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Friday, August 26, 1987
Bhadra 4, 1909 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Eighth Session

(Eighth Lok Sabha)

(Vol. XXI contains Nos. 71 to 80)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 26, 1987/Bhadra 4, 1909 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Tree Plantation

*438. DR. K.G. ADIYODI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trees planted State-wise up to March, 1987 both in Central and State sector, separately;

(b) the variety of trees planted and annual yield of wood per hectare; and

(c) the number of Scheduled Tribe families employed and the annual income earned by them under the scheme, State-wise?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Number of trees planted both in Central and State sector separately is not available because such type of statistics is not maintained. However, Statement-I showing the number of trees planted which includes Central and State Sector during the Sixth Plan and first two years of Seventh Plan i.e. 1985-86 and 1986-87 is given below.

(b) Type of trees selected for planting depends on the local agro-climatic conditions and requirement of local people. Preference is given to fuelwood, fodder and small timber and fast-growing species. Statement II showing the names of the main species is given below. