks are patrolled.

vi) Regular coordination meetings are held with the law enforcing agencies at the highest level of the State Government to ensure better protection of railway property and maintenance of law and order in railway premises.

[English]

Repair Workshop at Renigunta (A.P.)

660. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds made available to the coach repair/wagon repair workshop at Renigunta in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years and the funds allocated for the current year; and

(b) by when the workshop is likely to achieve its target of repairing coaches and wagons and whether there is any delay in the repair work; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Coach Repair Workshop for the South Zone at Tirupati (near Renigunta) is not planned to undertake repairs of wagons. Outlay provided for the project during the last three years and the current year is as under:

Year	Outlay
1986-87	Rs. 7.00 crores
1987-88	Rs. 8.15 crores
1988-89	Rs. 10.00 cores
1989-90	Rs. 5.24 crores

(b) The workshop has already become operational. Present level of out turn is 50 units of coaches per month. It is planned to increase the level of outturn to 150 units by 1995. The workshop is likely to achieve its planned outturn capacity of 200 units per month in the Ninth Plan period.

Unauthorised Sale of Tickets at New Delhi

661. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several unauthorised persons/travel agents and middlemen are selling and purchasing reserved tickets at New Delhi Railway Station;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government and the number of persons arrested or fined during last one year;

(c) whether such unauthorised persons are harassing the genuine and illiterate passengers; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (c). Some such cases have come to notice.

(b) and (d). Some of the important measures to curb malpractices in reservations by touts/unauthorised persons are as under:

- (i) A close surveillance is being maintained at New Delhi reservation office to detect and apprehend touts. Surprise checks are also conducted at the premises of unauthorised travel agents. During July '88 to June '89, 120 persons were

apprehended and handed over to Police for prosecution.

- (ii) During rush periods, reservation requisition slips and scrutinised with a view to detect spurious reservations. Door-to-door verification of the suspected spurious requisition slips is done and the reservations are condoled where there are found fictitious.

- (iii) Frequent warnings to intending passengers against unauthorised purchase/sale of tickets are issued through notices and announcements over Public Address System.

Non-availability of medicines in Railway Hospitals in A.P.

662. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some medicines are not available in Railway Hospitals at Lallaguda and Secunderabad in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to provide medicines and other facilities in the above hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). All essential medicines required for day to day use are normally available at Railway Hospitals, Lallaguda and Secunderabad, though these may not be under specific brand names. The work of increasing the bed strength of Lallaguda hospital has been sanctioned and included in the Works Programme of 1989-90.

Expenditure by Government Departments

663. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether every Government department maintains an account of progressive expenditure during the financial year; and

(b) if so, the percentage of annual

expenditure incurred during each quarter of the financial year by various departments of Union Government during 1987-88 and 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

	<i>Percentage of annual expenditure</i>	
	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89 (Provisional)</i>
First Quarter	15.38	19.52
Second Quarter	20.55	20.13
Third Quarter	18.21	21.09
Fourth Quarter	45.86	39.26

The figures pertain to Consolidated Fund of India excluding Public Debt.

Promotion of Indian Tea in EEC Market

664. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sale of Indian tea in the EEC market has been going down both as a percentage of total India export as well as of total import by the EEC countries;

(b) the steps taken for the promotion of Indian Tea in the EEC market; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken for promoting the export of tea to European market jointly by all exporting countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSII): (a) No such clear trend is visible in the last few years.

(b) A number of promotional campaigns have been undertaken in thrust markets to boost export of Indian tea and value added teas in EEC countries. In addition Tea Board also participates in exhibition/fairs etc. in EEC countries.

(c) The programmes of the Tea Councils of UK and West Germany have been helpful to boost the exports of tea in the EEC market. Only traditional exporters like India, Sri Lanka, Kenya etc. are the members of these councils.

Export of Sugar to Nepal

666. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to export sugar to Nepal;

(b) if so, the details of the order placed by Nepal in that regard; and

(c) the total quantum of sugar proposed to be exported to Nepal during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c). His Majesty's Government of Nepal had requested for supply of 15,000 MT of sugar during 1989 which was agreed to by Government of India.

Non-Canalised Export by STC and MMTC

667. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation (STC) and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) have drawn up any plan to increase their non-canalised export; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan drawn up by the STC and MMTC in this regard?

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

(b) The details of Action Plan drawn by STC, are as under:-

- (1) Provision of financial/market-ing and technical assistance

to associate exporters.

- (2) Setting up of an Export Trade Development Group to develop new items and new markets.
- (3) Opening of a Customers Service Centre to provide better services to Indian exporters.
- (4) Formulation of scheme for import of raw material on OCL for providing raw material assistance to exporters.
- (5) Developing counter trade and off-shore trading to increase foreign exchange earnings.
- (6) Formulation of a price support scheme for bulk drugs for small manufacturers.
- (7) Identification of thrust areas and laying of emphasis on product development.
- (8) Creation of STC's own production capacities and leasing the same to entrepreneurs.
- (9) Promotion of brand marketing.

Keeping in view the above plans for promotion of non-canalised exports, STC has projected that non-canalised exports would increase from Rs. 442 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 560 crores in 1989-90.

Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has also taken a number of steps to increase their non-canalised exports. These steps include:-

- Selective identification of potential markets on long-term basis.

- Selective development of domestic sources of supply of items that would be promoted in selected markets.
- Use of strategies like project exports, counter trade to gain access for Indian products to new export markets.
- Creation of an organisational culture within the Corporated oriented towards exports of non-canalised items.
- Extensive training of Human resources in export marketing management and related areas.

As a result of the above steps, MMTC has projected that exports of non-canalised items would increase from Rs. 352 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 427 crores in 1989-90.

Approach Regarding Direct Foreign Investment

668. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether different economic Ministries as also the Planning Commission have been sending conflicting signals to the foreign investors on direct foreign investment;

(b) whether there has been some change in the perception about the efficacy of foreign direct investment since the investors were not showing interest in entering priority areas including the export oriented ones; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). The basic frame work of our investment policy is laid down in

various documents including the Industrial Policy Resolution. Although it is not an open door policy, it has a substantial degree of flexibility. It permits technical as well as financial collaborations over a wide range of industrial activities. It is the intention of the Government to promote more direct foreign investment within the broad framework of this policy.

Nangal Dam-Talwara Railway Line

669. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest progress (as on 30.6.89) regarding the acquisition of land for Nangal Dam-Talwara Railway line, in Himachal Pradesh, beyond Una upto Amb;

(b) the likely date by which the line would be completed upto Una and opened to goods and passenger traffic, upto each station; and

(c) whether any priority would be given to the construction of this line in view of the fact that the foundation stone for the line was laid on 22nd December, 1974 and as such there is already considerable delay in its construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Railway has demarcated the land for a distance of 10 km beyond Una towards Amb, jointly with the State Revenue Authorities, but the land has not so far been handed over by the State Govt.

(b) and (c). The Railway line upto Una is expected to be completed during the 3rd quarter of 1989-90. The construction of railway line upto Amb and beyond upto Talwara will depend upon the handing over of the land by the State Govt. The due priority is

being given to this project, within the overall constraints of funds allocated by the Planning Commission for the Plan head 'New Lines'.

Dieselisation of Trains in North-Western States

670. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of mail/express trains run by the Northern Railway and emanating from or passing through Delhi/New Delhi to various parts of the North Western States-Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh and Haryana which have been dieselised since July, 1989; and

(b) the names of such among them which have still to be dieselised and the likely date by which they would be dieselised and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A statement is given below.

(b) 99/100 Haryana Express (M.G.) between Delhi and Hissar is still on steam traction. This train could not be dieselised due to limited availability of diesel locomotives after meeting freight requirements.

STATEMENT

(a) The following trains have been dieselised:-

- (i) A new train No. 405/406 between New Delhi and Ludhiana introduced with effect from 1-10-1987.
- (ii) 59/60 Amritsar-New Delhi Express introduced with effect

from 1-5-1989.

- (iii) 987/988 Jammu Tawi-Gorakhpur tri-weekly Express introduced from May, 1989.
- (iv) 997/998 Jammu Tawi-Hapa weekly Express introduced from May, 1989.
- (v) 53/54 Himachal Express between Delhi and Nangal Daman existing train dieselised with effect from 1-5-1989.
- (vi) Another train No. 83/84 Ganga-Yamuna Express already dieselised has been extended upto Bhiwani with effect from 1-5-1989.

Railway Link between Kurali and Chandigarh

671. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for survey to link Kurali Railway station on Nangal-Sirhind Section with Chandigarh has been received by Government;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) if no action has been taken so far, the likely date by which the survey would be undertaken?

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

(b) and (c). As per Survey done in the past for new BG line between Ludhiana-Chandigarh via Morinda, a station just South of Kurali, the project was found to be unremunerative. On operational grounds also,

there is no need for this rail link as Kurali and Chandigarh are already connected via Sirhind and Ambala. As such, there appears to be no need for a fresh survey for the suggested lined.

Protection of Coastal Areas from Sea Erosion

672. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought any assistance from Union Government for protecting the coastal areas from sea erosion during this Monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). Request has been received for extending Central loan assistance to Phase II programme comprising construction of new sea walls for 158 km. and strengthening of existing sea walls to a length of about 23 km.

(c) State Government has been requested to establish an organisation for planning, design and implementation of coastal management works, so that technoeconomically viable schemes can be formulated on scientific lines for consideration.

NABARD's Assistance to State Co-Operative Land Development Banks

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

(a) whether the National bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is giving financial assistance to the State Co-operative Land Development Banks which are in crisis;

(b) if so, whether any such financial assistance is being given or proposed to be given to the co-operative Land Development Banks in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir. The type of relief provided to State Cooperative Land Development Banks (SCLDB) depends on the nature of crisis being faced by them. The assistance to be provided will be decided on the merits of each case. In the normal course the assistance provided in such cases includes postponement of current demands at the borrower level, deferment facility in the case of overdues, providing grants for rehabilitation to banks having weak organisation and management, etc.

(b) and (c). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the Orissa State Cooperative Land Development Bank has been a chronic defaulter to NABARD and the extent of the default is of the order of Rs. 21 crores as at the end of March, 1989. However, as against the above dues, NABARD have approved 3 deferment proposals of Rs. 7.87 crores.

Passenger Amenities in Delhi-Puri Trains

674. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic amenities avail-

able in some trains particularly the Delhi-Puri bound trains are far from satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the existing facilities and also to provide additional amenities to the passengers in those long distance trains?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following improvements in the amenities are being made:-

(i) All second class sleeper coaches are progressively being provided with cushions—this is expected to be completed by the end of next financial year.

(ii) Old first class coaches are being rehabilitated and new first class coaches are also being manufactured.

(iii) Vestibuling is being progressively introduced in Mail/Express trains.

(iv) Mobile cleaning staff have been provided during day time in some of the long distance trains.

Derailment of 916 Dn. Neelachal Express near Tonkपुरa

675. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 916 Dn. Neelachal

Express was derailed on 30 May, 1989 near Tonkपुरa station on the Gaya-Dhanbad sector;

(b) If so, the cause of the derailment;

(c) the number of people injured as a result thereof; and

(d) the treatment provided and arrangement made to send back the injured passengers to their destination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: (a) 916 Dn. New Delhi-Puri Express collided in the rear of a Goods train and got derailed on 30th May, 1989 at Tankuppa station on the Gaya-Gomoh double line electrified section of Dhanbad Division of Eastern Railway.

(b) The accident occurred due to failure of railway staff.

(c) 13 passengers and two Railway staff were injured.

(d) Of the 13 injured passengers, 10 passengers after receiving necessary medical aid at Tankuppa station continued their journey by the same train.

3 passengers who had been hospitalised were sent to their destinations subsequently at Railway's cost.

Loans advanced by Nationalised Banks to Agriculture Sector In Andhra Pradesh

676. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans granted by the nationalised banks in Andhra Pradesh to agricultural sector during 1988-89;

(b) whether the loans granted by the nationalised banks in Andhra Pradesh for agricultural operations are on the same scale as in other States;

(c) whether the banks are giving loans to all the farmers without any distinction;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any targets have been fixed for giving loans to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh during 1989-90; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) According to the latest date (State-wise and occupation wise) available from Reserve Bank of India, the outstanding agricultural advances of public sector banks in Andhra Pradesh as on the last friday of June, 1987 stood at Rs. 1333.2 crores.

(b) Deployment of bank credit for agriculture in different States are not strictly comparable. Bank credit for agricultural operations differ from State to State due to various factors such as size of the State, area under cultivation and availability of infrastructural facilities like irrigation, electricity, fertilisers, seeds, labour, suitable marketing facilities for the agricultural produce etc.

(c) and (d). Banks have been advised to grant agricultural advances to all eligible farmers without any distinction by strictly adhering to the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India in this regard.

(e) and (f). There are no specific targets for lending in a particular State. However, to enhance flow of credit to farmers, commercial banks have been asked to increase the share of direct finance to agriculture in total

outstanding advances to 18 percent by the end of March, 1990.

Concessional Rates of Interest on Agricultural Loans to Maharashtra

677. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has urged Union Government to endorse State Government's decision to extend agricultural loans to small farmers on concessional rates of interest to be implemented by NABARD;

(b) the details of proposals Government of Maharashtra have submitted to Union Government and when these proposals were received; and

(c) the decision taken by Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra had urged the Union Government to agree to agricultural loans being extended to farmers on concessional rates of interest. NABARD had also been requested to allow the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) to implement the scheme.

(b) According to The scheme such borrowers who borrow crop loans upto Rs. 10,000/- from cooperative credit societies and repay their dues promptly on or before due dates, will be eligible for a rebate in the interest rate by way of charging the interest of 6% p.a. was proposed that the liability in respect of such rebate would be shared by the State Government and MSCB subject to the condition that annual burden on State Government would be restricted to Rs. 15 crores or 50% of the total amount whichever is less. These proposals were received be-

tween March and May 1989.

(c) RBI/NABARD do not view with favour any scheme of waiver of interest or interest rebate to induce recoveries as it is contravention of RBI/NABARD guidelines. Such a scheme vitiates the recovery climate and ultimately proves unproductive in the long run. The experience of NABARD shows that the subsidy has no lasting effect on the farmers and instead of being beneficial to the institutional agencies such schemes work to their detriment in the long run as they give rise to expectations for further reliefs in the minds of loanees. Therefore any assistance extended to farmers should not be related to the interest rate. From the view point of financial discipline, NABARD is of the opinion that cooperative banks should not be involved in any way in such schemes because it causes a heavy burden on the income earning capacity of these banks. Whereas on one hand the MSCB is complaining of losses on account of reduction in interest rates announced by RBI/NABARD on the other, it is proposing to provide 2% as interest subsidy. NABARD is of the opinion that any assistance proposed to be provided by the State Government should not be routed through the Cooperative banking system.

Raids on the Premises and Offices of 'Ansal Properties'

678. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN:
CH. KHURSHID AHMED:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income tax Department raided all offices and residential premises of "Ansal properties, Delhi";

(d) if so, the outcome of the raids; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): | (a) The Income-tax Department conducted searches on 25th May, 1989 at the main office and the residential premises of M/s Ansal Properties Group of Delhi.

(b) The searches resulted in seizure of a large number of documents and books of account, besides *prima-facie* unaccounted assets of approximate value of Rs. 52.43 lakhs.

(c) Scrutiny of Books of account and documents seized, follow-up investigation and such other action as called for under Direct Taxes enactments, have been taken up.

NABARD Loan to Maharashtra State Co-Operative Bank

679. DR. DATTA SAMANT:
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has released first instalment of 50 crore rupees to Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank to refinance and extend loans to farmers in the Kharif season;

(b) the interest charged by the NABARD on this loan and the interest the farmers are requested to pay;

(c) whether any demand has been made by the Government of Maharashtra regarding this loan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision of Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (e). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) stopped providing refinance to Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) in December, 1988 since interest subsidy scheme in vogue in the State of Maharashtra was implemented through Cooperative Banks thereby violating the instructions issued by NABARD/RBI and affecting the financial viability of Cooperative Bank. NABARD advised MSCB that refinance could be resumed provided MSCB furnished a written undertaking that there would not be any violation/contravention of the instructions issued by NABARD/RBI. As the MSCB had not furnished the requisite undertaking till 12th June, 1989 NABARD could not release any refinance to MSCB.

In the meantime NABARD received representation from the States Government to whom NABARD had communicated their views in the matter. The State Government agreed that Cooperative Banks in Maharashtra would comply with instructions of NABARD/RBI relating to rate of interest, repayment/reschedulement of loans, etc. Since MSCB has since executed the requisite undertaking, NABARD has released refinance of Rs. 60 crores to MSCB for financing seasonal agricultural operations.

The interest charged by NABARD for the refinance to State Cooperative Bank (SCB) for financing seasonal agricultural operations is fixed in respect of each SCB in relation to the percentage of average borrowings from NABARD to the average outstanding at Central Cooperative Bank (CCB) level against Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, which is as under:-

Average borrowings from National Bank as % of average outstanding against PACs

Rate of interest on Refinance (Per annum)

Upto 60%

3%

Above 60% but below 80%

4%

80% and above

5%

The rate of interest on crop loans payable by the borrowers are as under:-

SAO Loan

Interest paid by borrowers to PACs

Loan upto Rs. 7500

10%

Loans over Rs. 7500 and upto Rs. 15000/-

11.5%

Loans over Rs. 15,000/- and upto Rs. 25000/-

12%

Loans over Rs. 25,000/-

14 to 15.5%

Tax Evasion in Corporate Sector

680. DR. DATTA SAMANT :
SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Massive Tax Evasion by Corporate Sector—20,000 Cr. Loot" appearing in the 'Blitz' dated 24 June, 1989;

(b) if so, whether Government have made enquiries into the matter; and

(c) the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c). The source of the news-item is stated to be a study conducted by the Finance Ministry's Tax Research Unit. However, no such study has been carried out by the Tax Research Unit in the recent past. There is, therefore, no basis for the presumption that the evasion of indirect taxes in the year 1988-89 is anywhere near Rs. 20,000 crores. The Government therefore does not propose to take any action on the said news-item.

Loans given by Scheduled Commercial Banks to Weaker Sections

681. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of the scheduled commercial banks loans outstanding against the weaker sections at the end of 1988; and

(b) the break-up of such loans given for self-employment in commercial business sector or service sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The amount of outstanding advances of Scheduled Commercial banks against weaker sections in priority sectors as on the last Friday of June, 1987 (latest available) was Rs. 6400.4 crores. However, the outstanding advances of public sector banks to weaker sections as on the last Friday of December 1988 was Rs. 8297.9 crores.

(b) Data reporting system does not provide occupation-wise break-up of advances for self-employment. However, the total amount of outstanding advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks given to the artisans, village and cottage industries and to the beneficiaries of Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) within weaker sections stood at Rs. 478.0 crores and Rs. 42.9 crores respectively as on the last Friday of June, 1987.

Fresh registration of Political Parties with Election Commission

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

(a) the names of the political parties in the country of National Stature which have amended their constitutions for fresh registration with the Election Commission;

(b) whether the Election Commission has allotted symbols to these parties for the purpose of contesting elections; and

(c) if so, the symbols thus allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c). According to the information furnished by the Election Commission, out of 7 national parties, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India and Indian National Congress, have amended their constitutions. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has also applied to the Election Commission for registration.

The Election Commission has also received application for registration in respect of Lok Dal and the Janata Party, made respectively by the Groups lead by Shri Ram Naresh Kushwaha and Shri Indubhai Patel.

In terms of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) (Amendment) Order, 1989, issued by the Election Commission, such of those national parties as make applications to the Commission for registration on or before 14th August, 1989, will continue to be treated as National parties and will also have the same reserved symbol as at present, till the disposal of their applications by the Commission. The applications so far received by the Commission have not yet been disposed of by it.

Recruitment of SC/ST Candidates in Nationalised Banks

683. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Zonal Banking Service Recruitment Boards have been asked to conduct examinations exclusively for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates for the posts of Probationary Officers in nationalised banks throughout the country;

(b) if so, the approximate number of vacancies to be thus filled in each zone;

(c) the names of states in which there is a backlog in filling-up the vacancies under the reservation quota; and

(d) the approximate time by which the existing vacancies would be filled in?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). Banking Service Recruitment Boards have been advised to conduct, where necessary, Special Recruitment examination exclusively for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates to clear the backlog in public sector banks including in their officers' cadres. The approximate number of backlog in reserved vacancies in officer cadres of the 20 nationalised banks for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is 829 which are expected to be cleared by October-November, 1989.

Home Loan Account Scheme

684. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Home Loan Account Scheme formulated by the National Housing Bank has since been launched by all banks in public sector and also by some banks in private and cooperative sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the procedure adopted by various banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that all the twenty eight public sector banks, twenty seven scheduled private sector banks, one scheduled State cooperative bank and seven scheduled urban cooperative banks have confirmed launching of the Home Loan

Account (HLA) Scheme with effect from 1st July, 1989. The names of these banks are given in the statement below.

The participating banks have issued detailed guidelines/instructions to their controlling offices and branches for implementing the scheme. Arrangements had been made in advance to supply adequate stationery, such as application forms for opening HLAs, pass books etc. for use in the branches of these banks. These banks are also making arrangements for the issue of publicity literature in local languages for the use of public. Banks have also organised meetings/seminars/workshops for their officials to familiarise them with the Scheme.

STATEMENT

List of Banks which are participating in the "Home Account Scheme"

(As on July 1, 1989)

Public Sector Banks

1. Allahabad Bank
2. Andhra Bank
3. Bank of Baroda
4. Bank of India
5. Bank of Maharashtra
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. State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur
17. State Bank of Hyderabad
18. State Bank of India
19. State Bank of Indore
20. State Bank of Mysore
- 21.State Bank of Patiala
22. State Bank of Saurashtra
23. State Bank of Travancore
24. Syndicate Bank
25. UCO Bank
26. Union Bank of India
27. United Bank of India
28. Vijaya bank

Scheduled Private Sector Banks

1. Bank of Karad Ltd
2. Bank of Madura Ltd
3. Bank of Rajasthan Ltd
4. Bank of Tamilnadu Ltd
5. Bank of Tanjavur Ltd
6. Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd

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7.	Benaras State Bank Ltd		2.	Development Co-op. Bank Ltd
8.	Bharath Overseas Bank Ltd		3.	Kalupur Commercial Co-op. Bank Ltd
9.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd		4.	Saraswat Co-op. Bank Ltd
10.	City Union Bank Ltd		5.	Sangli Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd
11.	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd		6.	Shamrao Vithal Co-op Bank Ltd.
12.	Federal Bank Ltd		7.	Surat Peoples Co-op. Bank Ltd

**Role of Rural, Urban and Semi-Urban
Branches of Banks Under Service Area
Scheme**

685. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PAR-
ASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India
and Government are aware that some
branches of nationalised banks in urban and
semi-urban areas having Municipal Com-
mittees and Notified Area Committees have
also been given certain villages under the
Service Area Scheme.

(b) if so, the reasons for giving a domi-
nant role to urban and semi-urban branches
as against rural branches;

(c) whether it is proposed to re-orient
the Service Area Approach keeping in view
the definition of urban and rural areas as per
connotation in Census classification and re-
classify accordingly the branches of nation-
alised banks; and

(d) if so, the likely date by which it would
be done?

Scheduled State Co-op. Bank

1. Uttar Pradesh Co-op. Bank Ltd

Scheduled Urban Co-op. Banks

1. Abhyudaya Co-op. Bank Ltd

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.
GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of
India (RBI) has reported that, as per the
instructions issued by it, bank branches in
rural and semi-urban areas may be allotted

villages under the Service Area Approach. Further, branches in urban centres which have sizeable lending in rural areas may also be allocated a few villages in their vicinity. Thus, urban and semi-urban centres having Municipal Committees/Notified Area Committees have also been allotted villages. This is so because such branches are already engaged in rural lending to a sizeable extent.

(c) and (d). In view of facts stated above, there is no proposal under the consideration of RBI for reorientation of the Service Area Approach.

Bank Loans to Private Corporate Sector

686. SHRI BHADRESWARTANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a competition amongst the banks in offering funds to private corporate sector by subscribing to their non-convertible debenture issues;

(b) the benefits derived by banks and the corporate sector companies during the last three years as a result thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that on the basis of data received by them no such conclusion has been drawn.

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

Technology Mission on Floods in North Bihar

688. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH:
SHRI BIRINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RE-

SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a technology mission to tackle the perennial problem of flood in North Bihar;

(b) if so, the precise constitution and terms of reference of the Technology Mission; and

(c) by what time the mission is expected to evolve a plan and strategy to control the problem of floods in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) The views of Government of Bihar have been sought in the matter.

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

Excise Duty Evasion

689. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to detect excise duty evasion, Government have prepared dossiers of firms with tax paying bracket of rupees one crore a year;

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

(c) the estimated amount of excise duty evasion during the past three years and on what studies these estimates are based?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). The Collectors of Central Excise and the Director-General of Anti-Evasion have been directed to maintain dossiers of companies paying Central Excise duties of Rs. 1 crore and above per annum to provide a data base for monitoring revenue realisation, taking policy decisions

and also for developing intelligence regarding duty evasion. The number of such companies currently is approximately 1700.

(c) By the very nature of things it is not possible to furnish any estimate of Central Excise duty evasion. However the amount of Central Excise duty evasion actually detected during the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 (upto May) is furnished below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount of evasion detected (Rs. crores)</i>
1987	1198.72
1988	355.43
1989	136.01
(upto May, 1989)	
Total :	Rs. 1690.16

Claims Review Committee

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

(a) whether the Directorate of Public Grievances had recommended that each zonal railway should have an empowered Claims Review Committee;

(b) if so, the main functions of the proposed Review Committee; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) To review decisions in compensation claim cases on appeal by the claimants.

(c) Existing policy and procedures already provide for review of cases by higher

officers on appeal. Therefore, the setting up of the proposed Claims Review Committee will be duplication of the arrangements. Besides, Railway Claims Tribunals are being set up shortly to consider appeals filed by claimants against the decisions of the Railway Administration.

Diesel Car Service between Bangalore and Tumkur

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of people are travelling between Tumkur-Bangalore every day; and

(b) whether Government propose to introduce regular diesel car service between Bangalore-Tumkur for the convenience of passengers?

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

(b) At present there is no such proposal.

Proposal to Raise the Limit of Election Expenses

692. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

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

(a) whether Union Government have received any proposal from the Election Commission to enhance the maximum expenditure limit in view of the day-to-day market prices as well as the price rise in the diesel and petrol for the ensuing Lok Sabha as well as Assemblies elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

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

Bank assistance under Self Employment Scheme in West Bengal

693. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHO-
WDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the lead banks in West Bengal are disbursing and sanctioning loans under the self-employment scheme to registered unemployed persons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that "Self Employment Scheme for Registered Unemployed" is a Scheme of the State Government of West Bengal for providing assistance to unemployed registered with the employment exchanges in the age group of 18 years to 40 years. Minimum educational qualification for beneficiary has not been prescribed. Under the Scheme, a composite loan not exceeding Rs. 35,000/- is admissible per beneficiary and subsidy at the rate of 25% of loan is provided by the State Government. The loan is repayable in 5-7 years and attracts interests as per RBI directive on interest rates. As this is a State sponsored schema, the progress under the Scheme is not monitored by RBI.

External Debts

694. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's recent emphasis on increasing exports has anything to do with the revised estimated external debts; and

(b) if so, the current figure of the external debts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) It has been the policy of the Government to generate additional exports and contain in essential imports. Such an increase in exports is essential not only to finance critical imports thus containing the trade deficits within manageable limits but also to obviate the need for undue recourse to external borrowings to finance large trade deficits.

(b) The total external debt outstanding of the country is estimated to be Rs. 68831 crores as on 31.3.1989 at the exchange rate prevailing on that date.

[Translation]

Increase in Prices of Indigenous Natural Rubber

695. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA:
SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister for COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation (STC) has recently announced an increase in the price of indigenous natural rubber;

(b) if so, whether the prices of this rubber in the open market of the rubber producing Kerala State are much less than that announced by the State Trading Corporation;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard;

(d) the reasons for steep hike in price by State Trading Corporation; and

(e) the average amount per kilogram spent by State Trading Corporation in trading of rubber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) The release price for all types of rubber has been increased.

(b) and to (d). At the moment, the prevailing market price in Kerala is generally lower than the price announced by the STC. During the lean production months, the prices of the indigenous rubber tend to go up and then with the improved supplies these get stabilized. The prices of imported rubber are dependent on various factors such as international prices/taxes/charges, etc levied on the imported rubber.

(e) The estimated average amount spent by STC on procurement of indigenous rubber for RMA IV grade is approximately Rs. 19.09 per kilogram.

Rise in Prices of Tea Leaves

696. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of recent hike in the prices of tea leaves, Government propose to impose certain restrictions on its export to

bring down the prices;

(b) if not, the target fixed by Government for export of tea leaves during this year;

(c) the extent of increase in the target as compared to that of last year;

(d) whether the production of tea leaves in Southern India has been less as compared to that of last year; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c). Government aims to maximise the exports of tea to the extent possible keeping in view the requirements of the domestic market.

(d) and (e). Production of tea in South India declined due to adverse weather conditions. During 1989 upto May, 1989, the production of tea in Southern India is estimated at 54.5 M. Kgs as compared to 76.4 Kgs during the corresponding period last year.

Foreign Debt

697. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign debt during the last three financial years, separately; and

(b) the total amount of interest on the foreign debt at the end of March, 1989 and whether this amount has been paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The amount of foreign debt outstanding as on 31.3.1987, 31.3.1988 and 31.3.1989, as calculated at the prevailing exchange rates, is estimated to be Rs. 48348 crores, Rs. 54408 crores and Rs. 68831 crores respectively.

(b) Interest is paid on the debt outstanding according to the terms and conditions of each loan. The amount of interest paid on the debt outstanding during 1988-89 is estimated to be Rs. 2698 crores.

Balance of Trade Position

698. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:
SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a rise in the balance of foreign trade at the end of last fiscal year as compared to previous years;

(b) if so, the position thereof as on 1 April, 1989;

(c) whether the value of imports and export in the last fiscal year was more as compared to previous years;

(d) if so, the latest position of imports and exports;

(e) the reasons for such high rise in our balance of trade in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) (a) and (b). According to the provisional figures, India's trade deficit during 1988-89 at Rs. 7411.95 crores was high

as compared to the provisional figures of Rs. 6623.66 crores during 1987-88, but lower than Rs. 7643.82 crores during 1986-87 and Rs. 8763.10 crores during 1985-86.

(c) Yes, Sir. According to the provisional figures, India's export and imports during 1988-89 amount to Rs. 20280.92 crores and Rs. 27692.87 crores respectively.

(d) According to the latest provisional trade statistics available for the current year, i.e. April-May 1989, India's exports amounted to Rs. 4059.67 crores as compared to Rs. 2938.90 crores during April-May 1988, thereby registering an increase of 38.1 per cent. Imports during April-May 1989 amounted to Rs. 5003.45 crores as compared to Rs. 4273.55 crores during April-May 1988, thereby registering an increase of 17.1 per cent.

(e) There is no rise in our balance of trade during the current year. India's trade deficit at Rs. 943.78 crores during April-May, 1989 was lower by Rs. 390.87 crores as compared to the trade deficit of Rs. 1334.65 crores during April-May, 1988.

[English]

Concealment of Income by Factories located in West Delhi

699. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of income-tax evasion and concealment of income by the plastic factories in Trinagar, Rampura etc. in West Delhi have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the defaulters; and

(c) the revenue collected from these factories during the last three years, year-wise details?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The income-tax assessment records of all assessee of Delhi will have to be seen for identifying persons having plastic factories in West Delhi and the details of the income-tax paid by these persons will have to be collected from the assessment records of such persons. The efforts put in and the time spent in collection of such information may not be commensurate with the results achieved.

Expenditure Incurred on Government cases in Courts

700. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how much expenditure was incurred by Government on litigation during the last 12 months, Ministry-wise; and

(b) how does this compare with the expenditure incurred during the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loans advanced by Banks in Midnapore District, West Bengal

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

(a) the details of different kinds of loans given from the branches of nationalised banks situated in Panskura, Daspur, Keshpur, Pingla, Sabang, Naraingarh and Tamluk blocks of Midnapore district of West Bengal to the local people during Seventh Five Year Plan period, category-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of beneficiaries in each block; and

(c) the credit-deposit ratio in each of these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). The present data reporting system of banks does not generate information in the manner asked for.

Credit Deposit Ratio

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

(a) the credit-deposit ratio of the nationalised banks during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether there are any guidelines for determining credit-deposit ratios; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) State-wise credit:deposit ratio of public sector banks for the last three years 1986, 1987 and 1988 are set out in the statement below.

(b) and (c). The Credit: deposit ratio is a statistical device commonly used to monitor the level of credit deployment by banks in relation to deposits mobilised by them in the Country/Region/State. No specific guidelines

have been issued to banks in this regard. The ration depends on the quantum of deposits and other funds available for deploy-

ment after maintaining the prescribed Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio.

STATEMENT

State-Wise Credit: Deposit Ratio of Public Sector Banks (Percent)

State/Region/Union/Territory	December 1986	December, 1987	December, 1988
	C: D Ratio	C.D Ratio	C.D Ratio
1	2	3	4
NORTHERN REGION			
Haryana	53.6	49.6	49.9
Himachal Pradesh	65.5	61.9	60.5
Jammu & Kashmir	39.9	37.1	34.2
Punjab	32.8	30.2	32.0
Rajasthan	44.2	43.1	41.0
Chandigarh	64.9	60.5	60.3
Delhi	166.5	99.2	71.4
N.E. REGION			
Assam	47.2	46.0	50.6
	44.3	45.6	46.8
	50.8	50.8	53.6

State/Region/Union/Territory	December 1986		December, 1987		December, 1988	
	C: D Ratio		C.D Ratio		C.D Ratio	
1	2	3	3	4	4	
Manipur	67.0		64.8		60.9	
Meghalaya	27.4		22.6		20.9	
Nagaland	43.5		43.9		43.3	
Tripura	50.9		51.3		45.9	
Arunachal Pradesh	24.3		20.9		20.8	
Mizoram	8.2		22.7		25.5	
Sikkim	26.3		28.3		30.6	
EASTERN REGION	46.0		45.8		45.6	
Bihar	35.6		34.8		36.1	
Orissa	77.4		78.2		78.1	
West Bengal	46.8		47.0		45.9	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	37.8		34.4		35.0	

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State/Region/Union/Territory	December 1986	December, 1987	December, 1988	
	C: D Ratio	C D Ratio	C.D Ratio	
1	2	3	4	
CENTRAL REGION				
Madhya Pradesh	46.0	46.1	48.0	
	50.0	59.1	62.6	
Uttar Pradesh	41.1	41.2	42.3	
WESTERN REGION				
	71.7	66.4	66.1	
Gujarat	55.7	54.8	58.2	
Maharashtra	79.7	72.8	70.9	
Goa, Daman & Diu	31.8	23.3*	23.1*	
Goa	—	30.8	32.5	
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	66.8	71.4	58.3	
SOUTHERN REGION				
	81.6	83.2	86.5	
Andhra Pradesh	78.9	79.2	84.7	
Karnataka	86.3	91.9	95.6	

State/Region/Union/Territory	December 1986		December, 1987		December, 1988	
	C: D Ratio		C.D Ratio		C.D Ratio	
1	2	3	4			
Kerala	60.0	61.9	62.7			
Tamil Nadu	93.9	93.1	95.1			
Pondicherry	50.8	51.9	51.8			
Lakshadweep	27.7	25.0	16.7			
All India	61.3	59.2	60.0			

* Relates to Daman & Diu.

Opening of Bank Branches in Midnapore District, West Bengal

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

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks opened in Panskura I and II, Daspur I and II, Keshpur, Pingla, Sabang, Naraingarh and Tamluk blocks of Midnapore district in West Bengal during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, year-wise;

(b) the names of the banks and places where the branches have been opened; and

(c) the number of requests pending for demanding opening of more branches in the

district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DÉPARTEMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 co-terminus with Seventh Five Year Plan period, public sector banks have opened 14 branches in Midnapore District of West Bengal upto 31.3.1989 (latest available) as per details given below:-

(1) Offices opened during the period from 1.4.1985 to 31.3.1987 : Nil.

(2) Offices opened during the period from 1.4.1987 to 31.3.1988:-

<i>Name of centre</i>	<i>Name of Block</i>	<i>Name of Bank</i>
Singhaghari	Daspur I	Allahabad Bank
Chaiapat	Daspur II	United Bank of India
Khetua	Keshpur	State Bank of India
Burapat	- do -	United Bank of India
Bhimtala	Panskura-I	Canara Bank
Jamma	Pingla	Punjab National Bank
Nonakuri Bazar	Tamluk-II	- do -
Bueeihr	- do -	Allahabad Bank

3) Offices opened during the period from 1.4.1988 to 31.3.1989:-

<i>Name of centre</i>	<i>Name of Block</i>	<i>Name of Bank</i>
Sribara	Daspur II	United Bank of India
Mugbasan	Keshpur	Punjab National Bank
Teghari	- do -	Allahabad Bank

<i>Name of centre</i>	<i>Name of Block</i>	<i>Name of Bank</i>
Dalpara	Panskura I	State Bank of India
Chaipura Bazar	- do -	Allahabad Bank
Demari Hat	Tamluk II	Indian Overseas Bank

Licences for following 4 centres are pending with banks in Midnapore District:-

<i>Name of centre</i>	<i>Name of Block</i>	<i>Name of Bank</i>
Joteghanshyam	Daspur II	United Bank of India
Kamalpur	- do	Allahabad bank
Siddha	Panskura II	Mallabhum Gramin Bank
Ramtarak Hat	Tamluk II	- do -

As per the information available with RBI, no request demanding opening of more branches in Midnapore District is pending. However, under Service Area Approach, RBI has allotted 20 more centres to banks in Midnapore District.

creams etc;

(b) if so, the details of such companies, the annual estimated amount of tax evasion and the modus operandi adopted by these companies; and

Reported Tax Evasion by Companies Manufacturing Popular Consumer Products

704. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHER-
JEE:
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI
KHAN:
CH. KHURSHID AHMED:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Excise Department and Sales Tax Commissioner's Office are taking note of the reported large scale tax evasion by well known companies manufacturing various consumer products under popular brand names of tooth pastes, tooth-powers, shampoos, soaps, detergents, hair

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Collection of Sales tax and checking its evasion is the responsibility of State/Union territory's Governments. Information regarding Central Excise is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recruitment of Railway Protection Force

705. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether religion/community-wise

statistics of recruitment to Railway Protection Force are available;

(b) if so, the statistics of recruitment so made, community-wise/religion-wise for the years 1987-88; and

(c) is religion/community of a person taken into account in the matter of recruitment and if not, what are the guidelines for recruitment to the Railway Protection Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). As recruitment in Railway Protection Force is not made on the basis of caste, community, religion etc., no data relating to recruitment religion-wise/community-wise is maintained. Recruitment in the RPF is through an open competition and candidates, who possess the requisite qualifications & physical standards, are selected on the basis of merit only.

Payments due towards State Electricity Boards

706. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts due towards various State Electricity Board (SEBs) on account of coal transportation to them by Railways and the amount due towards the Railways on account of power supplied to them by vari-

ous State Electricity Boards; how do they compared in each case; and

(b) whether an inter-ministerial committee went into the question of evolving a cost based energy tariff for Railway traction; what is the text of the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act which came into the way and how did these provisions block the providing of the desired relief to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Details of amounts payable as on 31.5.1989 by State Electricity Boards to Railways are given in the statement below.

Power supply bills are paid up by Railways within the stipulated time to avoid disconnection and penalty. No dues were outstanding on this account on 31.5.1989.

(b) Yes Sir. Section 78 (1) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 is coming in the way. This Section reads as follows:

"In the discharge of its functions, the Boards shall be guided by such directions on questions of policy as may be given to it by the State Government:

In terms of this Section, the Central Government has got no powers to issue guidelines to the State Electricity Boards.

STATEMENT

(Figures in Crores of Rs)

S.No.	Name of State Electricity Board	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	4.71
2.	Assam State Electricity Board	1.21
3.	Bihar State Electricity Board	4.14

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of State Electricity Board</i>	<i>Amount</i>
4.	Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking	10.98
5.	Gujarat State Electricity Board	38.25
6.	Haryana State Electricity Board	31.03
7.	Karnataka State Electricity Board	1.68
8.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	15.87
9.	Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	1.37
10.	Orissa State Electricity Board	0.01
11.	Punjab State Electricity Board	7.21
12.	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	1.06
13.	Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board	6.13
14.	U.P. State Electricity Board	71.81
15.	West Bengal State Electricity Board	8.65
Total		204.11

Non-Interest Bearing Advance to Central Govt. Employees

707. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 17 March, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 3070 regarding recommendation of Fourth Pay Commission on interest free advance to Central Government employees and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken in regard to the grant of interest free advance equal to half month's basic pay to the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and time time by which decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is still under active consideration of the Government and a decision will be taken as early as possible.

Calcutta Metro

708. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works on Calcutta Metro completed so far;

(b) whether further construction work progress has been stopped;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) when the work is likely to be resumed and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Out of a total length of 16.43 kms. two separate stretches, viz Esplanade to Tollyganj and Dum Dum to Belgachia, aggregating to 10kms, have been completed and opened for commercial operation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Work is in progress in the remaining length of the Project. Expected time of completion of the Project is 33 months after the remaining plots of land needed for its construction are made available by the State Government of West Bengal.

Increase in Rubber Prices

709. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHAN-
DRASEKHARA MUR-
THY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of rubber go on increasing affecting thereby prices of rubber goods particularly tyres;

(b) whether the Northern India Rubber Manufacture Federation has sought the

immediate intervention of Government to get over the present rubber crises and urged to control rubber prices; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and steps being taken to solve the problem of rubber shortage and also to check the resing trend in rubber prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). During the lean production months the prices of indigenous rubber tend to go up and then with the improved supply these get stabilised. The prices of imported rubber are, however, dependent on various factors such as international prices/taxes/charges etc. levied on the imported rubber.

The manufactures and their associations including Northern India Rubber Manufacturers Association, have represented about the rise in the prices of rubber and requested for reduction of import duty on rubber to zero level.

The Government is taken all possible steps to contain the rising trend of prices of resorting to adequate imports and timing their releases. Exemption orders for reducing import duty on natural rubber on consignment basis are also being obtained as and when required.

Seizure of Gold, Cash, Jewellery etc.

710. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH:
SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN
RAMJIBHAIMAVANI:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the raids conducted and the extend of gold, cash, jewellery and other assets seized by Income-tax, Customs and other revenue enforcement authorities in Gujarat and other parts of the country during the first half of 1989 and the corresponding figures for each of the two halves of 1988 and 1987; and

(b) in how many cases prosecution was

launched and in how many cases the matter was dropped and how the seized property was disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The details of the searches conducted are given below:

<i>Period</i>	<i>Value of assets seized under Income-tax Act (Rs. in Crores)</i>	<i>Value of goods seized under the Customs Act (Rs. in Crores)</i>	<i>Seizure of Gold under Gold Control Act (in Kgs)</i>
1.1.89 to 30.6.89	59.78	288.40	1153.14 (upto May, 1989)
1.1.88 to 30.6.88	85.27	184.81	648.69
1.1.87 to 30.6.87	42.21	110.19	216.97

Figures are maintained Collectorate-wise and not State-wise.

(b) During the period 1.1.89 to 30.6.89, 924 persons were persecuted, 438 persons convicted and 165 persons were acquitted by the Court (figures are provisional) under the Customs Act.

During the period 1.1.89 to 31.5.89, 57 prosecutions were launched under Gold Control Act.

The Assets seized under Income-tax Act are dealt with in the manner stipulated in the provisions of Section 132 (5) & 13(8) of the Income Tax Act. Under the Customs/ Gold Control Acts, seized/confiscated gold is deposited in the Government of India Mint. The seized currency is deposited with the Reserve Bank of India for crediting in the Government Account.

Modification in Tax Laws

711. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has called for suitable modification in tax laws;

(b) if so, their precise suggestions; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) (a) to (c). The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has from time to time suggested for suitable modification in tax laws through their various memoranda, let-

ters etc. Such suggestions are considered as and when received and wherever any suggestion is found acceptable the same is given effect to by making suitable amendment in the tax laws.

Work done on Flood Control in Mahananda Basin by Ganga Flood Control Commission

712. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the Ganga Flood Control Commission, its major objectives and the expenditure incurred on the commission, year-wise since its inception;

(b) the particulars of the work done by the Commission on Flood Control in the Mahananda Basin in terms of the Schemes finalised, Scheme implemented, the Scheme under implementation and the Schemes under consideration;

(c) whether the Commission monitors the progress of implementation of the approved schemes by the State Governments concerned which are wholly or partially financed by the Central Government; and

(d) when the comprehensive flood control plan for the Mahananda basin is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) (i) Apart from the Chairman and two full-time Members, the Ganga Flood Control Commission comprises Chief Engineers in-charge of Flood Control from the Ganga Basin States and also representatives from the concerned Central Organisations.

(ii) The major objectives are to prepare a comprehensive plan of flood control, advise the State Government on technical matters and conduct techno-economic appraisal of flood management schemes.

(iii) The annual expenditure mostly relates to establishment charges. Since its inception in the year 1972 an expenditure of about Rs. 2.85 crores has been incurred upto March, 1989.

(b) The Flood Management works are formulated and implemented by the State Governments.

(c) There is no flood management scheme directly financed by the Central Government in the Ganga basin States.

(d) The comprehensive plan for flood control for Mahananda was initially prepared in the year 1977. The Plan was further updated in the year 1987

Assistance by Nationalised Banks to Minority Communities

713. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accounts and the balance outstanding against account holders of various communities in nationalised banks as for the quarter ending December, 1988 and march, 1989 in 40 districts of minority concentration;

(b) the percentage that the advances to minority communities constitute of the total priority sector advances in these districts taken as a whole;

(c) whether Government are considering the measurement of the credit flow to minority communities by public sector banks

in the country, as a whole, State-wise and bank-wise;

(d) whether Government are considering the measurement of the credit flow to minority communities by public sector banks as percentage of the total credit flow; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

New Signalling system of Dadar Kalyan Section

714. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the progress made in installation of new Signalling system on Dadar-Kalyan section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) Perhaps the reference is to the progress of installation of Auxiliary Warning System (AWS) on the Electric Multiple Units over the suburban sections of Central Railway. The work at a cost of Rs. 4.79 crores, is now in progress on Bombay VT - Kalyan and Harbour branch suburban sections. The work is likely to be completed by 30.6.90.

Extension of Bombay Clearing Scheme to Kalyan Complex

715. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand to make applicable Bombay Clearing Scheme to the Kalyan Complex including Ullasnagar and Ambarnath area of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the time by which that area is likely to be included in Bombay for clearing purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a Committee has been constituted by the President of the Bombay Bankers' Clearing House to examine the feasibility of extension of the jurisdiction of Bombay Bankers' Clearing House.

Video Films in Trains

716. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have decided to show video films on any of the trains;

(b) whether any expert committee was constituted to examine the issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad Railway Line

717. SHRI VISHNU MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has been pleading with the Railways for early conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad?

dabad via Jaipur Metre Gauge line into Broad Gauge;

(b) if so, whether this work has been taken in hand; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad MG line has recently been upgraded to permit maximum speed of 100 KMPH for certain passenger trains. Conversion of this long route into BG will involve very heavy investment and will also adversely affect vital connections between MG network on the northern part of the country with that of the South.

Appointment of "External Committee of Actuaries" by LIC

718. SHRI SAMBAHJIRAO KAKADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has appointed "External Committee of Actuaries" as suggested/recommended by Morarka Committee in its Report of April, 1969;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not appointing the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The recommendations/suggestions made by the Morarka committee in its Report of April, 1969 regarding appointing of an External Committee of Actuaries to decide the basis of valuation to be adopted for each statutory valuation under Section 26 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 were considered by the Board of the Corporation at its meeting held on 29th August, 1969 and found not acceptable. It was not acceptable to the Corporation mainly because there are very limited number of individuals working as actuaries who have some experience of life insurance work and further, practical difficulties were also expected in fixing suitable criteria for the selection of outside actuaries. In the circumstances it was considered neither necessary nor desirable to depart from the existing practice of the Corporation under which the Chief Actuary is responsible for the choice of the basis of valuation who decides the valuation basis after consultation with other LIC's senior officers who are actuaries. Moreover, the Controller of Insurance has full power, by virtue of the provisions of Section 22 of the Insurance Act, 1938 to consider whether the basis adopted in the valuation is valid or not and he can ask the corporation for revaluation, of the basis adopted in a valuation is found faulty.

Opening of Bank Branches

719. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken not to open the branches of banks, despite the demand for them, in those areas of the country where road transport facility is not available;

(b) if so, the justification behind such a decision;

(c) if not, whether Government are aware that nationalised banks and regional rural

banks are not opening their branches at these places; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government against such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no such decision has been taken. However, RBI has advised the banks to open branches at the allotted centres expeditiously except in rare cases where basic infrastructural facilities such as suitable premises, all weather roads, police station and transport etc. are not available as these facilities are essential for the smooth functioning of the branch.

(c) The main reason adduced by the banks for not opening the branches is lack of basic infrastructural facilities at the centres allotted to them.

(d) RBI had taken up the matter with Chief Secretaries of the State Governments/ Union Territories for providing basic infrastructural facilities expeditiously to enable the banks to open their branches at the allotted centres. In cases where the State Government is not in a position to provide basic infrastructural facilities within the plan period, the banks have been submitting proposals for substitution of centre in the same block which are considered by the Task Force set up at the Regional Office of RBI so that the area is not deprived of banking facilities.

District level committees to advise Banks

720. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to include Members of Parliament and

members of Legislative Assemblies in the district level committees to advise banks in their working; and

(b) if so, when this decision was taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided in the month of April, 1989 to invite all local Members of Parliament and Members of legislative Assemblies to the District Level Review Committee meetings which are to be convened by the Lead Banks in each District in the month of June and December every year to review the progress of implementation of the District Credit Plan.

Railway lines in Hill districts of Uttar Pradesh

721. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry propose to construct railway lines in Eighth Five Year Plan in those districts of the country where there is no railway line; and if so the names of such districts;

(b) whether there is any proposal to lay railway line in Eighth Five Year Plan in five hill districts of Uttar Pradesh where there is no railway line;

(c) if so, the details therefore; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). The VIII Five Year Plan of the Railways has not been finalised.

Clearance of Jamrani Dam of U.P.

722. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have given techno economic clearance to the Jamrani Dam of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The Jamrani Dam project was approved in May, 1975. The State Government modified the project proposals and sent the modified project to the Centre in April, 1986. This has been considered by Advisory Committee and found acceptable subject to, among others, environmental and forest clearance and finalisation of rehabilitation and resettlement aspects of the project affected people.

[English]

Rise in wholesale price index

723. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: SHRI S.M. GURADDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wholesale price index has been steadily rising from February, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this rise is closely related to the budget deficit and taxes;

(d) if so, the steps taken to bring down rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). The month-wise details of the movement of Whole-sale Price Index (WPI) for all commodities from end-February 1989 to end-June 1989 are given below:

Movement of WPI during 1989

<i>end month</i>	<i>Index</i>
February	440.9
March	446.2
April	454.5
May	460.2 (P)
June	462.8 (P) (P) = Provisional

(c) There is no one to one correspondence between budgetary deficit or taxes and price rise. While budgetary deficit may generate liquidity pressures and may lead to price rise, it has been the endeavour of the government to keep the budget deficit within prudent limits indicated by the growth of income/output.

(d) Government has adopted a package of measures, both on the demand and supply side, to contain the raise in prices. These measures include supply of essential commodities through the Public Distribution System, exercising strict monetary and fiscal discipline, action against hoarders and black-marketeers and close monitoring of prices of essential commodities.

Export target for 1989-90

724. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set the export target for 1989-90;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether specific thrust areas will be decided in achieving a higher target in exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) The Commerce Minister is in the process of finalising the Export Target for 1989-90 in consultation with the various export promotion councils.

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

Working group on 8th Plan Allocation for Railways

725. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group on the 8th Five Year Plan allocation for the Railways has finalised its recommendations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The Working Group on Railway programmes for VIII Five Year Plan set up by the Planning Commission have finalised and submitted their report to the Planning Commission. It is understood that the Working Group have recommended to the Planning Commission an outlay of about Rs. 41,600 crores for various Railway programmes including those for generating additional transport capacity, rehabilitation of assets and modernisation of the system, etc.

[Translation]

Rate of Inflation

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

(a) the rate of inflation during the last three years; and

(b) the value of currency notes printed during the said period and the names of the countries in which these currency notes have been printed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). The requisite information is as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rate of Inflation</i>	<i>Value of notes printed (Rs. in crores)</i>
1986-87	5.3%	13,306.30
1987-88	10.6%	13,906.00
1988-89	6.6%	15,018.20

The currency notes are not printed in any outside country.

[English]

Opening of Bank Branches

727. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches opened during the last two years, year-wise, bank-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of branches of each bank in the country at present, State-wise and bank-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to open more branches of banks in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the number of branches proposed to be opened during the next two years in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Year-wise, Statewise and bank-wise number of branches opened by banks during the last two years will be laid on

the Table of the House to the extent available.

(b) State-wise and bankwise total number of branches of commercial banks functioning in the country as on 30-9-1988 are indicated in statements I & II, respectively below.

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, 5360 eligible rural and semi-urban centres have been allotted to commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). Out of these centres, banks have opened branches at 3289 rural and semi-ruban centres upto 20.6 1989. The branches at the remaining 2071 rural and semi-urban centres are yet to be opened under the current Branch Licensing Policy period. In view of the Service Area Approach to rural lending, 1236 additional centres have also been allotted to various banks for opening branches in various States. Since the current Branch Licensing Policy is due to expire on 31.3.1990, it is not possible at this stage to assess the number of branches likely to be opened during the next two years till the new Policy is evolved.

STATEMENT I

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Name of the State/ Union Territory</i>	<i>Total No. of branches</i>
1	Andhra Pradesh	4342
2	Arunachal Pradesh	57
3	Assam	1040
4	Bihar	4362
5	Goa	253
6	Gujarat	3193
7	Haryana	1230

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Name of the State/ Union Territory</i>	<i>Total No. of branches</i>
8.	Himachal Pradesh	630
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	731
10.	Karnataka	4060
11.	Kerala	2782
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3933
13.	Maharashtra	5139
14.	Manipur	67
15.	Meghalaya	137
16.	Mizoram	50
17.	Nagaland	68
18.	Orissa	1831
19.	Punjab	2061
20.	Rajasthan	2799
21.	Sikkim	25
22.	Tamil Nadu	4083
23.	Tripura	147
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7808
25.	West Bengal	3700
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	16
27.	Chandigarh	107
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6
29.	Daman & Diu	10

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Name of the State/ Union Territory</i>	<i>Total No. of branches</i>
30.	Delhi	1069
31.	Lakshadweep	5
32.	Pondicherry	66
Total		55797

STATEMENT II

<i>S.No</i>	<i>Name of Bank</i>	<i>No. of branches</i>
1.	State Bank of India	7707
2	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	638
3	State Bank of Hyderabad	630
4	State Bank of Indore	287
5	State Bank of Mysore	476
6.	State Bank of Patiala	538
7	State Bank of Saurashtra	305
8.	State Bank of Travancore	587
9.	Allahabad Bank	1440
10.	Andhra Bank	880
11	Bank of Baroda	2039
12.	Bank of India	1981
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	1013
14.	Canara Bank	1911
15.	Central Bank of India	2628
16.	Corporation Bank	420

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of Bank</i>	<i>No. of branches</i>
17.	Dena Bank	1002
18.	Indian Bank	1142
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	1119
20.	New Bank of India	567
21.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	490
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	652
23.	Punjab National Bank	2585
24.	Syndicate Bank	1453
25.	UCO Bank	1743
26.	Union Bank of India	1691
27.	United Bank of India	1146
28.	Vijaya Bank	689
29.	Regional Rural Banks	13665
30.	Other Indian Scheduled Commercial Banks	4198
31.	Foreign Banks	136
32.	Non-Scheduled Banks	39
Total		55797

Pending cases in Supreme Court/High Court

728. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK:

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

(a) Whether a large number of cases have been pending in Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts till date;

Court-wise; and

(c) A statement is given below.

(d) the steps being taken to have an expeditious disposal of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pendency of cases is due to several complex factors including institution of more cases in these Courts.

(d) Various steps have been taken to reduce pendency of cases in courts, such as, grouping of matters regarding common question of law and constitution of special benches. The judge strength of Supreme Court has been raised from 18 to 26 and of High Courts from 351 to 456. A committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts has been constituted by the Government to examine the problem of arrears in the Courts and to suggest remedial measures.

Pendency of cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts

<i>Name of the Court</i>	<i>As on 30.6.1989</i>
<i>Supreme Court</i>	<i>208799</i>
<i>High Court</i>	<i>As on 31.12.1988</i>
1. Allahabad	419836
2. Andhra Pradesh	73239
3. Bombay	142891
4. Calcutta	189338
5. Delhi	88973
6. Gauhati	22099
7. Gujarat	67530
8. Himachal Pradesh	10771*
9. Jammu and Kashmir	39767
10. Karnataka	68186
11. Kerala	112390
12. Madhya Pradesh	59004
13. Madras	211505*

*Name of the Court**As on 30.6.1989*

14.	Orissa	42701*
15.	Patna	68382
16.	Punjab and Haryana	71942
17.	Rajasthan	59374
18.	Sikkim	63

*Note: Figures of Himachal Pradesh, Madras and Orissa High Courts pertain to the half year ending 30.6.1988.

Loss to Railway Property During Maharashtra Bandh

729. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Bandh was called in Maharashtra during the first week of July, 1989 as reported in "The Hindustan Times" dated 3 July, 1989; and

(b) if so, the estimated loss, if any, to the Railway property as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes Sir. A bandh was called in Maharashtra on 3.7.1989 by a few political parties.

(b) The loss, due to damage to railway property, during this bandh is estimated at Rs. 4.12 lakhs (approx).

Effect of Foreign Exchange constraint on Development

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

(a) whether the Senior vice-President

for Policy, Planning and Research in the World Bank has stated that foreign exchange constraint is hindering the development of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). Facts are being ascertained

Creation of additional posts in Delhi Judicial Service

731. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration has proposed to create 169 posts in the Delhi Judicial Service; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes,

Sir. Delhi Administration has proposed to create 232 posts.

(b) The matter is under discussion with Delhi Administration.

Chemical Office at Delhi Airport

732. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some representations/demand letters for opening an office of Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council at Delhi Airport; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Renumbering of Passenger Trains

733. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to finalise a scheme for renumbering of passenger trains on a more rational and scientific basis than has been followed so far;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the manner in which the renumber-

ing of the passenger trains will be done?

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

(b) and (c). Details have not been worked out.

Income-Tax Raids in Delhi and Bihar

734. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the raids conducted by the Income-Tax Department in Delhi and Bihar during 1988-89;

(b) the details about the cash, jewellery and other assets seized during these raids;

(c) whether any action has been initiated against the tax evaders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b) During Financial Year 1988-89, the Income-tax Department conducted 1425 searches in Delhi and Bihar. During these searches, *Prima Facie*, Unaccounted assets, as detailed below, were seized:

<i>Bullion</i>	<i>Cash</i>	<i>Jewellery</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>Total</i>
70.62	593.88	617.86	752.72	2035.08

(c) and (d). Appropriate action as called for under the Direct Taxes enactments is taken in all these cases.

**Assocham suggestion to accelerate
Inflow of Foreign Investment and
Technology**

735. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSO-CHAM) has suggested a new foreign investment formula to accelerate the flow of foreign investment and technology in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the suggestions of the ASSO-CHAM in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). Suggestions for improving our investment environment are received from time to time from different quarters. Due note of these suggestions is taken and appropriate remedial action initiated wherever necessary and feasible.

**Central Clearance to Telugu Ganga
Project**

736. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the Telugu Ganga Project in the matter of its clearance by Union Government; and

(b) the time by which the necessary clearance will be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The Project has not been cleared on account of non-resolution of inter-State issues.

Excise Duty Evasion by T.V. Manufacturers

737. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Television manufacturers are evading excise duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have investigated all these cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d). During the period 1986 till 1989 (upto 15.7.1989) 95 cases of evasion of Central Excise duties have been detected against television manufacturers involving duty to the tune of Rs. 21.05 crores. Some of these cases have been adjudicated wherein amount of Rs. 1.24 crores has been confirmed and fine and penalty totalling Rs. 2.33 lakhs and Rs. 25.35 lakhs, respectively, have been imposed. Total amounts of Rs. 20.53 lakhs as duty and Rs. 1.35 lakhs as fine and Rs. 0.82 lakhs as penalty have since been recovered.

Corruption cases against Employees of State Bank of India

738. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of the State Bank of India against whom cases have been registered/pending in Courts; and

(b) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Constitution of Inter-Departmental Committee for Press Workers

739. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS:
SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP
SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 28th April, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 7593 regarding constitution of inter-departmental committee for Press workers and state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Committee have since been accepted by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a decision will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). The recommendations of the Inter Departmental committee are under consideration of the Government and decision thereon will be taken soon.

Installation of a machine for quick communication between commission's Office and State/Union Territories

740. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Union Government for installation of machines for quickest communication between the Commission's Secretariat and the States/Union Territories during the coming general elections; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the feasibility of this scheme?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Lac and Shellac

741. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of the fact that there is production of lac and shellac in the country, the same are being imported;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the total production of lac and shellac during the last two years; State-wise;

(d) the total amount of foreign exchange earned during the above period due to export of these two items; and

(e) how Government propose to help lac and shellac producers specially in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Import of Seedlac/shellac is restricted. Import is sought to be made only to bridge the gap between demand and supply keeping in view the external resources position.

(c) and (d). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

*Statewise production of sticklac in the country
(Qty. In MTS)*

<i>State</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>
Bihar	7,575	9,075
Madhya Pradesh	5,170	3,880
West Bengal	1,070	1,440
Other States	785	665
Total	14,600	15,020

(2 MTs of sticklac provide approximately 1 MT of exportable grades of lac, i.e. shellac, seedlac etc.)

*Total foreign exchnge earned on export of
seedlac, shellac etc.*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Foreign exchanges earned in Rs. lakhs</i>
1987-88	1,662
1988-89	1,908

Source:- Shellac Export Promotion Council,
Calcutta

[Translation]

Disposal of General Insurance Policy Claims

742. SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Will the

(e) Broodlac in limited quantities is being distributed free of charge to needy growers through shellac Export Promotion council and the State Governments. Under the aegis of National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development a Study Group on lac has been set up to consider the problems of lac trade with special emphasis on institutional finance, arranging soft loans and suggest measures for economic upliftment of the lac growers.

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a revision has been made in the general insurance policies for quick disposal of claims and for ending disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount of Premium etc. has been reduced; and

(d) if so, the number of persons likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): The General Insurance Industry has initiated from time to time several spe-

cific measures with a view to settle claims expeditiously. These include:—

- (i) Simplification and standardisation of claims settlement procedure.
- (ii) Prescribing of time limits for instance of documents and settlement of claims.
- (iii) Waiving of Police Report/Fire Brigade Report where loss is confirmed by a surveyor.
- (iv) Enhancement of claim settlement powers at all levels.
- (v) Setting up of Grievance Cells in all offices of the insurance companies and the General Insurance Corporation of India to process complaints received from claimants.
- (vi) Extending of support to Lok Adalat movement to expedite settlement of motor claims.

(c) The Fire Tariff was rationalised and revised effective from July, 1987 and in the process, a few risks got reduction in rates. In cases where the premium rates had gone up due to rationalisation, hardship relief was provided by staggering the increase in three years.

(d) The Insurance Companies do not maintain such information, and hence, it is not possible to assess this data.

Private Sector Banks

743. SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of banks in private sector situated in various parts of the country have gone into liquidation;

(b) if so, the number of banks which have gone into liquidation during the three years and whether the depositors have their apprehensions about the safety of their deposits with these banks;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take some concrete steps to remove the apprehensions of depositors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the manner in which Government propose to remove the apprehensions of the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has reported that no bank in the private sector has gone into liquidation during the last three years. However, winding up proceedings in respect of 128 banking companies which had gone into liquidation prior to 1971 are in progress.

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

Indo-Hungarian Trade

744. SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of India and Hungary recently held talks to increase the trade between the two countries; and

(b) if so, by when and the extent of increase likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). An Indian delegation led by Commerce Secretary visited Hungary from 30th to 31st May, 1989 to discuss trade matters. The discussions related to promotion and diversification of bilateral trade. A number of items of export

such as Maruti cars, Mopeds, iron ore pellets, soya extractions, textiles and garments, and a number of items of imports such as steel products, chemicals and plastic chemicals, pharmaceutical products, automobile components, food processing equipment, slaughterhouse equipment, electronic equipment, power equipment, were discussed. A part from conventional trade, encouragement of new forms of cooperation like joint ventures, cooperation in services sector, production cooperation, was also discussed. In 1988, both the Governments of India & Hungary agreed to make efforts to double the trade turnover over a period of two years. These recent trade talks were designed to help these efforts.

[English]

**Extension of Bombay V.T. Gorakhpur
Trains Upto Chhapra (Bihar)**

745. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided that the trains running between Bombay - V.T. and Gorakhpur should be extended upto Chhapra (Bihar);

(b) if so, whether proper assessment has not been made regarding selection of route on Gorakhpur-Chhapra section resulting in inconvenience to the public of that area; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to correct the route selection on Gorakhpur-Chhapra section?

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

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

[Translation]

**Inclusion of Persons of 18-21 Years of
Age in New Voters List**

746. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be
pleased to state:

(a) the progress made upto May, 1989 with regard to inclusion of persons of 18-21 years of age in the Voters' List for the ensuing General Elections;

(b) whether the work with regard to inclusion of these voters in the new lists has been completed throughout the country; and

(c) if not, the factual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI
H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (c). The Election Commission initiated the work of special revision of electoral rolls in all the States and Union territories for enrolling the voters in the age group of 18 to 21 as early as in January, 1989. The Election Commission's aim was to ensure the final publication of the rolls in respect of most of the States on varying dates during May-June, 1989. The work of revision of electoral rolls involves enumeration of the voters, checking of the enumerators' work by the designated electoral Officers, publication of the draft rolls, consideration of claims and objections and lastly the final publication of the rolls. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate the exact progress made upto May, 1989 in respect of this work in the different States and Union territories.

It may be mentioned however that this work has now been completed and the final rolls have been published in respect of all the States and Union territories, except Assam and the snow bound areas of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. In the case

of Assam, the enumeration has been completed in 108 out of 125 Assembly constituencies and it is about to be completed in another 13 constituencies. In the case of the snow bound areas of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, as per the programme chalked out, the final rolls should have been published by now though a definite confirmation has not yet been received by the Election Commission.

Extension of Shahid express upto Muzaffarpur

747. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has been decided to extend Shahid Express upto Muzaffarpur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operation constraints.

[English]

Revision of Indirect Taxes

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

- (a) whether Government propose to revise indirect taxes;
- (b) whether any proposal to this effect has been finalised; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) There is no proposal at present for total restructuring of the existing rates of indirect taxes levied by the Central Government.

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

[Translation]

Board of Directors of State Bank of Indore

749. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the tenure of the Board of Directors of the State Bank of Indore expired in September, 1988;
- (b) whether the Board of Directors of the Bank has been reconstituted;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be reconstituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). The Board of Directors of a bank is a continuous entity and action is being taken to fill up the vacancies that arise from time to time. At present there are some vacancies on the Board of State Bank of Indore. Steps have been initiated for filling up of these vacancies.

[English]

Expenditure on Travel of Executives of States Bank of Indore

750. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of expenditure on travelling of top executives down to General Managers of the State Bank of Indore during 1987 to till date, year-wise;

(b) the amount of expenditure on account of cancellation charges on tours by the top executives down to General Manager level during the above period alongwith the reasons for a such cancellation; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to curtail such expenditures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). The information as reported by State Bank of Indore for the years 1987 to 1989 (upto 13.7.89) is as follows:

<i>Years</i>	<i>Expenditure on Travelling (Rs.)</i>	<i>Cancellation Charges (Rs.)</i>
1987	2,13,596.28	2409.00
1988	3,01,455.89	2114.00
1989	1,83,622.97	1907.00

The cancellation charges were mainly due to cancellation of air/rail tickets on account of last minute postponement of the meetings required to be attended by the officials. Though the bank is conscious of avoiding such expenditure, since the meetings etc. required to attended by the officials are occasionally postponed, such cancellation charged are unavoidable.

collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Court Cases Against Employees of State Bank of Indore

752. DR. V. VENKATESN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed by the State Bank of Indore in the different courts of law against its employees during the last three years (upto June, 1989), year-wise and category-wise; and

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Bank of litigations, year-wise during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). According to the available information (upto June, 1989) the number of cases filed by State Bank of Indore during the period 19870-1989 is as follows:

CBI Report on Malpractices in State Bank of Indore

751. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has submitted its Report on the case of alleged malpractices in the branches of the State Bank of Indore;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). Information is being

	No. of Cases		
	1987	1988	1989
Supervising Staff	2	—	2
Award Staff	—	1	—

(This excludes the criminal cases filed by CBI).

The expenditure incurred on the cases during the last 3 years in as follows:

<i>Years</i>	<i>Expenditure incurred (Ra.)</i>
1987	16251.50
1988	1023.30
1989	10000.00

be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of the railway line proposed to be constructed between Jammu and Udhampur; and

(b) the total amount spent on the project year-wise during last three years?

Jammu- Udhampur Railway Line

753. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Udhampur): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 53.20 km

(b)	1.	1986-87	Rs. 1.5 crore
	2.	1987-88	Rs. 5.0 crore
	3.	1988-89	Rs. 11.70 crore

[Translation]

First Aid Facility in Long Route Trains

754. CHOWDHRY AKHTAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided first aid facility along with catering in long route trains;

(b) if so, the names of such trains;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to provide first aid facility immediately for the benefit of commuters travelling by long route trains;

(d) if so, by what time; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e). First Aid Boxes have been provided with Guards of all

passenger carrying trains. Catering facilities are also available on many long distance trains.

[English]

Marketing Agents in General Insurance Corporation

755. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of marketing agents working in different parts of the country under the General Insurance Corporation of India and its subsidiaries;

(b) whether the General Insurance Corporation has any proposal to recruit more

marketing agents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). With the objective of developing fully rural and other non-traditional business and personal insurance as well as providing employment to unemployed educated youth, the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) had introduced, in September 1987, the Marketing Agents Scheme. Under this scheme, it was proposed of recruit 5000 Agents all over India in a phased manner. In the first phase, GIC has already recruited 1,619 Agents as per details below.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Total</i>
Western	178	163	341
Northern	261	178	439
Eastern	145	169	314
Southern	350	175	525
	934	685	7619

GIC is also taking necessary steps to recruit the remaining marketing agents before the end of the current financial year.

Under this scheme, graduates from the urban areas and senior secondary/higher secondary/Indian School Certificate candidates with 50% average marks (40% for SCs/ STs) from rural areas and within the age group of 18-30 years are recruited as Marketing Agents. In addition to the commission income on the business procured by them, they are given a consolidated remuneration of Rs. 400 per month. They are required to procure Rs. 30,000/- as premium per annum in personal and rural insurance.

Targets are fixed on quarterly basis and reviewed at the end of each quarter. They are given 2 weeks' intensive basic training on the insurance to be procured by them before operating in the field. At the end of 2 years' period, the stipend is discontinued but they can continue to work as ordinary agents. Marketing Agents with good performance record and ability can also apply for the post of Development Officer

Implementation of Central Income-Tax Laws in Sikkim

756. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income-tax department had issued a Notice in the Press inviting difficulties from people of Sikkim on implementation of the Central Income-tax Laws in Sikkim;

(b) if so, when the Notice was published and the time given for receipt of the difficulties from Sikkim;

(c) whether it takes two days for Delhi Newspapers to reach Gangtok;

(d) whether two days allowed for suggestions were reasonable and justified;

(e) if not, whether Government propose to extend the time limit by republishing the Notice in the Press; and

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

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

(b) According to the information available in the Ministry of Finance, the Notice was published on the 10th of June, 1989 in some newspapers and the time given for receipt of difficulties was 16th June, 1989.

(c) Delhi Newspapers should normally reach Gangtok the following day.

(d) to (f). Prior to the Publication of the notice in the newspaper about the constitution of the Committee for sorting out difficulties if any, press notes were issued regarding the constitution of the Committee. Thus there was adequate notice. As a matter of fact letters have been received even after the 16th June, 1989 by the Committee constituted by the Government to examine the

difficulties, if any, in the implementation of the Central Direct Tax laws in Sikkim. The Committee also met at Gangtok and some associations, chambers of commerce etc. including representatives from various sectors of society mentioned about the likely difficulties in the implementation of the Direct Tax Laws.

In view of the above it is not considered necessary at present to extend the time limit and republish the notice in the press.

[Translation]

Fraud Cases in Branches of State Bank of Indore in Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh)

757. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to be state:

(a) the number of cases of fraud detected in the branches of the State Bank of Indore situated at Ujjain City in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years and the current year (till 30 June, 1989) and the amount involved therein;

(b) the number of cases in which bank employees were found to be involved; and

(c) the number of cases in which action has been taken against guilty employees and the number of those in which action is yet to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) State Bank of Indore has reported that no case of fraud has been detected at its branches in Ujjain City either during the last two years or in the current year.

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

[English]

Loans Advanced by State Bank of Indore

758. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued any guidelines to banks regarding the grant of loans to different sections of society, particularly the weaker sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Bank of Indore has followed these instructions/guidelines of RBI ; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reserve bank of India (RBI) issues guidelines to all Scheduled Commercial banks from time to time, regarding grant of loans to weaker sections under priority sector advances. These guidelines relate to application forms, loan procedure, margin money, security norms, rate of interest and other charges to be levied and cover all categories of priority sector lendings.

(c) No violation of RBI's guidelines regarding priority sector advances by State Bank of Indore has come to the notice of the Government or Reserve bank of India.

(d) Does not arise.

World Bank Assistance

759. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of financial assistance proposed to

be provided to India by the World Bank during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): The World Bank's fiscal year is from 1st July to 30th June of the following year. The World Bank group (IBRD and IDA) assistance committed to India during the Bank's fiscal year 1989 was US \$ 3036.6 million for 11 projects.

At the Aid India Consortium meeting held in June 1989 the World Bank has indicated that the likely Bank group commitment to India for the fiscal year 1990 would be US \$ 2.9 billion.

Import of Coaches From U. K.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Rail Engineering Ltd. has refused to give performance Guarantee for the coaches to be imported by India;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to resolve the problem; and

(c) the details of the coaches to be imported both for broad and meter gauge lines together with the cost of the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) BREL Limited have not agreed to accept overall responsibility for satisfactory performance of complete coaches.

(b) The matter is in process in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

(c) The FBD cost of 42 BG coach bodies with transfer of technology is \$ 20,194,414.

Bogies for these coach bodies are proposed to be imported from M/s FIAT, Italy along with transfer of technology at a cost of DM 11,253,600. No metre gauge coaches are being imported.

Assistance Sought for Rehabilitation of Outees of Indira Sagar Multipurpose Project by M. P.

761. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested Union Government for financial and other help for rehabilitation of the outeets of Indira Sagar multipurpose project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

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

Mini Time Table

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

(a) whether the Railway Board has brought out a mini time table for the benefit of the general public recently;

(b) if so, the details of its benefits to the public; and

(c) how far it is better than the existing zonal time tables?

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

(b) and (b) All India coloured single sheeter 'Mini Time Table' is easy to refer and carry and is to be sold at Rupee One only per copy. Zonal Railway time tables and the All India single sheeter 'Mini time table' are targeted to meet the specific requirements of different segments of passengers.

[Translation]

Uniform Credit Card System in Banks

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

(a) whether different credit card systems are being followed by various banks in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Bank of India has proposed to introduce a uniform credit card system throughout the country;

(c) whether Government have considered this proposal;

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Each Bank's Credit Card has distinctive features of its own.

(b) to (e). The Credit Card is introduced by a Bank on its own commercial judgement. The Credit Card of a Bank is issued and accepted by the branches of the same bank unless a suitable tie-up arrangement exists with the other bank.

Bank of India has also introduced its own Credit Card which is issued and accepted by its own branches.

Bank and Insurance Facilities in Rural Areas

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

(a) whether banks and insurance corporation have extended adequate facilities to some rural areas;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to issue any further guidelines to them in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

After nationalisation, there has been a very rapid growth in the banking facilities in rural areas. The number of rural branches of commercial Banks increased from 1860 in July '69 to 31845 in December '88. The average population per branch office which was 65,000 in 1969 has now come down to 12,000. Similarly, the priority sector advances of public sector banks stood at Rs. 32564 crores or 45.1% of the total advances in December '88. Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), during the 6th Five Year Plan Period banks had covered 166 lakh families and during the current plan period upto March '89 147 lakhs families have been provided bank credit under IRDP. Recently, under the service area approach to rural lending all villages in the country have been allotted to Rural and

Semi-Urban branches of various banks. The bank branches are required to prepare annual credit plans taking into consideration the potential for development and credit needs of people in the villages allocated to them. The service area approach is expected to give a new thrust of banking in rural areas. With regard to Insurance facilities to Rural areas, General Insurance Corporation (GIC) has reported that adequate facilities for insurance of assets of rural areas have been provided by the Nationalised Insurance Industry since 1973. In this connection, it has been further stated by GIC that one of the major thrust areas for benefit of rural population is insurance of cattle, buffaloes and other livestock like Sheep, Goats, Pigs and Pack animals like Work Horses, Camels, Mules, etc., beside poultry birds. Insurance industry have devised insurance schemes for insuring above mentioned livestock assets owned by farmers and cattle etc. all over the country. GIC have also introduced many other schemes for insuring assets for rural folk such as agricultural pumpset insurance, Fishery Insurance/Prawns Insurance, Silkworm Insurance, Honey Bee Insurance, Failed Well Insurance, Crop Insurance, etc.

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

Setting up of Jewellery Export Complexes

765. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up jewellery export complexes;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken in this regard so far;

(c) if so, the names of States where such complexes are proposed to be set up;

(d) whether Government propose to set

up such a complex in Uttar Pradesh also; and

(e) if so, the location thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. A 100% Export Oriented Complex is already functioning at New Delhi. Jewellery Exporting units are being set up in the Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone, Bombay. Such units are also being set up in Export Processing Zones at Cochin, Madras, Falta (West Bengal) and Noida (U.P.)

Non-availability of Income Tax Return Forms etc.

766. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had through advertisements etc. informed income-tax assesseees to pay income tax before 30 June;

(b) if so, whether income tax assesseees had to face a lot of difficulties due to non-availability of certain forms prescribed for exemption from income-tax and return forms etc. in Income-tax Offices in different parts of the country;

(c) whether over 4,000 refund orders of the Income-tax department could not be despatched for want of plain envelopes and hundreds of orders could not be passed for lack of personal rubber stamps; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such a situation in future.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The Income-tax Department had issued advertisements and a Press Note advising taxpayers about the new dates for filing returns of income.

(b) Some inconvenience may have been caused to some taxpayers at a few places on account of a temporary shortage of newly prescribed forms.

(c) A Press report to this effect had been published in the Bombay edition of the Times of India on 18th June, 1989. However, on inquiries made, the Chief Commissioner (Administration), Bombay has reported that it will not be correct to say that issue of refunds was delayed due to want of envelopes or that the passing of assessment orders was delayed for want of rubber stamps.

(d) In view of answer to Part (c) above, does not arise. However, requisite steps are taken as and when required to avoid and remove difficulties of taxpayers.

[English]

Import and Export Output of Top Industrial Houses

767. SHRI DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the import and export output of top twenty Industrial Houses in the country for the year 1987-88 and 1988-89 money-wise and company-wise.

(b) whether the export performance of big industrial houses is far from satisfactory; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) The import and export output of top 20 Industrial Houses in the country for the year 1987-88 is given in statement below. The information for 1988-89 is not available.

(b) The total turnover and exports of top 20 Industrial Houses during 1987-88 come to Rs. 26,782 crores and Rs. 918 crores respectively. Accordingly, exports as per-

centage to turnover comes to 3.4. In addition, the study of 581 large companies conducted by RBI during the year 1986-87 indicate their exports as percentage to sales as 3.6.

(c) Ministry of Commerce has constituted a panel to review the export performance of large industrial houses and suggest suitable measures for increasing such exports after taking into account the constraints and problems faced in this regard.

STATEMENT

Value of exports and imports of top 20 Industrial Houses in India ranked according to assets—1987-88

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Industrial Houses	1987-88	
		Exports	Imports
1.	Birla	174.39	426.27
2.	Tata	240.46	283.82
3.	Reliance	6.79	187.68
4.	J.K. Singhania	21.60	104.06
5.	Thapar	14.43	71.28
6.	Mufatlal	111.92	62.99
7.	Bajaj	6.29	112.33
8.	Larsen and Toubro	6.75	49.18
9.	Modi	55.27	56.75
10.	M.A. Chidambaram	2.85	82.63
11.	Hindustan Levers	127.98	54.06
12.	T.V.S. Iyengar	7.55	73.97

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Industrial Houses</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	
		<i>Exports</i>	<i>Imports</i>
13.	A.C.C.	0.00	2.31
14.	Shri Ram	17.08	62.15
15.	Bangur	17.85	29.75
16.	Walchand	8.51	24.23
17.	I.T.C.	28.59	17.48
18.	I.C.I.	21.19	24.61
19.	Kirloskar	18.24	52.23
20.	United Breweries	30.30	32.48

Source: Department of Company Affairs, Ministry of Industry, New Delhi.

Frauds in Branches of State Bank of Indore in Tamil Nadu

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

(a) the number of branches of the State Bank of Indore operating in Tamil Nadu and the number of cases of fraud/misappropriation in these branches during the period 1983 to 1985;

(b) the amount involved in these cases of fraud;

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty in these cases; and

(d) the present position of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). State Bank of Indore has reported that it has two branches in the

State of Tamil Nadu. The Bank has further reported that during the period 1983-85, one case of fraud involving an amount of Rs. 6.58 Crores had taken place at its Roadway Branch, Madras.

(c) Information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Civil suits and the criminal complaint filed by the Bank are sub-judice.

Posting of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minority Community Officers/Employees in State Bank of Indore

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

(a) whether Government had issued directives to the public sector banks not to post Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and Minority Communities officers and employ-

ees including the watch and ward and sub-staff to far-off places and also not to be placed them at insignificant positions;

(b) if so, the limit prescribed in terms of kilometres while posting Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minority community employees/officers;

(c) whether the above directives are being followed by the State Bank of Indore; and

(d) if not, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). All public sector banks have been advised against any discrimination against Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Officials in the matter of their transfers/postings on the grounds of their social origin. Transfers of officers/staff including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minority Community officers/employees, in the public sector banks, including State Bank of Indore, are generally being effected keeping in view the Government instructions.

Working of State Bank of Indore, State Bank of Hyderabad and State Bank of Saurashtra

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

(a) whether he had invited some suggestions to improve the working of the State Bank of Indore, State Bank of Hyderabad and State Bank of Saurashtra, in the meeting of Chairmen of banks;

(b) if so, the salient features of the suggestions made; and

(c) the initiatives taken by Government

to implement these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). The working of all Public Sector Banks, including State Bank of Indore, State Bank of Hyderabad and State Bank of Saurashtra, is monitored on a continual basis by the Reserve Bank of India and Government. The Finance Minister also holds periodical meetings with the Chief Executives of banks to review the overall functioning of public sector banks. Such meetings were held during the current year on 30.1.89 and 30.6.89. No specific suggestions to improve the working of the State Bank of Indore, State Bank of Hyderabad and State Bank of Saurashtra were invited at these meetings.

[Translation]

BG Railway Line from Balia to Chhapra

771. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sanction has been accorded for laying broad gauge railway line from Balia to Chhapra;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on the above projects; and

(d) the time by which the work will be started on the above Railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). Conversion of Chhapra-Ballia-Ghazipur-Aunrihar MG section into BG, at an estimated cost of Rs. 85.13 crores, has been approved in the Budget 1989-90. The work on the project has been formally inaugurated on 28th June,

1989 and its actual execution is expected to commence very shortly.

[English]

Strategy for 8th Plan

772. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of investment proposed to be made in Railways during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) the broad outlines of the projects to be undertaken during the Eighth Plan period;

(c) how far the projection made for Eighth plan would meet the growing transportation need; and

(d) the details of the expansion, renovation and introduction of new lines, trains etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). The VIII Five Year Plan for the Railways has not been finalised.

Import of Refamucin

773. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for import of Refamucin rejected during 1989; and

(b) the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Presumably the question refers to "Refamucin". Information

is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

STC Schemes to Promote Small Scale Industry

774. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has taken various steps to help the small scale industry in domestic as well as International Markets by giving them benefit of their schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the future programmes of State Trading Corporation in that regard;

(c) the number of small scale units benefited under the schemes introduced by STC so far; and

(d) the details thereof?

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

(b) Details of schemes/future programmes of STC to help the small scale industry in domestic as well as international markets are given below:—

Provision of assistance to small scale exporters by way of supply of imported raw materials and machinery, quality control and finances.

— Offering market assistance for products of small scale sector through participation in fairs and exhibitions in India and abroad.

— Creation of STC's own production capacities and leasing the same to entrepreneurs.

- Marketing of products like castor oil, leather goods and garments through the formation of consortia where individual exporters are not able to offer full quantities of products for export.
- Opening of a customer service centre to provide better services to small scale exporters.
- Provision of a package of facilities ranging from production skills, designs, quality control and packaging for marketing and—products of small scale units in the international market.
- Formulation of a scheme to import raw materials on OGL for providing off-the-shelf deliveries to small scale exporters.

(c) and (d). A large number of small scale units have benefitted over the years under the various schemes introduced by STC. However, under the new scheme recently introduced by STC, about 20 small scale units have been benefitted.

Export of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals

775. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the quantum and names of drugs and pharmaceuticals exported from Delhi Airport during the last three years, value-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) The total export of drugs and pharmaceuticals during the last three

years are given below:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value of exports of drugs and pharmaceuticals</i>
1986-87	Rs. 222.95 crores.
1987-88	Rs. 289.69 crores.
1988-89	Rs. 467.50 crores.

(Source: Chemexcil)

Export data is not being maintained port-wise and as such data pertaining to the export of drugs and pharmaceuticals effected through Delhi Airport during the last three years is not available.

The major items of drugs and pharmaceuticals exported are Sulphamethoxazole, Ibuprofen, Tinidazole, Triemthoprim, Amodiaquine HCL, Erythromycin Estolate, Erythromycin Stearate, Ampicillin Trihydrate, Potassium Iodide, Paracetamol, Ethambutol HCL, Sodium Iodide, Chlopropamide, Oxyphenbutazone, Metronidazole, Mebendazole, Methyl Dopa Ampicillin Trihydrate, Cephalixin, Doxycycline HCL, Papin and Medicinal Castor Oil.

Bonus to Coffee Farmers by Coffee Board

776. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coffee Board has decided the percentage of bonus to be granted to coffee farmers for the first five months of 1989;

(b) if so, the details of decision taken

with reasons thereof?

(c) whether any representations have been received by Government against the decision of the coffee Board on the issue of bonus; and

(d) the Government response to such representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Initial payment at the rate of Rs. 7 per point to large growers and Rs. 7.50 per point to small growers for the season 88-89 was declared in June '89 which is far in excess of the similar initial payment made in the past. In May, 1989 another advance payment of Rs. 1 per point to large growers and an equal supplementary payment to small growers was made making the cumulative payment to Rs. 8 per point to large growers and Rs. 8.50 per point to small growers. Another payment of Rs. 0.50 per point for 1987-88 has been declared in June, 1989 bringing the cumulative rate to Rs. 11.50 per point for that season. Subsequent instalments will depend upon sale realisation/availability of funds.

(c) and (d). A representation from a certain section of the coffee Growers about making the procedure for distribution of bonus simple has been received. The price differential scale Sub-Committee of the Marketing Committee of the Coffee Board is already considering the same after taking into account all the relevant aspects.

Konkan Railway Project (Mangalore-Udupi)

777. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of work completed on the

Konkan Railway line from Mangalore to Udupi as on 30th June, 1989;

(b) whether the work completed has utilised only proportionate cost; and

(c) if so, the details of estimated escalation in the cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Preparation of detailed land plans and land acquisition proceedings are in progress from both Mangalore and Udupi ends. Land acquisition proposals for a length of 7 km were submitted to the State Government and a length of 1.33 km at Mangalore end has been taken over by the Railway.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no escalation in the cost of the project.

Setting up of Cashew Board in Kerala

778. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision on the setting up of a Cashew Board in Kerala;

(b) whether any representations have been received to base the Cashew Board at Cannanore;

(c) whether Government have decided on the location of the Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with reasons therefor?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise in view of answer to Part (a).

Loans Advanced by Banks in Orissa

779. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of banks operating in Orissa as on 31 March, 1989;

(b) the total number of branches of these banks in the State as on 31 March, 1989;

(c) the amount of loans advanced by each of the banks for the weaker sections in Orissa during the last three years; and

(d) the names of schemes under which these advances have been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per available information as at the end of December, 1988,

1857 branches of commercial banks were functioning in Orissa. Bankwise details of these branches are given in the statement below.

(c) The present data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, the amount of loans advanced by Public Sector Banks for the weaker sections in Orissa during the last three years was as under:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount Outstanding (Rs. in crores)</i>
December, 1985	167.84
December, 1986	201.82
June, 1987 (Latest available)	23.29

(d) The major Government schemes implemented through banks for economic upliftment of weaker sections are Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Differential Rate of Interest (DRI), Self Employment for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) and Self Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP).

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Bank</i>	<i>No. of branches</i>
1.	State Bank of India	368
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	1
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	2
4.	Allahabad Bank	41
5.	Andhra Bank	65
6.	Bank of Baroda	13
7.	Bank of India	85

Sl. No.	Name of Bank	No. of branches
8.	Canara Bank	31
9.	Central Bank of India	37
10.	Corporation Bank	2
11.	Dena Bank	2
12.	Indian Bank	32
13.	Indian Overseas Bank	61
14.	New Bank of India	9
15.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2
16.	Punjab and Sind Bank	2
17.	Punjab National Bank	16
18.	Syndicate Bank	21
19.	UCO Bank	147
20.	Union Bank of India	31
21.	United Bank of India	84
22.	Vijaya Bank	5
23.	Bitarani Gramya Bank	89
24.	Balasore Gramya Bank	62
25.	Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank	144
26.	Cuttack Gramya Bank	120
27.	Dheanal Gramya Bank	48
28.	Kalahandi Anchalik Gramya Bank	78
29.	Koraput-Panchabati Gramya Bank	88
30.	Puri Gramya Bank	99

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Bank</i>	<i>No. of branches</i>
31.	Rushikulya Gramya Bank	70
32.	Federal Bank Ltd.	1
33.	United Industrial Bank Ltd.	1
Total:		1857

Export of Mangoes from Bihar

(c) if so, the details thereof?

780. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made for the export of mangoes as from North Bihar to foreign countries, particularly Gulf Countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Hundred per cent Foreign Equity Companies for EPZs

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

(a) the number of proposals of high technology and high investments having 100 per cent foreign equity in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) cleared so far;

(b) whether there are any proposals by any 100 per cent foreign owned companies which have low technology and low investment currently under the consideration of Government in the Export Processing Zones; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). The number of approvals granted for projects with 100% foreign holding and involving an investment of over about Rs. One crore in the various Export Processing Zones is 6. The technology status of a project is a relative consideration that may depend on aspects such as the technology of manufacture, project specifications, rating and demand in the international market, research and development inputs, product end use and priority, etc. As on 1st July, 1989 one application from a 100% foreign owned company involving an investment of over Rs. One crore relating to the setting up of a project for the production of proprietary compounds, preparations and extracts for use in the manufacture of concentrate for non-alcoholic beverages by M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holdings Inc. in the Noida Export Processing Zone was pending.

Indo-Bangladesh talk on Flood Control

782. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government held official level talks with Bangladesh on flood control;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks; and

(c) what are the specific joint flood control measures proposed to be taken by both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Broad agreement has been reached for improving the flood forecasting and warning system and for tying up of embankments along the common rivers.

Introduction of Fast Trains

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

(a) the details about the fast trains on the pattern of Shatabdi Express introduced in the country so far;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce more such trains; and

(c) if so, on what routes and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 2001/2002 Bhopal-New Delhi and 2003/2004 Kanpur-New Delhi Expresses.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) So far only Delhi-Chandigarh and Howrah-Tatanagar routes have been identified for running Shatabdi like fast trains in future.

Complimentary card passes

784. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complimentary card passes issued to organisation and social workers in 1988; and

(b) what are the names of organisations and individuals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 55.

(b) The names of the organisations and individuals who have been given these passes, are given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

(b) Name of Organisations and individuals who have been given complimentary card passes during the calendar year 1988, is given below:—

1. Swami Tapananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Ranchi.
2. Shri Sheel Bhadra Yajee, Ex-M.P., Vice President, INA Martyrs Memorial Committee, New Delhi.
3. Shri Valmiki Chowdhary, General Secretary, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Vihar Sangthan, Patna.
4. Major A.K. Singh, 57 Engineer Regiment, C/o 56 APO.
5. Dr. D.G. Kelkar, Hon. Director, Raja Dinker Kelkar Museum, Pune.
6. Shri V.R. Gorshankar, Administrator, Sri Sringeri Math, Sringeri, Karnataka.
7. Shri Swami Gahanananda/Swami Gitananda/Swami Prahbananda/Atmasthananda, Genl. Secy., R.K. Mission, Belurmath, Howrah.

8. **Swami Swarupunanda/Pratap Khodke, Secy./Genl. Secy., Ramakrishna Ashrama, Ramakrishnapuri, Gwalior.**
9. **The All India Federation of the Deaf, 18, Northend Complex Ramakrishna Ashram Marg, New Delhi.**
10. **Dr. Sushila Nayar, Kasturba Health Society, Sewagram, Wardha.**
11. **Shri S.L. Bahuguna, Chipko Suchna Kendra, Tehri Garhwal.**
12. **Smt. Nirmala Ramdas Gandhi, Sewagram Ashram, Wardha.**
13. **Shri G.V. Krishnamoorthy, 14, Dr. Bishambar Das Marg, New Delhi.**
14. **Shri S.P. Tare, Director, Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, Hindi Nagar, Wardha.**
15. **Shri Bhagwan Singh/Arya Bhushan Bhardwaj, Pt. Pant Centenary Celebration Committee, New Delhi.**
16. **Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, Ex-Minister for Home, 14, Northend Complex, R.K. Ashram Marg, New Delhi.**
17. **Kumari Nirmala Desh Pande, President Harijan Sewak Sangh, Kingsway Camp, Delhi.**
18. **Dewan Syed Zainul Abedin Ali Khan, Dewan Dargah Ajmer.**
19. **Sardar Lakshman Singh, National Commissioner, Bharat Scouts and Guides, New Delhi.**
20. **Shri Durga Vijay Pandey S/o Shri Raghunath Pandey, Village Jiyapur, P.O. Harora, Distt. Azamgarh, U.P.**
21. **Miss G. Sarala Kumari, Kuchipudi**

Dancer, 32/3RT, Sanjeeva Reddy Nagar, Hyderabad.

22. **Shri M.A. Mallik, attendant to Ku. Kamla Kumari, MP, 16 AB, Pandara Road, New Delhi.**
23. **Shri Vinod Sharma, Cricket Coach, Ambala Cantt.**
24. **Swami Amritarupananda, Monk of R.K. Mission, Vivekananda Society, Jamshedpur.**
25. **Shri Rajindra Kumar Nayak, Legal Aide, Lok Adalats, J-92, South Extension, New Delhi.**
26. **Smt. Kameshwari Devi W/o Late Shri L.N. Mishra, Ex-Minister for Railways, 4, V.K. Krishna Menon Marg, New Delhi.**
27. **Swami Harinarayanananda, Chairman, Bharat Sewak Samaj, 22, Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi.**
28. **Shri M.G. Tapaswi, Special Representative, Daily Tarun Bharat, D-II/71, Pandara Road, New Delhi.**
29. **Smt. Aba Gandhi, Kasturba Ashram, Kasturbadham.**
30. **President/Secy., Indian Secular Society, A-32, Mainoon Appartment, Bombay.**
31. **Shri C.S. Ramachandran, Dy. Chairman, Adi Sankara Vimana Mondappa Committee, D-II/238, Vinay Marg, New Delhi.**
32. **President/Hon. Secy., Indian Humanist Union, Kotwara House, Kaisar Bagh, Lucknow.**
33. **Shri Madhav Lal D. Shah, Dandi Marcher, Gujarat.**

34. Shri Ganga Saran Singh, 12, Rajendra Nagar, Patna.
35. Shri Rohit Bal Vohra, Social Workers, 17-A/62, W.E.A., Karol Bagh, New Delhi.
36. Shri Avais Ahmed, Social Worker, 14, Dr. Bishambardas Marg, New Delhi.
37. Shri K. Arunachalam, Chairman, Gandhi Samarak Nidhi, Rajghat, New Delhi.
38. Brahmchari Subudhanand, Secy. to Jagatguru Shankaracharya, Jyotishpeeth Bihar, Distt. Singhbhoom.
39. Shri S.M. Gavaskar, 43 Surya Apartments, Bombay.
40. Shri M. Chowdhary/Shri Nalin Bhai Mehta, Secy./Member, Kasturba Health Society, Sewagram, Wardha.
41. Office bearer of Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sewagarm Wardha.
42. Miss Avantika Maken, D/o Late Shri Lalit Maken, Bhopal.
43. Shri K.P. Reddy, Executive Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj, A-1, Nizamuddin West, New Delhi.
44. Shri Madhukar Rao Chowdhary, President, Rashtia Bhasha Prachar Samiti, Wardha.
45. Shri Dwarka Das Vaid, Joint Secy. Rashtia Bhasha Parchar Samiti, Wardha.
46. Shri Ram Asray Pandey, Social Worker, Azamgarh.
47. Two persons nominated by the Bihar Earthquake Relief Committee, New Delhi.

48. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Hon. Genl. Secy., Women's Cricket Association of India, 41-B, Karan Nagar, Extn. Jammu.
49. Baba Amte, Knit India Movement, Anand Van, Chandrapur.
50. Smt. Lal Bahadur Shastri, 1, Moti Lal Nehru Place, New Delhi.
51. Shri Narayan Swarup Brahmchari, Organiser, Adhyatmik Uthan Mandal, Dwarka, Gujarat.
52. Shri Ramayan Rai, Ex-M.P., 40, Kali Bari Apartments, New Delhi.
53. Smt. Dr. Satyabala Tayal/Smt. Nalini Devi, President/Secy. Matru Sewa Sangh, Sitabulde, Nagpur.
54. Shri Sanjay Sharma, Village Setia, Distt. Sehoh, M.P.
55. Shri Satya Paul, Co-ordinator, Bharat Jodo Movement, Servants of People Society, Lajpat Bhavan, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.

Protection of Railway Bridges

785. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway bridges in the country;

(b) whether Government have taken any security measures to protect these bridges; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There are about 1.14 lakh bridges.

(b) and (c). The responsibility for providing protection to bridges on Railways rests with the State Governments and the Ministry of Home Affairs have advised the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations to take all necessary steps to provide protection against tampering of railway tracks and bridges and render all possible assistance to the railway authorities in this regard.

Appointment of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

786. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY:
SHRI G. BHOOPATHY:
SHRI MANIK REDDY:

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

(a) the number of judges appointed to the Supreme Court and High Courts during the last three months, Court wise;

(b) the number of vacancies existing in Supreme Court and High Courts as on date, Court-wise; and

(c) the time by which these vacancies will be filled?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Statement giving the information is given below.

(c) Appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts involves consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities, and is a continuous process. It is not possible to indicate the time by which these vacancies will be filled up.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>High Court</i>	<i>Number of fresh appointment made from 18-4-89 to 17-7-89</i>	<i>Number of vacancies of judges/ Additional Judges as on 18.7.1989</i>
1.	Allahabad	5	10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	6
3.	Bombay	7	3
4.	Calcutta	—	3
5.	Delhi	2	4
6.	Gauhati	2	—
7.	Gujarat	—	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	2
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—
10.	Karnataka	—	6

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>High Court</i>	<i>Number of fresh appointment made from 18-4-89 to 17-7-89</i>	<i>Number of vacancies of judges/ Additional Judges as on 18.7.1989</i>
11.	Kerala	—	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	6
13.	Madras	—	4
14.	Orissa	1	—
15.	Patna	—	7
16.	Punjab and Haryana	—	2
17.	Rajasthan	—	3
18.	Sikkim	—	2
Total:		17	66*
Supreme Court		1	6

*During this period 10 vacancies arose due to retirement of Judges. The actual judge strength in the High Courts has increased from 381 in May, 1989 to 392 in July, 1989.

Supply of Electricity to Railway Directly from NTPC Plants

787. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have approached Union Government for supply of electricity directly from National Thermal Power Corporation plants and to have its own captive transmission lines;

(b) whether Railways have proposed any comprehensive scheme in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Government have approved the same;

(d) to what extent it would solve the problem of Railways; and

(e) the details of the earlier system of supply of electricity to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The Ministry of Irrigation and Power was approached in 1985 regarding allocation of a certain portion of power out of 15% unallocated power from central generating stations of NTPC and utilise the existing transmission lines of the State Electricity Boards. There was no proposal to have captive transmission lines.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In the earlier as well as existing system, Railways are getting electric supply

from State Electricity Boards.

Balance of Payment Position

788. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the balance of payment position of country is critical;
- (b) whether any specific measures have been taken to cut down the import bill; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). Full balance of payment data are available for the financial year as a whole only upto 1987-88. During 1988-89, the foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold and Special Drawing Rights) declined from Rs. 7287 crores as on 1.4.88 to Rs. 6605 crores as on 1.4.89.

The decline in reserves, as per available indications, is due primarily to sharp increase in international prices of some of the major bulk commodities like steel, non-ferrous metals, petrochemicals and other imports; increase in import of petroleum products, fertilizers and steel; imports of wheat, rice and other items necessitated by the unprecedented drought of 1987-88 and lower net receipts of aid and higher repayments to the IMF as compared to last year.

A special Action Plan drawn up by Government for Balance of Payments turnaround aims at measures to generate additional exports, contain imports and augment foreign exchange earnings through NRI Deposits/bonds, additional direct/indirect

investments and increased tourism receipts.

Proposal to Launch High Denomination Coins

789. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for launching high denomination coins by the Reserve Bank of India;
- (b) if so, whether final decision has been taken in the matter;
- (c) the details of coins of high denominations proposed to be launched and the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof;
- (d) whether two rupee coins have been withdrawn; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). Rupees five denomination coins were put into circulation some time ago. There is no other proposal for launching coins of higher denomination than Rupees five.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (d).

Coca Cola Proposal to set up EOU in Noida

790. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coca Cola's proposal to set up export oriented unit in NOIDA has been placed before the Project Approval Board;

(b) if so, whether the project has been cleared by the Approval Board;

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

(d) by what time the final decision will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSII): (a) to (d). The proposal of the Coca Cola Company for setting up a unit in Noida Export Processing Zone for the manufacture of proprietary compound preparation and extracts to be used in the production of concentrates for non-alcoholic beverages is under the consideration of the Government. As the proposal involves in-depth examination of important issues in consultation with concerned authorities, it is not practicable or possible to indicate specific time limits within which a final decision can be taken

Setting up Offshore Fund by State Bank of India

791. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow the State bank to India of set up a \$ 100 million offshore fund;

(b) if so, the place where the fund will be set up; and

(c) the likely advantages of setting up of this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Government have recently

conveyed approval to the State Bank of India for it's proposal to set up an Offshore Fund.

(b) Fund will be set up in the Netherland Antilles.

(c) The likely advantages of setting up of the Fund include the following:

- i) Mobilisation of Foreign Exchange which would be invested primarily in equity shares and other securities of Indian Companies.
- ii) Creation of greater awareness amongst foreign investors regarding India and the Indian Capital Market.

Visit of US Trade Delegation to India

793. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US trade delegation visited India during May-June to discuss implication of various provision of the American Trade Bill, 1988;

(b) if so, the main point of the discussion held;

(c) whether any final decision for improvement of trade between the two countries has been taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSII): (a) and (b). Prior to identification of India as a priority country under the 'Super 301' provision of US Omnibus Trade

& Competitiveness Act an official delegation from USA visited New Delhi in the first week of May, 1989. In the discussions we explained the rational of and also provided clarifications on our policies in areas such as Investment, Import Licensing, Government Procurement, Intellectual Property Rights and Insurance. We did not agree to discuss any changes in our policies in these areas.

(c) No final decision was taken during these discussions.

(d) Does not arise.

Scheme for Augmentation of Ground Water Resources

794. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain suggestions were made to develop ground water resources at the conference of State Secretaries;

(b) if so, whether any specific scheme has been drawn up for augmentation of water resources in different States;

(c) the salient features thereof; and

(d) the amount and time involved in the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The conference recognised that development of ground water resources

was a National priority. It recommended that the Central Ground Water Board would carry out a number of experimental and operational recharge projects to develop area specific methodologies and assess technoeconomic feasibility. The States would prepare action programmes in consultation with the Central Ground Water Board for augmenting natural recharge and also for artificially recharging the ground water systems. These projects would be prioritised and implemented in a phased manner. The Central Ground Water Board may prepare a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for this purpose.

The State Governments and the Central Ground Water Board have been advised to take immediate follow-up action on the recommendations.

Shortage of Doctors in Railway Hospitals

795. SHRINARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of doctors in the Indian Railways, zone-wise as on 1st January, 1989 to 30th June, 1989;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Departments of Pathology, Orthopedic, ENT and Radiology of many big hospitals like Kharagpur on South-Eastern Railway are without doctors/specialists/surgeons;

(c) whether the dispensary at Wagon-shop at Kharagpur is also functioning without a doctor from 23 March, 1989;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to equip all the Hospitals/Dispensaries with requisite number of doctors/specialists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e). A state-
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ment is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) There were 172 clear vacancies of doctors on the Indian Railways as on 30th June 1989 against the total sanctioned strength of 2487. The Zone-wise break-up of these vacancies is as follows:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Railway</i>	<i>Clear vacancies</i>
1.	Central	20
2.	Eastern	28
3.	Northern	35
4.	North-Eastern	11
5.	Northeast-Frontier	8
6.	Southern	5
7.	South-Central	1
8.	South-Eastern	31
9.	Western	33
Total:		172

(b) There are some shortages of Specialists on the Railways. In Kharagpur Hospital, however, Specialist doctors are available except the ENT Specialist doctor.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Efforts are being made to fill up the vacancies by recruitment of general doctors and specialists through the UPSC.

Misuse of OGL Scheme

706. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the import policy in the case of items under Open General Licence in view of the misuse of the scheme; and

(b) the number of cases of misuse of OGL scheme that came to the notice of the Government during the last 12 months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.
DAS MUNSI): (a) No, Sir. However, import policy for individual items is reviewed from time to time.

Specific cases of violation of OGL facility are dealt with under the provisions of Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947,

and the Order issued thereunder.

(b) 22 cases of misuses of OGL import facility came to the notice of the Government during last 12 months. (upto May, 1989).

Demands of Central Excise Officials

797. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Excise officials have been agitating for sometime for the restructuring of their service as they collect more revenue than the customs officials and yet they get less promotional avenues than customs officials;

(b) if so, steps taken to meet the demands of the Central Excise officials;

(c) whether Central Excise officials proceeded on mass casual leave in the country recently thereby bringing the export of goods to standstill for one day; and

(d) if so, details of the effect of the mass leave on the economy and the amount of loss suffered in foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). The Central Excise officials as well as the Customs officials have been pressing for improvement of their promotion prospects. To ameliorate the situation, Government have already sanctioned 392 additional posts after a cadre review of the Indian Customs and Central Excise Service and augmentation of Group 'A' posts, the benefit of which will also flow down upto the concerned lower levels. In addition, the cadre review of Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' posts in the Central Excise and Customs Department is under consideration and is expected to be finalised shortly. The other

question of inter seniority of the Group 'B' Central Excise and Customs officials for promotion to Group 'A' posts is sub-judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Some Central Excise Officers in some Collectorates absented themselves from duties on the 5th July, 1989, unauthorisedly. Its effect on exports, and consequently on foreign exchange earnings, was only marginal as exports are handled mainly by the officers of the Customs Department in major ports and air cargo complexes.

Selection of Clerks by Banking Service Commissions

798. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for taking interview of the successful candidates in the Clerks Grade Examination conducted by the Banking Service Commissions;

(b) the number of successful candidates in written examination having failed/rejected in the interviews during the last three years by various Banking Service Commissions, with reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to do away with the interview and made appointments on merit basis as determined through written examination; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). For selection of personnel, particularly for a service sector like banks, personality characteristics are as important as cognitive ability. While the written test measures cognitive ability of the candidates,

interviews help in assessing the personality characteristics of the candidates. Therefore, interview is an integral part of the recruitment process. Generally candidates numbering 3 times the available vacancies are called for interviews. Candidates are selected by the BSRBs on the basis of their merit based on the overall assessment of their cognitive as well as personality characteristics, as revealed by the written test and interviews. However, there are no minimum qualifying marks prescribed for the interview.

There is presently no proposal under consideration of the Government to do away with the interviews in the recruitment of the personnel for the banks.

Setting up a Judicial Development Fund and Increase in Retirement age of Judges

799. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to (i) set up a Judicial Development Fund from court fees providing better amenities to Judicial officers; (ii) uniform pay scales for judicial officers upto selection grade district judges at par with corresponding categories in the I.A.S. Cadre, and (iii) to increase the retirement age of Judges to sixty years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) (i) and (ii) No, Sir.

(iii) The Chief Justices' Conference held in December 1987 passed a resolution for increasing the age of retirement of District Judges and other Judicial Officers to 60 years. The resolution has been forwarded to the State Govern-

ments on 16.9.88 for their consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Opening of Bank Branches in Bihar

800. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bank branches working in urban and rural areas of Bihar;

(b) whether more bank branches are proposed to be opened in urban and rural areas of the State; and

(c) if so, the names of the places where these bank branches will be opened, particularly in Seharsa district of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of December, 1988, 466 urban branches and 3977 rural/semi-urban branches of commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were functioning in Bihar.

(b) and (c). Under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, RBI has allotted 384 rural/semi-urban centres and 29 urban centres to commercial banks including RRBs for opening branches in Bihar. As per the information available with RBI banks have opened branches at 176 rural/semi-urban centres and 29 urban centres upto 30.6.1989. Remaining 208 licences are pending with banks. In addition, RBI has allotted 148 more centres to banks under Service Area Approach to rural lending. In respect of Saharsa District of Bihar, the licences for the following 12 centres are

pending with banks for opening their branches in rural and semi-urban centres:

1. Balbhadrapur
2. Geraul
3. Simari
4. Chandaaur
5. Bhelwa
6. Pipra Khurd
7. Bharopapatti
8. Surjapur
9. Bhimpur
10. Manganj
11. Barahara
12. Ganaora

[English]

Expenditure Tax

801. SHRID.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total collections on account of expenditure-tax during 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) approximate expenses incurred on collection of the tax; and

(c) whether Government propose to widen the scope of expenditure tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Total collections of expendi-

ture-tax during 1987-88 and 1988-89 are as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total collection of expenditure-tax</i>
1987-88	Rs. 5.69 crores*
1988-89	Rs. 36.74 crores**

* Expenditure tax Act, 1987 introduced w.e.f. 1.11.1987.

** Provisional.

(b) It is very difficult to separate the cost of collection of Expenditure Tax from other Direct Taxes as officials are the same for administering all the Direct Taxes Acts.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present. However, rates of expenditure tax have been raised from 10% to 20% w.e.f. 1.6.1989.

Filling up of Reserved Posts for SCs/ STs

802. SHRID.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reserved posts for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in his Ministry and the duration thereof; and

(b) the number of such posts filled in each category upto June, 1989.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as possible.

Reserved Posts for SC/ST in Ministry of Commerce

803. SHRID.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has filled up reserved posts in all categories for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if not, the number of unfilled posts and duration thereof; and

(c) the number of reserved posts in each category filled during May and June, 1989?

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

(b) A Statement is given below.

(c) Two posts of Stenographer Grade 'D' reserved for Scheduled Castes were filled up in May, 1989.

STATEMENT

Group/Designation	No. of Reserved Posts Unfilled		Duration for which Posts Remained Unfilled			
	SC	ST	Recruitment Year	SC	ST	ST
1	2	3	4	5	6	6
Group 'A'						
Assistant Chief Controller of Imports & Exports	10	3	1985	5	1	1
			1988	3	1	1
			1989	2	1	1
Group 'B'						
Assistant	1	—	1984	1	—	—
Stenographer Grade 'C'	—	1	1986	—	1	1
Group 'C'						
Stenographer Grade 'D'	—	3	1989	—	3	3
Investigator	1	1	1986	1	—	—

Group/Designation	No of Reserved Posts Unfilled		Duration for which Posts Remained Unfilled		
	SC	ST	Recruitment Year	SC	ST
1	2	3	4	5	6
L.D.C.	8	1	1988	—	1
			1987	4	—
			1988	4	1
Group 'D'					
Daftry	1*	—	1989	1	—
Jamadar	1*	—	1989	1	—
Peon	—	1	1989	—	1

* Posts filled in July, 1989.

Filling up of Reserved Posts of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes

804. SHRID.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has filled up all posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if not, the number of unfilled posts and the duration thereof; and

(c) the number of reserved posts filled in each category during May and June, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

12.00 hrs.

RE: DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India for the year ended 31st March, 1989 (No. 2 of 1989)—Union Government Defence Services (Army and Ordnance Factories)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, sir, for the last three days, the entire Parliament and the entire country is rocked by the CAG report. How is it that the Prime Minister is not present in the House? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Why is the Prime Minister not in the House?

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Let the CAG report be discussed today right now. Why are they running away from the discussion?

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki): CAG report is already on the Agenda. You can allow a discussion on that. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: When the Prime Minister is in the dock, how is it that he is not present in the House? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: How can I listen to all of you at once?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): CAG report does not require any discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not want a discussion?

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): We do not want any discussion. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We have the CAG report listed for discussion. What is the problem now?

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): What is the point in discussing the CAG report, when it has already indicted the Government? (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Has it ever happened? The Prime Minister of the country is absent from the House. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI): He is not at your beck and call.

He is more responsible. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

He has to look after the whole country.
(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is his responsibility to be present in the House.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: After this indictment, how can he remain in office?
(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You should study the Rules. Please sit down.

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA: I have gone through the Rules.

MR. SPEAKER: No, you have not studied them.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA: Please ask the Prime Minister to be present here. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot force anybody.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing anybody. Not allowed.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: All the Government is sitting here. I cannot ask anybody here.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not want to listen. You do not want the House to run smoothly.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have listed the CAG Report for discussion. Now it is up to you to discuss it. As you have said that you do not want to move the motion, I will ask some one else to move it.

[*English*]

You have withdrawn.

[*Translation*]

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What else can I do ?

[*English*]

If you want to withdraw, you can withdraw. I will ask somebody else.

[*Translation*]

The House can function with the cooperation of both the sides.

[*English*]

I have no authority to ensure anybody's presence in the House.

[*Translation*]

This is your duty to be present in the House. Whether you come or not is upto you.

(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Next item-Papers to be laid.

12.06 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Order dated 13th June 1989 issued by President in Pursuance of Article 280 of the Constitution. Annual Report and Review on the Working of Industrial Development Bank of India and Industrial Finance Corporation of India for year ended 30-6-88 etc.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Sir, On behalf of Shri Eduardo Faleiro, the Minister of State in the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 13th June, 1989 issued by the President in pursuance of article 280 of the Constitution and of the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951 published in Notification No. S.O. 457 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 1989 making certain amendment in the Order published in Notification No. S.O. 581 (E) dated the 17th June, 1987. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8040/89]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Development Bank of India together with Audited Accounts of the General Fund for the

year ended 30th June, 1988, under sub-section (5) of section 18 and sub-section (5) of section 23 of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Industrial Development Bank of India for the year ended 30th June, 1988. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8041/89]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India for the year ended the 30th June, 1988 along with the statement showing the Assets and Liabilities and Profit and Loss Accounts of the Corporation, under sub-section (3) of section 35 of the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1984.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India for the year ended the 30th June, 1988. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8042/89].

(4) A copy of the General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate Staff) Second Amendment Scheme, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S. O. 356 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 1989, under sub-section (5) of Section 17 A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8043/89]

- (5) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 515 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 1989 under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 8044/89]

the 7th April, 1989 specifying 28th April, 1989 as the date for the purposes of section 16 of the Tea Companies (Acquisition section (2) of the said Act. [Placed in Library. *See* No. Lt 8048/89]

- (6) A copy of the Deposit Scheme for Retiring Government Employees, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. 2/14/89-NS. II in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 1989. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 8045/89]

FINANCIAL COMMITTEES — A REVIEW

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each of the Hindi and English versions of the 'Financial Committees (1988-89) — A Review'.

- (7) A copy of the Buldana Gramin Bank (Staff) Service Regulations, 1988 (Hindi and English versions), 1988 under sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Bank Act, 1976. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 8046/89]

12.09 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K. L BHAGAT): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 24th July, 1989, will consist of:—

Spices Board (Amendment) Rules, 1989 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI). Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Spices Board (Amendment) Rules, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 503 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 1989, under section 40 of the Spices Board Act, 1986. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 8047/89]

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from Today's Order Paper.

- (2) Consideration and passing of the Infant Milk Food and Feeding Bottles (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1986, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

- (2) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 268 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated

- (3) Consideration and passing of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service)

[Sh. H.K. L Bhagat]

[English]

Amendment Bill, 1989.

- (4) Discussion on Motion reg: situation arising out of the implementation of Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement signed on July 29, 1987.
- (5) Consideration and passing of the Ware-housing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
- (6) Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1989-90.
- (7) Consideration and passing of the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill, 1988.

[Translation]

SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda.

Land belongings to the Defence Services has been allotted on temporary lease to the residents of the Cantonment areas for the purpose of cultivation. These lessees have been served notices frequently by the Ministry of Defence for vacation of the land. As a result thereof it has become a source of constant worry to the lakhs of these people. They have been cultivating the land for the last one hundred years. They have dug wells there and constructed houses as well. Therefore, the land in their possession should be allotted to them on permanent lease basis as they have settled on that land permanently. If the aforesaid land is required for Defence purposes, alternative land should be provided to these people somewhere else before evicting them and sufficient compensation should also be paid to them.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): The following item may be included in the next week's agenda:—

Talcher and Brajarajnagar are two industrial towns in Orissa where water and air pollutions pose serious problems. Coal mines, thermal power stations and fertilizer plant contribute to such environmental hazard at Talcher. In Brajarajnagar area, coal mines and Orient Paper Mills are responsible for such pollution.

Effective steps should be taken to check the evil effects by such pollution at these places.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): The following items may be included in the List of Business for the next week:—

(1) Union Public Service Commission have been submitting their annual report every year. Traditionally, this House has been discussing these reports with Members, making valuable suggestions with respect to the role of Union Public Service Commission in the matter of recruitment to various services.

Bureaucracy is the key factor in the administrative machinery of the Government. Without paying necessary attention or scrutinising the role of that agency which feeds the Government with man-power to handle the Government projects and schemes, the House will be failing in its duty. Hence, a discussion on UPSC reports is a must.

(2) The Constitution (64 Amendment) Bill, 1989 dealing with Panchayati Raj System and another Constitution Amendment Bill dealing with Urban Local Bodies is going to be discussed and hopefully passed in the present session.

It is desirable that these matters are taken up and discussed in the next week itself. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone out of the way to allow a discussion. What more can I do?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Why cannot you ask the Prime Minister to be present in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot say anything to anybody. Neither to you nor to him.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You may bring a No Confidence motion.

SHRI DEEP NARAIN VAN (Balrampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following item may be included in next week's agenda:

In my parliamentary constituency of Balrampur in district Gonda devastating floods in the rivers Rapti, Boorhi Rapti, Kuana, Bisahi and hilly rivulets have caused wide spread destruction of crops in lakhs of acres of land and thousands of houses have collapsed rendering the people homeless. Hence there is an urgent need to under take relief measures there at the earliest.

[*English*]

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North): The following may be included in the next week's agenda:

Bombay is facing a lot of problems because of occupation of railway land by slum dwellers. Transport facilities which are badly needed for Bombay people, cannot be

improved because of these slums. There is no coordination between the railway authorities, Bombay Municipal Corporation and the State Government. I, therefore, request that in the next, problems of slum on railway land in Bombay be discussed.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): The following may be included in the next week's agenda:

Communal tension in different parts of the country has become a matter of grave concern. Secularism is not only in the preamble of our Constitution but also it is the strength and ethics of our national integration. All effective measures to ensure communal harmony be taken.

Despite various steps by the Government of India towards the promotion of sports and games in the country, there is no significant development in this direction. Some policy and programme should be evolved to create an upsurge in the heart and mind of the younger generation to channelise their creative genius in the field. (*Interruptions*)

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirihat): Sir, is it in conformity with propriety that the Government makes public attacks through the Press on the C & AG ?

MR. SPEAKER: That is what we could discuss here if you want to discuss it. I am not responsible for statements made outside. If something is done on the floor of the House, I will see.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: What about my privilege notices?

MR. SPEAKER: I have already taken action.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The Prime Minister is absent, the Defence Minister is absent.....

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot say anything on that.

[Translation]

What is in my hand ask you to come to the house?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why not? Do I have in power to

[English]

When there is such a serious indictment and when the entire Opposition is demanding his resignation why is the Prime Minister absent?

MR. SPEAKER: The Government is here.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

The Department of Communications has not provided S.T.D. facilities in the border districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan so whereas the same have been provided in almost all the district headquarters of the State.

I, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Communications to provide S.T.D. facilities in the two border district headquarters of Barmer and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan before October, 2, 1989.

Mafia groups operating in the country have ample financial resources at their command and network of their influence has proliferated to various levels. Moreover, these gangs enjoy political patronage.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to take concrete steps against the Mafia active in the country.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Sir, I would place these submissions before the Business Advisory Committee.

12.19 hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seventy—Second Report

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Seventy-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th July, 1989, subject to the modification that in Para 3 of the Report—

for "Thursday, the 20th July, 1989" "Monday, the 24th July, 1989" be substituted."

MR. SPEAKER: The Motion reads like this:

"That this House do agree with the Seventy-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th July, 1989, subject to the modification that in para 3 of the Report:-

for "Thursday, the 20th July, 1989" be substituted."

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI BADUDEB ACHARIA (Barkura):
What is this?

MR. SPEAKER: This is about the Business Advisory Committee Report.

[Translation]

You have considered the point just now and you want the Debate to be held on Monday.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I do, not want it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not want a discussion?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: No. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want the House to function it is a different matter.

[English]

I do not want to take any harsh step. I want this House to run. But, if you do like this, what can I do? If you flout all the rules, what can I do? I am helpless.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I had a meeting with you and if you do not abide by what was decided at the meeting, what can I do? I agreed that if you do not want to move the motion, somebody else would move it. If you do not want to do it, what can I do?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no fun in doing like this. Then, I have either to take some harsh step or I have to adjourn the House. I do not know what

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you go on shouting. Nothing goes on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, I tried to accommodate all your views. I called you to a meeting and we took a decision. Now if you do not want to do it what can I do? I went to any length. Whatever was in my power I did. Now if you want to withdraw your names from the Motion and you do not want to move then it is your wish. Still if you do not want to do it, I am helpless. I did everything to accommodate your point of view but if you do not want to do it what can I do?

I adjourn the House upto 2 p.m.

12.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(Interruptions)

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seventy-Second Report—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is left to you whether you want to discuss it or not.

(Interruptions)

SHRIV. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Was any CAG's report discussed earlier? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, it is left to you.

(Interruptions)

I am not an authority. In the House, you have to decide.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Sir, can you discuss matters relating to President of India in the House? You cannot. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): CAG is a constitutional authority.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whether it is constitutional or not, it is only moved by the Members.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is left to you whether you are going to press it or not. I don't know. That is left to you.

MR. SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, here you cannot express any doubt about the veracity of the constitutional position of the C.A.G. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not giving my opinion. I never said like that.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is only left to the Members whether they want to discuss or not. That is left to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I want to make it clear that I am not at all commenting on anyone.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you speak one by one, I can hear. If all of you speak simultaneously, how can I hear? I am having only two ears; that also only on two sides.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: In the morning, already Shri H.K.L. Bhagat had moved a motion relating to the Business Advisory Committee. Only that I am having before me. First I want to put that motion to the vote of the House. It is left to you to accept it or not.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission to you. (Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): We are supporting you for the discussion. Why did you go away? (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: C&AG has made a complaint that when he asked for the files from the Defence Ministry about Bofors, they were withheld for two years. This means... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I cannot hear anything. Unless all of you take your seats, I cannot hear you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If all of you are shouting, how can I hear? I am not in a position to hear.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will you listen to my submission?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let all of them take their seats. Then I will listen.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I want to make a submission to you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: First let them sit. Then I will listen to you.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Your listening does not depend upon their sitting.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: First let them take their seats. Then I will listen to you. Why can't you ask your friends to take their seats?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When you are not prepared to listen to them, how can I ask them to listen to you? I cannot be partial.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am ready to listen to you. Please let them take their seats first.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am rising on a point of order regarding..... (Interruptions)

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): I take strong objection to that word. Have they conducted themselves properly? It does not lie in your mouth to talk about conduct, Mr. Dandavate. You go on shouting like that and you talk of conduct! (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir...

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

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I thought

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

that the Deputy-speakership was decentralised!

I was enquiring from you. I have given two notices of privilege motion; one notice is, on the basis of CAG's report it is clear that for two complete years 1986-88 the Defence Ministry tried to withhold from the C.A.G. the files and documents that they had asked for. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have given two privilege motions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Two Privilege motions which you have given have already been referred to the Defence Minister and also to the Prime Minister. We are waiting for their comments.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There are two independent privilege notices.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have already referred them to the Defence Minister and to the Prime Minister for their comments.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, one privilege notice says that on 20th April, 1987, the Defence Minister in a written statement and Prime Minister in his oral reply to Mr. Datta has said that in Bofors deal there is no middleman and no commission and today the CAG says that there was commission...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please order, order.

SHRI T. BASHEER: You start the discussion and then you can tell all this in your discussion. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Dandavate, I have already told you that we have received two notices and we have also referred them to the Defence Minister and to the Prime Minister. We are waiting for their comments. After getting the comments, we will let you know.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: That means they are pending.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, they are pending.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: What is their explanation?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have not received their comments. The reminders have also been sent and after getting their comments, I will let you know.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, the Prime Minister should come to the House and give an explanation for the untruth which he has uttered. *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, I have a point to make. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have listened to you. Now, why don't you let me listen to her? Hon. Minister wants to say something. Let me listen to her and then you can say whatever you want. Yes, Madam.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Sir, I have a point to make. Prof. Madhu Dandavate has asked about the two Privilege motions; one against the Defence Minister and the other against the Prime Minister. You have told him about those motions. You

have given enough time to them to give their comments. Now, we should go on with the business of the House. The opposition members just want to shout all the time as if only they want to raise their points and nobody else has to say anything. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIV. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Let me submit my point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have called Professor. Let him speak.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Has she offered clarification about my Privilege Notices? I seek your clarification about them?

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Prof. Madhu Dandavate already wanted to have a Motion under Rule 193. I want to know whether they want to have it or not. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All of you sit. Then only I can listen.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If the House comes to order, then only I can listen to the point of order.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want that the point of order is to be heard, then both sides must compromise. If I allow one hon. Member from this side, then I will have to allow one hon. Member from the other side also. If both sides are able to hear patiently, then only I can allow. If one side goes on speaking and the other side goes on shouting, then I can't listen. Let the House come to order; I am ready to listen to everyone. I will give opportunity to everyone. Al-

ready Prof. Dandavate has spoken. You now allow Madam to speak; then afterwards, I will call you. I will give you opportunity, if all of you co-operate.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me listen to him. I could not hear you.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: First you listen to the hon. Minister from this side. Then I will call you.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: First you hear my point of order. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: First you take your seat. After listening to this side, I will come to you.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I cannot listen to everybody in this way. I am prepared to listen to everybody but not in this way.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): First you listen to us. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): No.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum): No.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinki): No.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record without my permission.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. members, please go to your seats. Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Humbly, I request all of you to take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have a right to speak on any point.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Sir, you may call the Minister, Shrimati Dikshit.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will call her. I am calling her. If she is not ready, I will call you next. Please take your seats.

Shrimati Sheila Dikshit.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now I call the Madam to speak. After that I will listen to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not allowing anybody else.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. I do not want the hon. Members to speak as they like. Please listen to me. Without my permission, I do not want anybody to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: First, take your seats. I have told you that I will listen to you. I will keep my word. You also have to keep your word.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now I call the Madam to speak. Order, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Without my permission nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How much strain you are putting yourselves to! You are exhausting all your energies. Why are you wasting it like that? I am ready to give you an opportunity and ready to listen to you. If you spoke in an orderly way I would have allowed every one to speak. After listening to Madam, I would have called the next. Like that I would have given opportunity to every one. But you are wasting unnecessarily your time as well as the time of the House. Public money is also being wasted. Please cooperate with me.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Can I put the motion moved by Shri H.K.L. Bhagat to the vote of the House?

SOME HON. MEMBER: No, no.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir, you put the motion to the vote of the House...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please order...

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: I am on a point of order, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no question of point of order, as I told you. Nothing is transacted now. Only I listened to Prof. Madhu Dandavate and I have given my ruling on that. Now Madam Sheila Dikshit wants to speak. Only after that there can be any point of order...

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Sir, you promised to me that you will hear my point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will listen to you also, but first let the Madam speak...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me what I am telling...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Seventy-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented

to the House on the 20th July, 1989, subject to the modification that in para 3 of the Report—

for "Thursday, the 20th July, 1989"
"Monday, the 24th July, 1989"
be substituted."

Those in favour may say 'Aye'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Those against may say, No.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think that Ayes have it, the Ayes have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The 'Noes' have it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the Lobbies be cleared.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the Lobbies have been cleared. The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Seventy-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th July, 1989 subject to the modification that in para 3 of the Report—

for 'Thursday the 20th July, 1989,'
'Monday, the 24th July, 1989'
be substituted."

The motion was adopted

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please, order.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): Sir, they are flouting the rules and procedure of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRIV. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will listen to your point of order afterwards. Now, Shrimati Sheila Dikshit wants to say something. I will call you afterwards.

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: At least allow Shri Shankaranand to introduce his Bill.

(Interruptions)

14.52 hrs.

HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICES) AMENDMENT BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958."

The motion was adopted

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I introduce the Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRIV. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Sir, you told me that you would hear my point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I told you that I would definitely allow you. But there is another item. Shri Bajan Lal wants to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: You said that you would allow me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: For you I am not denying a chance. I will definitely give you a chance. Shrimati Sheila Dikshit wants to submit certain thing on this subject.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): She has nothing to say. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let her say that she has nothing to say. I am not going to insist.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not going to insist on that. Let Mr. Bhajan Lal make the statement. Then I will call you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what I am going to tell is in the interest of coconut growers in the country, please listen to me. (Interruptions)

It seems that you have become anti-farmer. What we are going to take up is in the interest of farmers.

14.56 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE FOR COPRA FOR 1989 SEASON

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): In order to protect the interests of the coconut growers, copra has been brought under the ambit of the support price policy. Accordingly, on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, the Government have fixed, for the first time, a minimum support price of copra of fair average quality at Rs. 1500 per quintal for the 1989 season.

2. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited has been designated as the central nodal agency to undertake purchases of copra for 1989 season at the minimum support price, as and when needed, in collaboration with State Cooperative Marketing Agencies or the

agencies designated by the State Governments. The losses, if any, incurred on purchase and sale operations will be fully reimbursed to NAFED by the Central Government.

3. I am confident that the minimum support price announced by the Government will safeguard the interests of the coconut growers.

[English]

(interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): We congratulate the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister for this announcement... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I call Mr. Rao.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. I am not allowing them. I have not permitted them to speak.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will call you afterwards. After Mr. Rao's point of order, I will call you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have to cooperate with me. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): I will sit, Sir. But one thing—we are all requesting that our Parliamentary Affairs Minister... *(Interruptions)* I will sit. But you must keep this in mind that you are allowing them to say everything. But they are disturbing and stalling the proceedings of the House. This is very bad.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They are now all right, don't worry. I will take care of them. Please sit down.

AN HON. MEMBER: I have a point of order, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Afterwards. After Mr. Rao, I will call you. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have not called you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please order.

14.49 hrs.

RE: DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 1988 (No. 2 of 1989)—Union Government Defence Services (Army and Ordnance Factories)

SHRIV. SOBHANADREESWARARAO (Vijayawada): Never before the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General was discussed in this House. Now, by putting for

discussion the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General there is every possibility—because already we had some experience where some hon. Members from the ruling party have already cast aspersions on the Comptroller and Auditor General and during the discussion when the hon. Members cast aspersions on the Report, it invariably leads to... *(Interruptions)*

15.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will allow you next. After he speaks, I will call the Madam and then I will give my ruling.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARARAO: Will not these aspersions adversely affect the independent functioning of that highest body? *(Interruptions)* So, in view of the fact that earlier there were lot of discussions on the contract with Bofors and finally the Comptroller and Auditor General has given the report, only action should be taken now. No discussion should be allowed... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not giving my ruling. I want to add one more thing, because not only Members on the Treasury Benches but Opposition Members also have given notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want, I will give you the names.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Shri Jaipal Reddy, Shri Basudeb Acharia, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, Shri Sharad Dighe, Shri Harish Rawat and Shri Narayan Choubey, all have given notice

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want my ruling, first allow me to listen to everyone.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, do you want to say something?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not giving my ruling.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Am I the Deputy-Speaker or are you the Deputy-Speaker?

(Interruptions)

I am ready to listen. First I will listen to Prof. Madhu Dandavate and then to Mr. Rao. Thereafter, I will call the Madam. .

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is the same point which is being raised. I want to listen to other Members also. Then only I can give my ruling...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): The whole country is concerned about the CAG report. The Prime Minister should come here. Where is he?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Jaipal Reddy, till now you have cooperated very well. Why can't you cooperate for some more time?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary will speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Without my permission, if anybody speaks, it will not come on record. I will not allow.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I am sorry to note that the Opposition is running away from the debate. It had asked through motions for a discussion on the CAG report. Prof. Madhu Dandavate is now wanting to avoid the discussion. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please order.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record. Not allowed.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you allow Madam, I will call you later.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record. I have not permitted them.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. I am not permitting it.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Purushothaman, take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I want to give one chance to this side and then I will call you.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): All right, you give them a chance.
(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, at 3.30 P.M., Private Members' Business has to be taken up. I humbly suggest to you that you may adjourn the House now till 3.30 P.M.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why? There are only ten minutes left.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Everybody will be in a mood...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If all of you accept that, then only I can do it. How can I do it on my own?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It is better to cool down and then begin Private Members' Business. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am allowing Kumari Mamata Banerjee. Mr. Rao has already raised a point of order and I have to give my ruling.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am conducting the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): It is a matter of concern that unnecessarily they are wasting our time every day.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You wanted to raise a point of order. What is your point of order?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please allow her to speak. Then I will call Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary next.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madhu Dandavateji has given notice for a discussion under Rule 193 to discuss the CAG Report. First of all, it is very surprising that they don't want to discuss this matter. They want the Prime Minister to resign. If they have guts, they should bring a No Confidence Motion here; then they will see the result. Otherwise this matter should be discussed in the House. We want to discuss the CAG Report in the House. They cannot misuse public money like this..... *(Interruptions)*.....*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why are you saying this? I don't allow.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You allow the discussion. We want to discuss this Report. Dandavateji has given notice for this. He wanted a discussion. Now, I don't know why he is backing out. But we want to discuss it today itself. We have decided it in the Business Advisory Committee. I know this because I am also a member of the Business Advisory Committee. Please allow

the discussion today itself.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): After yesterday's stalemate, today the people at large outside expected that the Prime Minister will come and face the House... *(Interruptions)*... But we are surprised to see that the Prime Minister could not summon the courage to come to the House and face the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Chowdhary, please listen to me. Do you want to say about the point of order raised by Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Point of order on this will be taken up on Monday, not today. Today the question is why is the Prime Minister not present in the House. We have been demanding it. Why cannot he muster up the courage to come to the House?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: The whole controversy regarding Bofors has been centering around the Prime Minister and nobody in the Government or the Treasury Benches is in a position to give any reply.

The House has the right to know. As Members of the opposition, we have the right to request you to explain to the House as to why the Prime Minister has not come. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, under Article 148 of the Constitution, the C&AG should report to the President of India, who shall place it before the House and it is the right of the House to discuss it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I am on a point of order. It is the right of the House to discuss it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to make it clear to the House....

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Bahraich): I insist on my right to be heard before you give a ruling. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nobody is listening to me; everybody is shouting as he likes.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak only on Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao's point of order. We have every right to discuss whatever reports are placed before the House. We have never discussed the C&AG's report before. But when Members from both the sides requested for a discussion, the Speaker has allowed it. The Business Advisory Committee approved it and this House also approved it. How can do back now? We have already decided and there is no point of order in this matter. When the House has already adopted the BAG report, what can I do? It is not my wish. It is the wish of the House.

(Interruptions)

15.28 hrs.

**MOTION RE: EXTENSION OF TIME FOR
THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE***[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I propose that the sitting of the House be extended till 7 p.m., to conduct some Government business.

I beg to move:

"That the sitting of the House be extended till 7 p.m. to conduct some Government business".

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, it is left to the House.

The question is:

"That the sitting of the House be extended till 7 p.m. to conduct some Government business".

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those in favour may say 'Aye'

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'Aye'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those against may say, 'No'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'No'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the 'Ayes' have it. The 'Ayes' have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'Noes' have it. 'Noes' have it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want a division? All right. Let the lobbies be cleared. Now the lobbies have been cleared. I put it again.

The question is:

"That the sitting of the House be extended upto 7 P.M. to conduct some Government business."

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: It is already past 3.30 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yesterday the Speaker have the ruling on the same point about extension of time. We started the process before 3.30 p.m.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Don't put me into embarrassment. What can I do? You have to speak with them.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is anything, you can discuss with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then, you go through the records. The process started before 3.30 p.m.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The lobbies have already been cleared.

The question is:

"That the sitting of the House be extended till 7 p.m. to conduct some Government business."

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: 'Aye'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those against will please say 'No'.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the 'Ayes' have it. The 'Ayes' have it.

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House is extended by one hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 3.45 p.m.

15.39 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past three of the Clock.

15.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty eight minutes past Fifteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House will take up the Private Member's Business. Shrimati Basavarajeswari.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the motion regarding extension of the time of the House? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That I have already announced.

MANY HON. MEMBERS: No. It has not been announced.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I announced it.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Sir, you have not followed the rules. You had asked for the Lobbies to be cleared. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the Lobbies had been cleared, at that time, I took the voice vote of the House and when I once

again announced that the time of the House had been extended upto 7 PM, nobody objected to it. Then I adjourned the House till 3.45 PM.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want to reopen this issue, how can you do it? You see the record.

SHGRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Did you announce the result of the division?....*(Interruptions)*

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want to challenge this, you do it 6.00 p.m. after the Private Members' Business. At that time you can raise it.

SHRI C MADHAV REDDI: Why at that time?

AN HON. MEMBER: The procedure followed was not correct...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We objected at that time.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): I have one submission to make. We want to participate in the Private Members' Business provided the House is not extended beyond 6 O' clock.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chayinkil): That the House has to decide, not Shri Jaipal Reddy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have no objection. I am ready to accept anything that the House decides.

SHRI S JAIPAL REDDY: At 3.30 p.m., no decision was taken by the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I announced the decision. Now, Private Members' Business—Bill for Introduction.

15.52 hrs.

WIDOWS' WELFARE BILL

[English]

SHRIMATIBASAVARAJESWARI (Belary): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension and provision of other facilities to widows.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension and provision of other facilities to widows.

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESHWARI: I introduce the Bill.

15.54 hrs.

FAIR PRICE SHOPS (REGULATION) BILL

[English]

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by the Shri G S Basavaraju on the 21st April, 1989, namely:

"That the Bill to regulate the functioning of fair price shops and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Before, further discussion on this Bill is resumed, I would like to mention that three hours and fifty-five minutes have already been taken out of the four hours allotted by the House for this Bill. Now, the time has to be extended for further discussion. Is it the pleasure of the House that time for this Bill be extended by one hour.

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The time is extended by one hour for this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRISHANKARLAL (Pali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Fair Price Shops (Regulation) Bill introduced by Shri G.S. Basavaraju in the House. In the rural areas of our country, it is really difficult to get essential commodities like edible oils, sugar, kerosene, foodgrains. It is the responsibility of not only State Governments but also the Central Government to make essential commodities available to the people. I think, the hon. Member who has introduced this Bill in the House, deserves to be congratulated. Similarly, our worthy leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi has also launched effective schemes to provide employment to the people in rural areas and, thus, created public awareness for *panchayati raj*. The provision in the Bill would enable the Government to remove difficulties of the people in the remote rural areas which they have to face in getting essential commodities like foodgrains, cloth, edible oils and other commodities. This Bill would prove to be effective to remove these difficulties.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been provided in the Bill that besides setting up a Central Board, State level Boards would also be set up and coordination between them would be ensured. I would suggest that apart from Boards at the State level, committees should be set up at district level also. As responsibility is being delegated to the districts under the proposed decentralisation of power, it is necessary that Boards at state level should have proper coordination with the communities at district level and the Boards at State level should have coordination with the Central Board. Sir, the allocation of essential commodities whether it is wheat, rice or sugar.

[English]

SHRI HET RAM (Sirsa): There is no Quorum in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Quorum bell be rung...Now, there is Quorum. Shri Shankarlal.

[Translation]

16.00 hrs.

SHRI SHANKARLAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that decentralisation is necessary to provide essential commodities through fair-price shops easily and at cheaper rates. Hence, the formation of Central Board, State Boards and committees at district level is essential and the committees should decide the number of shops to be opened and their location. If it is not possible to open one fair price shop for every village the same should be provided at least in every Gram Panchayat so that common man has not to cover a distance of more than 2 kms. At present there are many areas where people have to cover a distance of 5-7 kms. to get the essential commodities. The commodities with higher consumption should be supplied in larger quantity. For instance the areas, where consumption of rice is more, should be supplied with more quantities of rice. Something is applicable in case of wheat and wheat product. So far as cloth is concerned, it is also a necessity of life.

These commodities are supplied by the Central Government to the State Governments which further supply these items to the district collectors or the district administration. But when the fair price shops are allotted, the middlemen and businessmen manage to get those shops allotted in their own names. They do not distribute those commodities through the fair price shops and instead divert them to the black market. In order to check the practice of black-marketing and profiteering indulged in by the middlemen and also to ensure timely supply of commodities to the consumers, I think, Central Board, State Boards and Committees at district level can play quite effective role.

The Bill provides for methods to be

adopted for the proper distribution of commodities through fair price shops, the number of customers to be registered with each fair price shop and the means of transportation to be used for the movement of commodities. In urban areas, we see that mobile vans carry these commodities and move from one locality to the other to distribute them to the people. But the same is not the case in the rural areas. A separate Bill should be introduced to remove the difficulties in rural areas where people are generally illiterate and unaware of this system of distribution. These are the areas where even electricity is not available and people have to cover long distance to get these commodities. Therefore, a Bill to provide for constitution of a Central and State Boards, should be brought forward.

The Bill provides that the Chairman of the Board would be appointed by the Central Government and one Member each would represent each State and the Union Territory. In this regard, I would like to submit that the Chairman of the Zila Parishad or his representative must be there on the State Boards which have been set up recently to ensure supply of essential commodities to the villages. If representatives from urban areas manage to capture these boards, they would desire the entire benefit. As a result, people in the rural areas would not be able to get essential commodities to meet their requirements. Therefore, my submission is that the representative from Zila Parishad must be on the State Boards.

A mention has been made about vigilance also in the Bill. I may submit that the Government should allot the fair-price shops to cooperative societies instead of allotting them to the individuals. Our Late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said that three institutions are the pre-requisites for the progress of the country viz. at least one school in every village, a cooperative society and a Gram Panchayat. We have strengthened the infra-structure of Gram Panchayats and have made significant achievement in the field of education. But my submission is that fair price shops should be allotted to the

[Sh. Shankarlal]

people belonging to rural areas only. What I mean to say is that if essential commodities are distributed in the rural areas through the cooperative societies, the purpose of setting up the Boards would be achieved. A provision should be made in the Bill to give preference to co-operative societies over individuals.

With these words, I support the Bill moved by the hon. Member.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir: I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. In fact, for the last three days, unfortunately there has been no substantial business transacted in the House. Probably, this Bill is the first Bill, though it is a private member's Bill, that we are going to discuss.

In this connection, I also say this with a very heavy heart: Parliament's time is valuable, and people also have great expectations from Members of Parliament. But what has been the performance in this House for the last three days because of the unruly conduct and unparliamentary behaviour of the Opposition? This situation was brought a slur on the name of democracy here. (*Interruptions*)

I also thank the hon. Member who has moved this Bill. I am well aware that this Bill will ultimately be withdrawn. But till then, it gives us an opportunity to discuss several aspects of the public distribution system that is functioning in our country. The Bill aims at strengthening or streamlining the public distribution system in the country. I also give my support to the spirit of the Bill. I do not say that the Bill, as it is, may be accepted or should be accepted; but this provides us an opportunity to discuss the subject. I would also request the hon. Minister to take serious note of all the suggestions that are coming forth in course of the discussion.

The Government should also try to improve PDS in the light of the discussion, in the light of suggestions given by the hon. members. This year may be called a Golden Jubilee Year of the Public Distribution System in our country. Fifty years ago, in 1939, for the first time, to start with in Maharashtra, certain essential commodities were distributed through Government Fair Price Shops. There was almost a starvation situation, near famine situation. The Government, prior to Independence, in 1939, had to resort to such a system. Then it was followed in 1943 by West Bengal where also there was a similar situation, this starvation situation, near famine condition prevailed over there.

During war time, we know the pressure on the economy and how the prices were also shot up to a very high limit. Then also certain commodities were supplied to the consumer through Government Shops. Since Independence, of course, it has been the endeavour of the popular Government to supply essential commodities more and more through this Public Distribution System in various parts of the country. It would be evident from this simple fact, how it had taken a quantum jump; the Public Distribution System had taken root, and also a very quantum jump in the matter of opening up of Fair Price Shops and also the quantity of commodities supplied. In 1962, there were 47,000 shops that were functioning in the country; now this figure is somewhere near four lakhs also. We have now a network of four lakh Fair Price Shops in the Public Distribution System in our country. We have about 7 lakh villages in our country. I do not know whether the figure of four lakhs is correct. I have my doubt, but, still, I think it is very much satisfactory. There should be at least one FPS in every Gram Panchayat; and in the hilly area, in the inaccessible area, in one Gram Panchayat one FPS would not suffice; it would require more. But, at the same time, I would like to say, what is the very purpose of the Public Distribution System particularly in a situation like that of ours? We have about 80 crore population. The entire requirement with regard to essential commodities, say, food supply, food stock,

cloth, kerosene, matches, salt other things, in entirety, the country under the existing circumstances, under the existing economy, under the existing socio-economic system, under the existing or present socio-economic situation, it is just not possible to cater to the entire requirement of the entire population. And then we have a mixed economy and also we have a free market; and at the same time, we have a controlled market and a controlled system. Naturally all this suggests that the Government has an obligation, has a commitment to the poorer sections, has a responsibility to meet their requirements, not of the entire population. Because when any cultivator can sell his produce anywhere to anybody, it does mean that he has to sell it to the Government alone not only. So, we cannot expect the entire requirement of the entire population to be met through the public distribution system and that too by the Government directly. Naturally, the poor people, the down-trodden people, those people below the poverty line they cannot go to the free market where the ruling prices are much higher, particularly in the scarcity months, as for instance, the monsoons. Then the prices of the foodgrains rise very high. And when they are available in plenty during the harvesting period in many places, the dealers of fair price shops do not lift the foodgrains. This has been my experience. I had the fortune of handling the Food and Civil Supplies Department of Orissa for a certain time, about two years. That was also a very difficult period. There was near famine situation then, during 1974-75. Procurement had to be carried on at gun point. It was a very difficult period in Orissa then. At the instance of the Centre, that is, the Central Government we had to resort to such unpleasant tasks. And naturally during the harvesting period there was no demand for rice, but when summer approaches, followed by the lean months or the monsoon the pressure goes up. So, the Central Government procures through the Food Corporation of India and stores wheat, rice etc., and again makes allotments depending on the situation prevailing in different parts of the country. They decide according to their own judgement and then allot them. So, we have to make a

clear distinction between the haves and the have not, between the affluent people and the poor people.

Now, there is an increasing tendency for all sorts of people to depend on the public distribution system, for every thing. This should not be allowed. We just cannot allow it to happen. On the other hand, I would suggest that the entire requirement of the poor people should be met through the public distribution system. There should also be an endeavour to increase the quantity to ensure that all the items required are supplied through the public distribution system, to the weaker people, to the poor people, the economically weaker people. At the same time, we have to create a situation so that the rich people, the affluent people, the higher middle class people are eliminated.

So far as rice and wheat are concerned they may be available in plenty in the free market, may be at certain higher rates. What I mean to say is that with regard to the beneficiaries of the public distribution system the Government should revise its stand.

With regard to sugar there is also a conduction. The poor people get very little of it and the rich people, living in towns get more on their cards. There is also a feeling that there is some discrimination between the people living in the villages and the town-dwellers. The villagers feel that they are discriminated against and that they are treated as second class citizens. Why? Those who are well to do go to the free market and the poor people cannot do that. The poor people should be given more sugar against their cards. Also, in rural areas there is no card system. There also the card system should be introduced. There should also be some more commodities, just not rice, sugar and wheat only, but kerosene etc. That is not supplied regularly. For example, palmolin oil is also not supplied and there is lot of black-marketing in this distribution, and it should be supplied properly.

There is a lot of difference between the price of certain commodities in the open

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

market and the prices of the commodities supplied through public distribution system. We should keep vigilance on their distribution, etc.

Secondly, when there is a difference in the price, there is a natural tendency on the part of the fair price dealers to sell it at higher prices in black market. We thank our Prime Minister. We are going to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system, revolutionise the Panchayati Raj system. And naturally when the Panchayati Raj system is strengthened, it would mean greater involvement of the public. We can also entrust the public distribution system to the Panchayati Raj, Zilla Parishad, etc. Of course, cooperatives will have a far better role to play in this regard. The Panchayats involvement in PDS was experimented in Orissa during early 1970s and it worked very smoothly. Of course, we have to make financial provision for the Panchayats. And the permission has to be given to them so that they can carry on this business. If the Panchayat is entrusted with this work and there is a close watch, then the black marketing possibility will be either completely eliminated or minimised. In many places we find weekly markets, where people gather. If there are *hatt* sale of different commodities in weekly markets then it would work very satisfactorily. That is our experience. At the time of drought, when the people do not find time and do not know where it is available, some people play mischief. If it is sold in the weekly markets, then the poor people will get the benefits.

As regards the transportation charges also, we have to adopt a realistic approach. I have spoken to some of the retailers, who indulge in black marketing. They told me that even if a sanyasi comes and takes up his business with missionary zeal, he cannot run it even on no profit no loan basis with the present transportation charges. Unless there is a revision, it is not just realistic, according to them. And nobody is going to spend their money from their pocket to serve the people. It has to be realistic. I do not know whether

transportation charges are revised or not. Many people in the godowns also said that when weighment is there, there is pilferage. Hardly a bag which is supposed to contain 100 Kg. weighs 100 Kg. Deliberately and knowingly with the connivance of many people, black market in regard to certain commodities, for instance sugar, goes on. When we want to be very strict, we have also to be realistic towards the legitimate expenditure incurred in the process like transportation charges, the commission that we have to pay to such people. Why I say this is, when the Gram Panchayats and the Cooperatives were involved in this system, they brought forward this discrepancy and we also conceded that even if you charge five paise per kg. over and above the prescribed rate, nobody will look into it. The Government of India did not concede to the demand of revising these rates. What I say is that we have to learn from our experience. We have to be realistic. Then any kind of black-marketing should be penalised. What is happening in China and elsewhere? Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, our first Prime Minister, whose birth centenary we are celebrating this year, had said that the black-marketeers should be tied to the lamp posts. But these words remained only on paper. Our system is so liberal that even lawyers and some persons who represent people in Parliament, go outside Indian and talk things against the country. That way, the system is so liberal that even the worst black-marketeers engage reputed lawyers and they go scotfree. The laws and regulations need to be stiffened. We have strict laws like NSA, MISA and sometimes we apply them also. But regardless of party affiliation, some thinking should be there in this direction. But in spite of all this, Government is doing a commendable job. During the Seventh Plan, a subsidy of Rs. 2000 crores has been given by the Government to run the Public Distribution System i.e. procuring things at a higher price and distributing them at a lower price. We have also one across instances—yesterday, the hon. Minister was replying to a question—where some State Governments are charging Rs. 2/- per kg. for rice from the tribal people, poor people but they are get-

ting it from the Government of India at Rs. 1.85 per kg. We have to see that middlemen and vested interests are eliminated as far as possible. How can it be done. This could be monitored properly if panchayats and cooperatives are associated with this work. It is quite feasible and it can work satisfactorily because this was tried in Orissa. This system was adjudged the best in the whole country.

There should be a popular committee attached to a fair price shop. Let there be a five-member committee out of which one should be a tribal, a Harijan a woman which will scrutinise the stock. On their recommendation that the allotment was properly distributed, the dealer can get next allotment. If this system is adopted, there will be a lot of improvement in this system.

SHRI V. SOBHANDREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): First of all, I would like to congratulate Mr. Basavaraju for introducing this Bill and providing an opportunity to this august House to discuss this important item, which is the basic need of human beings irrespective of their political affiliations or other considerations.

I agree with the Statement of Objects and Reasons as well as the provisions in this Bill. Basically there is nothing to differ. In principle we agree with these suggestions. I hope, the hon. Minister will take into consideration the views and suggestions made by hon. Members from both sides of the House and come forward with a Bill incorporating those valuable suggestions from the hon. Members.

Now, one important irony is that though nearly eighty per cent of the Public Distribution Supply retail outlets are located in the rural areas, nearly eighty per cent of the foodgrains that are distributed to the public are going to the urban areas. I wish the hon. Minister will take care of this and will see that the rural people are met with all justice and will take necessary steps to see that adequate foodgrains are supplied to the retail outlets in the rural area.

Though nineteen items are listed, the people in the rural areas are getting rice in our State or wheat in some other State and then kerosene, sugar and palmoline oil only. Other items they are not receiving. But the people in urban areas may be fortunate in getting some other items also that are being distributed through these PDS retail outlets. I request the hon. Minister to look into that aspect also and see that those items are sent to the rural areas also so that the needs of the people are well taken care of.

16.32 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN in the Chair]

In our State of Andhra Pradesh, as against 30,851 PDS outlets during the period 1978 to 1983, after Shri N.T. Rama Rao's Telugu Desam Government has come to power in our State, now there are 36,045 retail outlets. Our Government is making available through green cards, nearly twenty-five kilograms of rice per month per family of five members to 100 lakh families. Earlier the experience was not quite encouraging. During the earlier regime it so happened that most of these items to be given to the poor people were not reaching the poor people. The fair price shop dealer used to corner a good number of cards from the poor people, keep them with him and corner some stocks and sell them in the black-market. After this Rs. two per kg. scheme was introduced by Shri Rama Rao Garu's Government, the poor people have become more conscious. Every month immediately after knowing that rice has come, all the people will go and will press for their quota and will not allow the fair price shop person to do any mischief. Of course even now there may be some small percentage of such persons in some areas but, by and large, today the poor people are not allowing their rice to be taken away by that shop fellow and sell it outside. Sometimes just because they may not need sugar, they may not press so much for sugar but rice nobody is leaving with the fair price shop person.

[Sh. V. Sobhandreeswara Rao]

My hon. friend Shri Panigrahi, who as just now spoken, has said that in Andhra Pradesh the Government was selling rice at Rs. two a kilo, while the Union Government was supplying it at Rs. 185 per quintal. That was in the early phase and that too always out of the total quantity of rice supplied to the scheduled areas. Very small percentage was from common variety whereas bulk of it was from fine variety and again a small percentage from superfine. The State Government was giving rice at the rate of Rs. 2 per Kg. to one crore families. The Government wanted some uniform policy. The Government of India was supplying rice to the scheduled areas, to the tribal people, to the Girijans and out TDP Government is giving rice at the rate of Rs. 2 per KG not only to Girijans outside the scheduled areas but also the Harijans, the backward classes and the economically weaker sections irrespective of caste or community, whose income is less than Rs. 6000 per annum. So, all those people are eligible to get the rice and our Government is spending several hundred crores of rupees on its part in making available the rice at the rate of Rs. 2 per Kg. to the people. After the revision of the price, our Government is bearing 19 paise in respect of common variety of rice, 75 paise in respect of fine variety of rice and Re. 1 per Kg in respect of superfine variety. So, the criticism that Mr. Rama Rao has no time to smell the inferior quality of rice supplied to the poor people is not at all accepted. The rice is coming from the Food Corporation of India. Mr. Rama Rao is the harbinger of the poor men and that is why he has introduced this scheme of Rs. 2 per Kg. Whatever the burden is falling on the State Government, even now they are going ahead with that scheme because while campaigning for the election purposes he had seen himself the pathetic condition of the poor people. At several places where some rich and middle class people perform the marriages, after the dinner, the leaves on which the food was served, are thrown away. The pathetic scene is noticed when the poor people who suffer from hunger and extreme poverty fight with the dogs to get the left-

overs on the leaves. Mr Rama Rao promised during the election campaign that if his party came to power, his Government would implement the scheme of supplying rice at the rate of Rs. 2 per Kg.

Now, at the latest price, it is costing more than Rs. 300 crores per year for the State Government and our Government is going ahead with the promised scheme just with the sole objective to meet at least a part requirement of the poor people who are living below the poverty line, irrespective of caste and community. According to the report of the Economic Times, they say that from several States—either in Maharashtra or Tamil Nadu or U.P. or Karnataka—the State Governments are requesting the Union Government to make available more quantity of rice and other essential commodities. But, unfortunately, I do not know what the restrictions and limitations are. The Government of India is not supplying the required quantity to the States which in turn is having adverse effect on the price levels in those States and particularly in the cities. Now, we are having adequate stocks of foodgrains. Last year, we had very good monsoon. Added to that we have also imported some foodgrains. I think there is no problem in meeting the requirements of the various States.

Now, the Food Corporation of India is mainly responsible for the huge element of subsidy to be borne by the Government of India. Sir, you are aware, as a person, who have a very good experience in the public affairs, that in several places the Food Corporation of India stores the foodgrains—wheat and rice—in open space. Just a tarpaulin is covered in many places. The tarpaulins are either torn or they are not in proper condition and when the rain falls, the rice or wheat gets spoiled and after some time, they dispose foodgrains as they are not even fit for animal consumption. But if the foodgrains are disposed of before their quality gets deteriorated, at least for animal consumption, the Food Corporation of India could get some price for that. But in most cases because of some administrative

lapses, bureaucratic bungling, etc. even that is not done.

Similarly, in respect of transport, for every quintal of rice nearly Rs. 35 is the transportation cost. My experience was, the sugar from our factory, the KCP Sugar Factory, a very big sugar factory in South India at Vuyyur, was going to Nizamabad district where there is a Nizam sugar factory, Bodhan, and sugar from Bodhan sugar factory was coming to our Vuyyur where we had ample KCP sugar. I don't accuse the Government at the higher level, but the officers at down the level because of some vested interests, may be to benefit some transport contractors, or whatever the reasons may be, they simply favour the transport contract in such a way that unnecessary transportation costs the people have to bear. If proper planning and meticulous thinking has taken place, this unnecessary avoidable transportation charge can be done away with and ultimately the difference in the cost of procurement and the issue price will come down and the Government need not waste so much money.

Similarly in respect of godowns also, Sir, the left hand is not knowing what the right hand is doing. Even though there is a very big storage capacity with, warehousing corporation godowns, there again the Food Corporation of India will try to construct godowns. Why so, Sir? Are not the Central warehousing godowns our godowns? Suppose, in the event when C.W.C. godowns are not there, the State Warehousing godowns may be there. We must make maximum use of them. After all, it is people's money, either of the Central Government or the State Government, and unnecessarily they go on constructing their own godowns and sometimes they take private godowns also on lease and rent. Like this, some of them have to be streamlined and the deficiencies should be rectified which ultimately will help in bringing down the issue prices.

Sir, the suggestion of our hon. Member, Mr. Basavaraju, to set up a Board at the State level is quite good, there is nothing wrong in it. In our experience, we have down

at the Mandal level where there is a Food Advisory Committee Meeting, representatives from weaker sections, women and all political parties and at the District level also the Collector convenes a Meeting with all the political parties, the Presidents or Secretaries of various political parties and people's representatives and there is thorough review going on. But my experience is, in urban areas, in the Municipalities or Municipal Corporations, this type of review is not taking place frequently and adequately. I suggest to the hon. Minister to give suitable guidelines and instructions to all the State Governments so that in urban areas also this review and examination of the supply of essential commodities through the PDS is ensured in all fairness.

Lastly, Sir, I suggest to the hon. Minister one thing. You kindly permit our A.P. State Agency to procure rice as a notified public agency at the procurement price under the Central pool on the condition that the carry over costs will be borne by the State Agency itself and there is no charge on this account to the Government of India. But the only concession the State Agency would want is availability of credit at a concessional rate of interest because in our State of Andhra Pradesh our total requirements is 22 lakh tonnes of rice. You are making available to us 10 lakhs tonnes of rice. The balance the State Government is to procure in the open market at the agreed price with the rice millers which is well over and above this procurement price of the Food Corporation of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you not self-sufficient in your State?

SHRI V. SOBHANDREESWARA RAO: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Previously we used to get rice from your State.

SHRI V. SOBHANDREESWARA RAO: I will tell you, Sir. In our State the Government is making available rice at the rate of Rs. 2/- a K.G. to one crore families through

[Sh. V. Sobhandreeswara Rao]

these PDS shops for those people whose income is less than Rs. 6000/-. For other people, we have to purchase in the open market and we are giving to your Kerala State also. Already the Government is burdened with several hundreds of crores of rupees. So, if you extend this concession this gesture of goodwill to permit our State agency to procure the rice with the credit made available from the financial institutions at concessional rate of interest, it will go a long way in helping to serve the poor people. I hope the hon. Minister will agree to this. With these words, I conclude.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the need for introducing this Bill. While going through this Bill, the hon. Minister must have observed that the main objective is to ensure availability of food grains the poor at reasonable rates through the public distribution system in our country. At present there are two aspects of this problem. One is non-availability of foodgrains and other essential commodities in adequate quantity at Fair Price Shops when they are required. What are the reasons behind this? One reason is the shortage of essential commodities in the country. Secondly, the shopkeepers sell these commodities in the black market. I am sure that these shopkeepers indulge in black-marketing of essential commodities. Deterrent action should be taken against them to prevent the recurrence of such acts in future. But the other closely related aspect of this problem is that fair price shopkeepers are allowed very low margin of profit on the goods supplied by the Government. He is the Government's agent who is asked to pick up the goods from the godown. But is the present margin of profit sufficient to provide sustenance to him. If he earns at least Rs. 1,000/-, his family can be taken care of. These days a shopkeeper

must get a minimum of Rs. 1,000/- if he is to support his family. If he is unable to get even this much, he will resort to unfair trade practices. This aspect has come to our a number of times.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a Fair Price Shop owner has to spend more on transporting the goods from the godowns to his shop than what he gets margin of profit. So how can he provide essential commodities to the poor at the same rates honestly. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to give serious thought to this matter. Sir, this Bill provides for supply of the full quota of essential commodities and their transportation to the shop. If the goods are carried over 50-100 kilometres the shopkeeper's margin of profit is neutralised in transportation costs. While fixing the number of units for a shopkeeper, it must be kept in mind that he is able to earn at least Rs. 1,000. This will prevent the shopkeeper from being dishonest. Even after this, if some shopkeepers continue to adopt unfair means, they should be given severe punishment. If they are caught, they should be imprisoned for at least six months, so that they dare not indulge in such things in future.

Sir, I would request for an increase in the number of items sold through these outlets. Along with essential commodities, cloth and sarees should also be sold to help Fair-Price shopkeepers sustain themselves. Sale of such items can increase his income to some extent. Sir, if essential commodities are not available in adequate quantity, why does the rule stipulate that all people living in cities, be they rich or poor, will be issued ration cards if they apply for the same? I request for modifications in the present system. Fifty per cent of the ration-card holders who really need the rations are not able to get it whereas people with high incomes buy their requirements from elsewhere. Their entire share of the rations is sold by the shopkeepers in the black-market. It is difficult to control black-marketing once the shopkeepers become habitual. The problem is being faced everywhere. Even the Rationing Officers are finding it difficult to

check it. All these aspects have to be looked into.

The biggest problem being faced at present is that of quality so far as wheat is concerned, we conducted checks on the quality of wheat in Nagpur. I want to draw the hon. Minister's attention towards the fact that there are two or three varieties of wheat in the market, inferior as well as superior. Fair-Price shop owners and flour mill owners are supplied goods from the same godown. This leads to a lot of corruption. Actually the ordinary variety of wheat should go to the people who process food and also to the flour mill owners. Instead the flour-mill owners, in order to earn higher profit, manage to get the better variety of wheat leaving the Fair-Price shop owners with the ordinary variety of wheat which is in short supply and also not fit for human consumption. In this way, the public has to do with the poor variety of wheat. This is another aspect which needs the hon. Minister's attention so that such irregularities could be checked. This matter has come to my notice through labourers working in flour mills.

Another form of corruption exists in the storage system too. The Government allows margin for shortages upto a certain percentage for goods stored in the godown and also for goods lost in storage. Actually the Government does not check the stock. If there is rainfall for two months, there is a 4 1/2 per cent increase in weight due to moisture. But people take out commodities from the bags equivalent to this allowed margin and sell them out to make profits. If the allowance is upto 2% and there is a loss of 1% percent, the other 1 percent is removed from the stock and sold. The Government should take steps to curb this practice.

Damage to the foodgrain starts from the very beginning. Adequate storage capacity is not even available in Mandis where it is procured. In the absence of adequate storage space, traders cover the foodgrain with tarpaulin and leave it in the open. Later the foodgrains are carried to the destination through the railways and there too it is un-

loaded and left in the open thereby exposing it to further damage. Later it is declared unfit for human consumption and sold in the market. Corruption is evident here also. What is needed is an efficient machinery to check these irregularities. In order to make it more effective, a few honest social workers, public representatives and officers should function at every level. Committees with adequate powers should be set, at, the 'taluka', 'ward' and district level.

I suggest that priority should be given to the poor and weaker sections if essential commodities are not available in adequate quantity of supply. An assessment should be made of the situation likely to arise in the coming years and ration cards should not be issued to those with a high income. Such people can well afford to buy essential commodities from the open market. If they can spend Rs. 1,000, they can easily spent Rs. 1,100 to buy goods of better quality. But it must be ensured that a poor man is not deprived of his share of ration. Today, poor people have to go to the Fair-Price Shop a number of times as the commodities are not available when they need them. When wheat is available, sugar is not available. There should be a provision under which wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene could be made available at the same time. The consumer feels harassed if he has to make three trips to the shop to buy three commodities. Essential commodities should be supplied to the ration shops in the beginning or the middle of the month. In this way, a worker who gets his wages on the first day of every month, can get all the commodities on that day itself. This will save his time. Today the worker spends the entire month making trips to the ration shop. He and his family members waste their energies in their effort to get oil at one time, sugar at another and wheat and rice next.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Purohit, the fact is that the poor people may not be having the money to purchase the whole ration for a month.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Certainly, Sir, part of the effort is directed towards increasing that capacity. But these things should be available in villages. It has been our experience, that people have to wait for a long time before they can get the commodities. Different commodities are available on different days of the month. This could be made into a weekly or fortnightly affair. But all essential commodities should be available at the same time.

This is a very good scheme. The Bill introduced by the hon. Member should have been brought forward by the hon. Minister. I request the hon. Minister to accept this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, the time allotted for this Bill is almost over. Shall we extend the time for this Bill?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. First, let us extend the time by one hour. The time for this Bill is extended by one hour.

[Translation]

***SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary):** Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Fair Price Shops (Regulation) Bill moved by Shri Basavaraju.

At the time of independence our country had no sufficient foodgrains. At that time our country had requested United State of America to supply us foodgrains. We have seen in our own eyes people suffering from shortage of foodgrains. Now the situation is different. A couple of years ago there was a severe drought in many parts of the country. Even then there was no problem of foodgrains in the country. We have foodgrains more than

sufficient and hence we are prepared to face any difficult situation, whether it is flood or drought. It is the farmers' hard work which has given us this strength. Therefore the entire credit of self sufficiency in foodgrains should go to the farmers of this country. We have the public distribution system for distributing essential commodities to the people through the fair price shops. The main objective of the Public Distribution System is to cater to the needs of poor masses of the country. But this is not happening. I am sorry to say that this public distribution system has become political distribution system. The local party members indulge in the affairs of Public Distribution system. They get the licences of fair price shops to their own people and collect huge sum of money which will be utilised for their party activities, and elections. The poor people are not getting any benefit from these fair price shops. This matter should be taken very seriously and proper measures have to be taken up to make Public Distribution System function properly and efficiently. In Karnataka the jilla parishads are looking after this system in the cities and in the rural areas, the officials are incharge of this system. This is a dual system in the Public Distribution System of the State. This system should go. There should be only one type of system in the entire country. Those who issue licence should also look after the supervision. The licences of those, who indulge in malpractices should be cancelled immediately. The method of procurement should also be rectified. There should not be any difference in the rates. The quality of the foodgrains should be good. Adulteration of foodgrains and other essential commodities must be stopped once for all. The foodgrain that is procured and the foodgrain that is distributed through Public Distribution System must be one and the same. While weighing also the poor villagers' are cheated. This has to be checked immediately. The villagers will not be having money to run the fair price shops. He will contact the merchant and get the required

financial assistance to get the allotment. Therefore he will be under the moral obligation of that merchant always. Hence he sends the ration to the merchant from whom he had sought financial assistance. After that the remaining ration is brought to the fair price shop. The ration which had been allotted to rural areas do not reach those particular fair price shops for 3 to 4 months. The sale will be going on in cities and towns but the ration do not reach the villages. Hence it is very essential to the Government to ensure that the allotted commodities reach the respective fair price shops at the earliest. If some Minister visits rural areas then there will be regular sales in the fair price shops, otherwise the actual sale will be only in the cities. This system should be put to an end. In villages only a section of the society are getting the benefit of these shops. Educated persons and other knowledgeable persons get the benefit of fair price shops. Majority of the rural masses mostly ignorant and innocent are neglected. Once I urge upon the government to conduct a survey to find out such persons. These poor people have to be included in the system and essential commodities should be distributed to them. If the Public Distribution System sells rice at Rs. 2 and the same rice may cost about six rupees in the open market. It is not possible for the poor people to pay that price. Therefore, all rural poor must be included in the system otherwise the Public System Distribution will not achieve any success in its objectives. There is the difference in the whole sale and the retail sale. One quintal of sugar is purchased in whole sale. The same sugar is sold in the retail sale. It is quite natural that there will be shortage while selling it in the retail sale. This problem of shortage should also be looked into by the government and corrective measures have to be taken.

There are sugar factories in each State. But the sugar produced in Karnataka is sent to Maharashtra and vice versa. This incurs a huge amount of loss in the form of transportation charges. Therefore, as far as possible we should see that the commodity produced in a particular area or state is distributed in the same area. This would save the trans-

portation charges.

Mr. Basavaraju has proposed 3 to 4 good suggestions. At the State level and at the district boards have to be set up. These boards should have powers and they should look into the matters like proper distribution, quality control etc.

In Kerala and other southern states most of the people are rice eaters. In northern states wheat is the most commonly used foodgrain. In Maharashtra jowar is the common foodgrain. If there is a shortage of any of the foodgrain then the people should not insist to get the same foodgrain. If they are rigid then it will encourage black market. In this regard the people must be well informed to switch over to different food habits. Some persons use more oil and some others are fond of more sugar. There should be flexibility in our food habits. If there is no flexibility we will lose huge amount of foreign exchange also.

The Boards have to be set up at the district, state and national level. The rates of essential commodities distributed through PDS should be the same throughout the country. At present we see one rate in Karnataka and different rate in Andhra Pradesh. This system has to go and a uniform rate should be fixed for the whole country.

In the beginning of our late Indiraji's regime we had taken food grain from America. Within a short span of time under the leadership of our late Indiraji there was green revolution in the country. She gave the maximum encouragement to the farmers and today we are not only self sufficient in foodgrains but also giving foodgrains to other countries.

Two years ago there was a severe drought in the country. Nine States were affected very badly. Even at that time of crisis there was no shortage of any essential commodity. This was possible because of the good administration at the centre and proper distribution of all essential commodities.

[Smt. Basavarajeswari]

I am sure that the hon'ble Minister will take immediate measures to remove the loopholes that are existing in the PDS. So far he has rendered good service in this area and I hope he would bring necessary reforms in the PDS. This would enable the people, particularly those who are living below the poverty line to lead a better life.

I am thankful to you Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to express my views. For the last four days the House has been witnessing scenes of rumpus which show that the bitter taste of a pill can be experienced only after it is swallowed. The reaction of the people outside the House with regard to happenings in the House is an indication of the image of the opposition as to how they are trying to destroy the democratic traditions. The dignity of the House has been lowered with the disruption of the proceedings of the House for the last four days and the members of the opposition are responsible for it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Basavaraju for moving this private Bill as he has focussed attention of the House on a problem concerning the common man and drawn the attention of the Government to a major problem and it will provide special benefits to the common man. The menace of black-marketing is often discussed whenever the question of supply and demand is raised. India is the fountainhead of marketing. At the time of first world war, when various countries of the world faced shortage of foodgrains and other essential commodities, the system of rationing was first tried by them and the system proved very successful in those countries but when rationing system was introduced in

India, it led to black-marketing and since then this problem continues. Though we are struggling hard against this malady, unless the distribution system in the country is made effective and practical, the problems of common man cannot be solved. Since the Public Distribution System has an effective role to play in the removal of poverty, it requires to be given a right and concrete shapes. Therefore, attention will have to be paid. Some of the basic reasons responsible for it.

The geographical condition of our country is of a different nature. Climate also varies from place to place and different cereals are produced in different regions but evolving a scientific method for their movement from one place to another and ensuring equal distribution thereof can solve our problem. For example, the production of wheat and other cereals in the States of Punjab, Haryana and some areas of Uttar Pradesh is in abundance as against production of wheat in plateaus, industrial and urban areas. Wheat is a cereal consumed by one and all and it is relatively cheaper also. Therefore movement of wheat and other cereals from one place to other should be allowed without any restriction and permission for movement of foodgrains should be granted. Ban should not be imposed on foodgrains taking outside a State which has surplus production. It is a fact, as has been stated by my other colleagues, that wheat is produced in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in abundance and a lot of wheat is stocked there. But the stock of wheat rots in godowns due to failure to transport foodgrains in time while the needy people do not get it. This could also be attributed to faulty distribution system. It is natural that the shortage of commodities causes price spiral. The second thing is the practice of imposing levy. The levy is charged from the shopkeepers in the areas where the production of any cereal is not sufficient, due to which prices soar. As a result thereof there is a wide gap between the market prices and the prices fixed for the Fair Price Shops.

The high margin of profit in selling rationed items in blackmarket is a great allurements for the Fair Price Shopkeepers. It is one of the main reasons for black-marketing. Therefore, there should not be much difference between the market price and the prices of items supplied under the public distribution system. The difference of prices should be very narrow at any cost. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to those urban areas where the density of population is very high and people are living in jhuggi jhonpries, particularly, in Delhi and Bombay. The ration cards of the people are kept by the shopkeepers and the foodgrains are given to them in an arbitrary manner. The quantity and the periodicity of foodgrains to be supplied to the card-holders are arbitrarily decided by the shopkeepers. Sugar and other essential commodities are also not supplied to them regularly. The shopkeepers keep their ration cards with them and refuse to supply the commodities on one pretext or the other such as children are not living with the card holders and thus ration so saved is sold in the black market. There is a need to keep strict watch on this thing. I agree with the suggestions given by Shrimati Basavarajeswari for keeping a strict watch to check it. Vigilance Committees have been constituted at block level and vigilance is also kept. In spite of that, there are some practical difficulties. Just now Shri Purohit stated that Fair Price Shop dealers have to maintain complicated account books and if they do their work honestly, the margin of the profit would be negligible and nobody would like to undertake this work without any return. Such things induce him to indulge in malpractices. He tells others also to follow suit. There is no objection if the public representatives are included in the Vigilance Committees but the committee should consist of members chosen from amongst the consumers, who are ration-card holders and this committee should make enquiry at least once a month by asking the people about the irregularities committed, if any. In the areas where density of population is not much and population is scattered, the people have to cover a distance of two to three miles to go to the Fair Price Shop. Due to this, the whole

day of the poor people, who are mostly daily wage earners, is wasted in bringing foodgrains. It is a major problem for them. In order to solve this problem, mobile Fair Price Shops should visit such places on the days on which market is held there. In such shops, not only rationed items but other essential commodities, such as mustard oil etc., should also be made available to the people because rural people have to pay a very exorbitant rates for such items in the open market. Mobile Fair Price Shops are much needed for the supply of such items. I would like to draw your attention towards it. My second point is that not only foodgrains and sugar but cloth should also be made available through the Public Distribution system as it will help them to a great extent if they get cloth alongwith other essential commodities. He will get all essential commodities at one place and it would be convenient for him.

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Sir, I support this Bill. I would request the hon. Minister to bring forward a comprehensive Bill which will be considered and passed for the benefit of the entire country. I would like to bring to his notice certain features of my State which he knows pretty well. Today, in all the newspapers of West Bengal, a news item with the photograph of Shri Ghani Khan Chowdhary has been published. Shri Ghani Khan Chowdhary has met our Chief Minister in the Secretariate. The Chief Minister had invited him cordially and handed over to him three packets of samples of rice which are being supplied to the fair price shops of West Bengal. You know that my State produces the largest amount of jute in the country. It will be good if the land producing rice is utilised for producing jute. It is a national duty and it should be done. It is a fact which I also accept and which has come in the papers also that although there has been a record production of rice, the procurement has not been upto the mark. (Interruptions) You may quarrel with the State Government of West Bengal. Our Minister for Food, Shri Nirmal Basu had been to some of the FCI godowns to see the

[Sh. Narayan Choubey]

samples. Some Congress (I) people asked him as to why he has come only to their godowns and he should go to the State godowns also and said that there also he could find the same bad type of rice.

Such things can go on. But actually there is no rice, wheat and oil of any sort, not only in the city of Calcutta but in all the suburban and rural areas. They get sugar and kerosene only. Regarding other items, Calcutta people get some items but the modified ration areas get only sugar and kerosene. They get rice once in two or three months. Everything is depending upon the open market. This is a very bad situation which has to be amended. How will you do it? Is it by putting the blame on the State Government and the State Government putting the blame on you? Ultimately, the common people are suffering. We must combine our heads and efforts together so that this problem can be solved.

KUMAR MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): It should be sorted out immediately. The State and the Central Government should sit together and take an immediate decision.....(*Interruptions*)..... All of us should unite whenever there is any genuine cause.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Another point which I would like to bring to the notice of Sukh Ramji is that a huge amount of rice is going out of West Bengal to Bangladesh by smuggling.

[*Translation*]

Rice is being smuggled (*Interruptions*)
What the Central Government is doing to stop smuggling (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

We do not control BSF. I am only telling the facts. In Bangladesh, rice is Rs. 20 per kg. and in West Bengal, it is Rs. 4.5 or Rs. 5 per kg. Naturally, smuggling would be en-

couraged. How do we find smuggled goods in Delhi, Bangalore or Madras? Smuggled goods are coming and going. It is not a new phenomenon at all. It is a national problem. There is scarcity of rice in Bangladesh. In fact, many things are in scarcity there. Naturally, many items come and many items go. At least now when we are facing this problem, smuggling of rice should be stopped.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES
(SHRI SUKH RAM): And the State Government has got no responsibility.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: You sit with them. You blame the State Government and they blame you, that would not solve the problem. The State Government will help you in all these matters, in stopping smuggling etc.

Then edible oil. I do not know when one fine morning you will find edible oil in the fair price shops. We have forgotten that. This needs to be looked into.

Then, quality. Friends from the other side have mentioned very correctly about quality, how it is manipulated. Quality goods supplied to the fair price shops are taken to private owners of the shops and they replace it with inferior quality goods. That is a correct picture. For that, the suggestion regarding watchdog Committees is a good and sensible suggestion. If it is brought into being, it would be of a great help in order to control this.

About ration cards also, they have very correctly stated. The poor man's ration card is not kept in the house of that poor man, it is kept in the ration shop; the owner keeps that. Some gentlemen are demanding from Nagpur that when a person goes, he should get all the items at one go. But there are other areas, where poor and oppressed people live. They want facility to purchase ration items at least twice a week. When they go, they have money only to buy rice. At that moment, the owner will say that if they take only rice, all other things, sugar etc. will

lapse. In order that this does not happen, you must provide the facility of purchasing the ration to these people twice a week. I know, it is very difficult. The difficulty is that actually the ration shops remain open for two or three days in the whole weeks. They remain open on Saturday and Sunday. On one day, some clerical work is done, then they go to the tehsil or district headquarters, then some challan is given to them and to lift the material, it takes three-four days. Naturally, ration shops remain open for two-three days in the whole weeks in the villages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the case everywhere. In our State it is open for all the six days.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Kerala is an exception. Kerala people have been doing these things quite nicely for several years. But I tell you, in my State in the village side ration shops open only for one or two days. There are places where there are 25,000 people living in that area but the units of ration card are 40,000, i.e. the units are more than the population of a particular area. So, how to check it? That is how the ration shop owner gets the benefit. Ration shop owners are not very rich people but they indulge in all sorts of malpractices. You can very easily calculate the profit. You just take the rent of the shop, commission they get and the transport charges and then calculate the profit. You cannot show a profit of Rs. 300 per month. So, they manage to get the profit by keeping false ration cards.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Most of the things which you are saying are to be presented before the State Government.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, he does not has any faith in that Government. That is the problem.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Sir, that is not the case. Whether it is a problem of a particular State or a Central problem, it is a

problem of the common people of the country. Since your State is managing the things much better than many other states, don't say that these things do not exist. If you go to Bihar, people there do not know about ration. In my State at least people know that there are ration shops, there are a number of places where people even do not know about them. The shop owners, may be rich or poor, behave like the landlords and they often say that there is no item in the shop. People don't know as to whom to complain. This is a situation not only of a single State; this is the situation obtaining in many parts of the country. Your State, Kerala is an exception. So, you have to see how to tackle this problem.

I would suggest you to kindly bring a Bill in this regard and sort out the problems of my State which I have just now raised. Today, a media war is going on and I would say, you please stop this media war between the State Government and the Central Government, between the FCI and the State Government and between the Governor and the State Government. You please make arrangement for the supply of sufficient food, especially rice and wheat, to the people of West Bengal because rains are coming, Puja holidays are coming. I hope you will consider all these things. I am not saying these things with any animosity, I am saying these things with a sense of responsibility.

[Translation]

*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikkabalapura): Mr. Chairman sir, I wholeheartedly welcome the Fair Price Shops (Regulation) Bill moved by my friend Shri G. S. Basavaraju. While supporting the Bill I would like to offer some valid suggestions for the consideration of the noble Minister to make the functioning of public distribution system more effective.

There was a time when the foodgrain was not at all sufficient to the people of the

[Sh. V. Krishna Rao]

country. We used to import the foodgrains. After independence especially under the able administration of our late lamented leader Indiraji the production of foodgrains has reached great heights. We have achieved self sufficiency in foodgrains and we are also sending foodgrains to various foreign countries. In spite of this the distribution of foodgrains particularly to the poor people of the villages is not satisfactory. There are various loopholes in the public distribution system. As some of my friends have already stated selfless persons should take up the responsibility of public distribution system. Unless this is done the various discussions, speeches, slogans etc. will be of no use. Our Government is giving over 2000 crores of rupees to assist the system. But unfortunately this help is not reaching the people of the country who live in the remote corners of the country.

I hail from a village. I have the first hand experience of the village panchayat. These villages are not fortunate to have a good system of public distribution system. Some kind of public distribution is working in the cities and towns. Foodgrains and other essential commodities are being distributed to the people in the cities and towns. In villages the system is there only for the sake of name. People are not at all benefited by these fair price shops. I make this statement with full responsibility, why is this difference in the system between villages and cities.

Our Prime Minister took bold step in introducing the panchayat Bill in the parliament. The main objective of this Bill is to give power to the village panchayats. Committees can be set up in the village panchayats and these Committees should be given the responsibility of proper distribution of all the essential commodities. Only then the public distribution system can function effectively in the rural areas.

In many rural areas the foodgrains do not reach the fair price shops for five or six months. In cities and towns where the De-

posits are located entire are made and receipts are maintained regarding the supply of foodgrains to the fair price shops of the rural areas. This is how the village people are being cheated and our honourable Minister should come forward to check this malpractice immediately. Boards as suggested in the Bill have to be set up at Taluk, Mandal and State level for the satisfactory functioning of the public distribution system. Vigilance should be strengthened and the persons indulging in malpractices must be punished severely. We have the consumer protection Act. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister Shri Sukh Ram how many persons in the country have been protected by this consumer protection Act. There are so many cooperative Societies in the country. How many are functioning properly? The Government has to ensure that all the commodities reach the fair price shops in rural areas. As soon as the Bill is prepared for foodgrains we should see that they reach their particular shops immediately. I do not know where the palmoline tins go. It is a rare commodity to the village people. Almost the entire quantity that has been allocated to rural fair price shops go to black market. This has to be rectified urgently. While issuing licences we should ensure the capacity of the persons to run the fair price shops according to the expectations of the people.

Adulteration of foodgrains, Sugar, edible Oil etc. is rampant in the country. Even medicines are not spared from adulteration. Such persons must be hanged. The malady of adulteration can be checked only by severe punishments.

People particularly in rural areas stand in very long queues since morning for getting kerosene oil. This is happening because of black market. It is high time for the Government to take stringent measures to stop black marketing completely. A branch of vigilance department should be there in each State. The number of essential commodities should be increased, cloth, soap and other essential commodities must be made available through the fair price shops and the middlemen must be eliminated completely.

There should be committees at the Mandal level, district level etc. to look the working of the fair price shops. Representation must be given to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, weaker sections and women in these Committees.

What is the condition of the godowns which are meant for storing essential commodities. Foodgrain and other commodities are rotting in these godowns. Even pigs and cattle do not eat this foodgrain. These godowns have to be maintained properly.

Now I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister some facts regarding Karnataka State. There are 36 lakh green card-holders. Yellow Card holders are about 26 lakh persons. Centre was supplying 60,000 tonnes of rice to Karnataka till February, 1988. Now, this has been reduced to 40,000 tonnes. Similarly there is a big reduction in the supply of wheat which has been reduced to 15,000 tonnes from 25,000 tonnes. The quantum of edible oil has come down to only 600 tonnes from 13000 tonnes. The quantity of sugar to Karnataka is only 18,000 tonnes. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister about the reduction in the supply of all these essential commodities to the state of Karnataka. What is the sin committed by the State of Karnataka for which there is a sharp reduction in the supply of essential commodities. I urge upon the hon'ble Minister to increase the supply of sugar to atleast 25,000 tonnes from next month onwards. It is very essential to increase the quantum of kerosene oil to Karnataka. It should be atleast 45,000 Kilo liters. I also urge upon the hon'ble Minister to look into the maintenance of godowns throughout the country.

I congratulate the Hon'ble Member Sh. G.S. Basavaraju for bringing this constructive Bill in this august House and wish him good luck in his political ventures.

Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important Bill and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI LAL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH (Sarguja): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill moved by the hon. Member. I personally believe that the success and the failure of a Government can well be assessed by the work done by it. Where the fair price shops are functioning smoothly and effectively, its credit definitely goes to the concerned State Government and the Central Government. Where it is not so, it is the concerned State Government which are to blame for that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our is a big country and in this vast country varieties of cereals are produced at different places and the distribution of foodgrains can be done in a proper way through these fair price shops. I would like to congratulate the Government for proper working of the fair price shops wherever these are functioning smoothly, but there are some drawbacks also in this system and I would very humbly like to draw the attention of the Government towards them. As time is very short, I would like to express my views in brief. Sarguja district of Madhya Pradesh is a deficit area where the distribution system is not functioning properly. I, therefore, feel it necessary to bring it to the notice of the House that only 12,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains are allocated to Sarguja as against its demand for 36,000 metric tonnes. But practically, only 4,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains are being made available for distribution to the poor through fair price shops. Mr. Chairman, sir, it is definitely a matter of surprise that only 4,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains are made available for distribution as against the demand for 36,000 metric tonnes. It is, therefore, very necessary to improve the situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this august House, I would very humbly like to make yet another submission to the hon. Minister. It was only yesterday that a discussion took place in this august House. It was alleged that rice was being sold at Rs. 2 per kilogram in backward and tribal areas while it should have been sold Rs. 1.85 a kilogram. In fact, this matter should be considered seriously. So far as the question of Madhya Pradesh is concerned, rice is definitely distributed at the

[Sh. Lal Vijay Pratap Singh]

rate of Rs. 1.85 a Kg., particularly in areas inhabited by tribals. Though rice is being sold at the rate of Rs. 1.85 a kg., yet one thing I would very humbly like to say that supplying rice at the rate of Rs. 1.85 a kg. at few places only is not proper. As I have already submitted that supply of only 4,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains as against the requirement of 36,000 tonnes is very negligible and it requires reconsideration.

I would like to submit yet another point. there should be a uniform policy for the whole country in this regard. As per the system prevailing in my State, foodgrains are released by the Civil Supplies Corporation to the Government Societies or private dealers for further distribution to the poor at the fag end of the month i.e. on 28th or 29th. You just see when only 2 or 3 days are left for the month to end, the quota is released to them and they face difficulties in its distribution and there is ample scope for malpractices being indulged into and thus the people are deprived of the intended benefit.

Similarly, a number of instances have been quoted from time to time that foodgrains which are rejected and declared unfit for human consumption are being certified to be fit for human consumption after putting them in the sun and recleaning and refining it. I feel that once an item of foodgrains is rejected and declared unfit for human consumption, there is no justification in supplying the same after cleaning and refining it. Such things very often come to our notice. The Government should do *(Interruptions)* Something in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

MR. BASUDEB ACHARIA: The House

was to sit upto 6 PM and the time has not been extended.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. It has been extended upto 7 PM.

(interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIYA: The division was ordered. But no voting took place and no announcement of the result was made ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The lobbies were cleared. Some of you came to the Well of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you not permit me to complete it?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIYA: How has the time of the House been extended? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs. If you want the division to be taken up now, I am prepared to do it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Now it is three minutes past six. The time of the House has not been extended *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will continue the proceedings till 7 PM. The Private Members Business was taken up at 15.53 hrs. So, the discussion on the Private Members Bill will continue till 18.23 hours.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for discussion on this Bill is over. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time by one hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the present, the time is extended by one hour. Shri Lal Vijay Pratap Singh, please continue....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently I returned from a tour of my constituency during which some incidents came to my notice. I would like to refer to them here in brief. Permits for fair price shops are issued under the seal and signature of the Sarpanch in rural areas. But there are some people who have got fake seals and stamps prepared and are running shops. This should be enquired into. In order to check this malpractice, mere cancellation of their shops will not do. Some punitive measure should be provided for it. Only then things will improve.

I would like to further request the Government to evolve a system through which rationed items are made available in the inaccessible areas throughout the year. The commodities should be stocked there well before the start of monsoon season so as to avoid the shortage of these commodities in case of road blockage.

I would like to place before you another point that there are wide difference between the prices charged by the fair price shops and the market prices. This gives rise to the blackmarketing when the stocks run short of requirement. The Government should ensure that adequate stock is made available so that blackmarketing could be checked.

One more important thing that I would like to tell you that in the case of stock falling short of requirement, priority should be given to the people living below the poverty line in the supply of commodities and other people should be covered only if foodgrains and sugar are surplus after supplying to them. It is a very important matter. It is necessary to pay proper attention to these suggestions. Only then you can set right the public distribution system.

With these words, I support this Bill and express my gratitude to you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI HET RAM (Sirsa): I am thankful to the Chairperson for giving me the time. I support the Bill. The problem is faced by the poor persons who require this system. At the level of production, in the villages, small farmers, who are producing goods, are selling at lesser rates because they cannot keep the goods in their hands.

But when they have sold out their goods, the prices are rising. There is no such system by which they can get the goods at a reasonable rate for their own requirement when they need them. Actually what has happened in India is that the corruption has totally killed the whole system. Only this distribution system has saved the poor people from starvation deaths during the famine, whereas in Africa when famine was there, surplus goods were also there, but due to lack of distribution system, hunger deaths took place there. Here corruption in so much that when even a small Inspector or a depot holder is asked why he is so corrupt or why he is indulging in adulteration, he says....*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is irrelevant, it won't form part of the record....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you make a noise? I told you it is irrelevant and it will not form part of the record. So, why do you worry?....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not permitted you to speak. Yes, you continue Mr. Het Ram.

SHRI HET RAM: On the production side, my constituency is producing oilseeds. Oilseeds are there and one party in the

[Sh. Het Ram]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

cooperative sector applied for a licence to set up a vegetable oil industry. He has been trying to get the licence for two years but the Government has given the licence to a firm having political relations, for the production of vegetable oil or *vanaspati*. In my constituency, which is an industrially backward constituency, one entrepreneur has been asking for a licence for the last two years and he has not been awarded the same, whereas the person having political relations has been given the licence in the shortest period. *..(Interruptions)*. I am talking about the Zorawar Vanaspati Ltd. of Jaipur and their political connections are well-known to you and to the hon. Minister also. Actually, my area is producing cotton seeds and *sarson* seeds. The entrepreneur of my constituency has been running from pillar to post to get a licence but the Ministry has verbally told him that "no entrepreneur of Haryana will be given a licence because we are fighting against the Devi Lal Government and no industry is to be established there under his stewardship."*..(Interruptions)*. That is what was reported. Whether it is correct or not, I do not know. But for the last three years he has not got the licence....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): This has been recommended by the Haryana Government. First you find out from the Haryana Government, why did they recommend this case?

SHRI HET RAM: For three years, Congress Government was there. My Party, s Government is there only for the last two years.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I rejected that case twice but the Haryana Government persistently demanded that it should be accepted. There was a question in Parliament also on this.

SHRI HET RAM: Whoever may have got the licence but this poor fellow has not got the licence....*((Interruptions))*.

SHRI HET RAM: The small and marginal farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce. The poor farmers who produce agricultural raw materials do not get remunerative price. Those who wish to produce goods for industrial purposes are not getting licences. In this way, the supply is curtailed and this is the main reason for boosting the prices of goods for common consumption. When there is flood of agricultural produce in the market, the poor farmers sell their goods at throw-away prices. Last year, the price of Gobar, at the time of sowing season, was Rs. 1200 per quintal. But there was no purchaser at the time of harvesting season and the farmers had to sell their produce at Rs. 120 per quintal. Now, tell me how the Government is helping the small and marginal farmers. The same is the position in the case of Gujarat and Haryana in regard to garlic prices. This commodity was selling at Rs. 3000 or even Rs. 4000 per quintal. But there was no purchaser during the harvesting season. They had to sell the goods at Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 per quintal and they were not able even to recover the cost of seed.

Sir, with regard to procurement by Government agencies, I may point out that the Government agencies are adopting corrupt means and malpractices. They hire godowns on the basis of political influence for storing the foodgrains. Adulteration takes place in the foodgrains and edible oils at the level of procurement and at the level of distribution.

Now, Sir, transporting of foodgrains and other essential commodities is another problem. In Haryana, in U.P., in Rajasthan, wheat is produced. First it is transported to a far off place, then it is retransported to the villages and then they distribute the foodgrain to the villagers during the lean period. This is another way of charging the poor. The poor villagers have to bear the extra-cost of re-transporting of the grains to the villages from the far off places, directly or indirectly. *(Interruptions)*

Then, sir, regarding distribution, I would like to mention how the poor people are affected. In this connection, I would like to refer to Munshi Prem Chand's story of 'Coffin' where the father and his son are enjoying the potato vegetable they procured while the father's daughter-in-law inside the hut is about to die. They get money for meeting the cost of coffin for the daughter-in-law but with that money they bought food and enjoyed. This is how they cared for their near and dear ones. They did not value for their own kith and kin because they were in starvation. So, Sir, unless corruption and malpractices are done away with, the Government cannot do anything for the poor people. There should be fair distribution of essential commodities and foodgrains and there should not be any middlemen who always exploit the poor and weaker sections. The persons in high positions earn money by exporting high quality of foodgrains. They earn more and more even by adopting unfair means. But the poor persons are getting sub-standard commodities which are not even fit for the consumption of animals.

Sir, I support this Bill which has been brought forward in this House as a Private Member Bill. I request that this Bill may be considered and passed by this House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the private Member's Bill moved by Shri Basavaraju. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru had once said that gold and silver were not our property but our property was foodgrains which provided food to the maximum number of people. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had given the slogan of "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan". Our former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had ushered in green revolution in this country. Treading on the same path, our present Prime Minister is taking the country ahead on the path of development. It is the result of his efficiency that to-day we have become fully self-sufficient in foodgrains. Though the country experienced floods and droughts for the past few years, the Government always main-

tained a buffer stock of 15 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in its godowns. The country is forging ahead in every field under the able leadership of the Prime Minister. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Indian Republic we are distressed to find that despite all these achievements and progress all around, our colleagues from Opposition see darkness all around and they do not see rays of light anywhere. From the happenings in this House during the last 3 to 4 days, it seems that they have set aside all decorum, rules and norms of disciplines. Whatever they are doing is very distressful and shameful. They are also the elected representatives of the people and they should also think about the country's interest. Always thinking of the darkness is not at all in the interest of the country. To-day, they should think about the direction towards which the country is moving. As compared to the present day, the population of the country was just one third at the time of independence—and we had to depend on others for foodgrains. But to-day we are self-reliant. I feel that the public distribution system is functioning smoothly all over the country. Earlier, there was black-marketing and hoarding, but to-day nothing of the sort is there. But I would like to say through you that the public distribution system is not functioning satisfactorily in some far flung areas of the country. Foodgrains are not reaching these areas properly. No Government godowns have been constructed there. I want that some improvement should be made in the system so that every poor person, every villager living in far flung areas gets foodgrains in time. There are certain areas in the country which lack the means of communication. I want that the Government should pay attention to it. Whenever some areas suffer from floods or drought communication system is totally disrupted and prices of essential commodities soar. Prices of kerosene, wheat, rice and other foodgrains rise sharply. Prices of other commodities also go up. I want the government to take some effective steps to control prices. The hon. Minister should pay attention to areas where communication is disrupted. The Government should pay special attention to far flung areas.

[English]

(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Paswan, You can continue next time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I say, I am free to hear any person before giving the Ruling. Please keep quite.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Government business.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What is your Ruling?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I have a point of order, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ruling Will be given only after hearing others also as I made it plain already.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

(Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: My point of order is that it is now twenty-three minutes past Six. As the Private members Business was started late, we allowed it to continue up to 6.23 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You do not know the procedure. You sit down....

(Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give the Ruling. Why do you waste your energy? I will give the Ruling. You please keep quite.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give the ruling on your point of order. But I will give the ruling after hearing the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. That is perfectly in order. You sit down....

(Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pandey, you please resume your seat

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI-MATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, if the hon. Member believes that the voice vote in this House is no more a vote—would also like to discuss the C&AG report, because even the discussion on the C&AG report which has been postponed to Monday was taken only by a voice vote, after a division had been called—then, I would submit that either you give us a ruling saying that 'Ayes' and 'Noes' are not considered as legitimate voting in this House; otherwise, we would like to go by this logic saying that you do not want to discuss...(Interruptions) You can take another voting right now by division... .. (Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, the time of the sitting of the House has not been extended. The division was called, but voting had not taken place. The result of the division was not announced. The process was not completed. So, as the time of the House has not been extended, the house should be adjourned immediately. This should not be continued further.. (Interruptions).

What is you Ruling?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say anything on this point?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give my Ruling.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Sir, I want to finish....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you raising any fresh point of order or have you got anything to say on this point of order?

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Sir, for the past three days, what the Opposition has been doing is to stall the proceedings and run away from the discussion....*(Interruptions)* They have no logic, they have no reasoning behind them... *(Interruptions)* The Government wants to take up important Bills for the welfare of the people of this country, but these people do not want to participate in that.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Sir, the extension of the House beyond 6 O' clock has not been properly done.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Sir, it has been properly done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please leave it to the Chair.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Sir, the Private Members' Business was supposed to start at 3.30 p.m. and whatever the parliamentary Affairs Minister did *(Interruptions)* This extension is illegal and cannot be allowed. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will not hear more than one person from each Party.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): I had already raised an objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN): I know the rule. There is some practice and procedure.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: The process has not been completed. The extension of time was proposed. Then the vote was to

be taken. In the meantime, the Deputy Speaker adjourned the House without taking the vote. No extension was given. There is no justification for continuing the House.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): I stand to state the truth. I never utter untruth. I was present throughout. The Deputy Speaker did call for a division. The division bell was rung and he also said that the lobbies had been cleared. But, afterwards the process was not completed. He did not take voice vote of the House. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No point of order is allowed.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): There can be a point of order if there is something new.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not permit any new point of order. I have only permitted each Member from every Party to talk on this point of order. That is all. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: I am on a point of order on humanitarian grounds. My wife is alone at home and the law and order in Delhi is very bad. I do not like to leave my wife alone in the late hour at home. So, the House must be adjourned immediately because it is already 6.30 PM and the parliamentary Affairs Minister being a lady, she should consider the case of a lady who is sitting at home working for her husband. *(Interruptions)*.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): If the Opposition hon. Members feel that the time was not extended validly by a proper vote and all that, then I would submit that let us have a fresh vote. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: How can you?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I know. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister or any Mem-

[Sh. Vasant Sathe]

ber can move that the House be extended by three hours up to 9.30 PM to discuss the CAG report. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have heard both sides. When the motion for extension was taken up, the lobbies were cleared. But the Opposition Members came to the well of the House. So, the division could not take place. So, the motion was carried by voice vote. That decision is corroborated by subsequent conduct of the House. Even if the Private Members' Bills started at 3.30 or 4.00 or 5.30, the time of the House is only up to 6.00. For the conduct of the House, we followed the earlier procedure and continued the discussion on Private Members' Business till 6.23 PM. The decision is already carried out. Now there is no fresh point before this House.

18.35 hrs.

DELHI MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION (AMENDMENT) BILL - *Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up further consideration of the Delhi Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill.

Shri Rajesh Pilot.

"(At this stage, Shri Satyagopal Misra and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table)"

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Sir, the Delhi Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1962 is the principal instrument through which taxes are imposed on motor vehicles in the union Territory of Delhi. Under the provisions of this Act, Delhi Administration levy and collect taxes on quarterly, half-yearly and yearly basis. During the past few years, there has been spectacular growth in vehicles population. The

vehicles registered in Delhi have increased from 5.36 lakhs in March 1981 to 14.65 lakhs in March, 1989. For collection of taxes with frequent periodicity for such a large number of vehicles, Delhi Administration has been making elaborate arrangements each year through banks, post-offices and its own counters to effect realisation of road tax. The arrangements made year after year have been found to be not fully adequate. Thus, tax payers are put to inconvenience. (*Interruptions*)

Transport Development Council, which is an apex advisory body on Roads and Road Transport, in its meeting held in 1986 and in subsequent meetings repeatedly recommended for adoption of a system of one time lump-sum tax in respect of personalised vehicles to mitigate the difficulties of tax payers and also ensure cent per cent tax realisation.... (*Interruptions*)

A system of levying and collecting one-time tax in respect of personalised vehicles like scooters, cars etc. has already been operative in the States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Union Territories of Chandigarh, Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa and Pondicherry. Other States are also processing the matter for amending their respective Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts to introduce lump-sum one-time tax on personalised vehicles.. (*Interruptions*)

Delhi Administration, with the recommendation of the Metropolitan Council, has accordingly proposed to amend the Delhi Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1962 and the present Bill namely, Delhi Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1989 is aimed to introduce a system of one-time tax in respect of non-transport vehicles in Delhi. The basic principle adopted in this Bill for computing the lump-sum tax is the charging of one-time tax equivalent to annual tax for 10 years to be paid at the time of registration of vehicles itself. The care has also been taken that (a) the owner of a vehicle already registered would require to pay the tax in lump-sum only on proportionate basis, (b) that there is

a provision for making refund whenever there is a temporary as well as permanent non-use of vehicle and when the vehicle is transferred from Union Territory of Delhi to the other State (*Interruptions*)

The proposal would suit the convenience of the tax payers and in addition would lead to reduce the administrative cost of collection of tax which is to be incurred by Delhi Administration each year. (*Interruptions*)

With these words, Sir, I now move the motion that the Bill may kindly be taken into consideration. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does any Member want to speak? I find none.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1962, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted

"(At this stage Shri C. Madhav Reddi and some other hon. Members Left the House.)"

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, it is one of the finest Bills to remove the burden of the citizens. I am very happy that the House is unanimously passing this Bill. I beg to move:

"that the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to re-assemble on Monday, the 24th July, 1989 at 11.00 a.m.

18.40 hours.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 24, 1989/ Shrawana 2, 1911 (Saka)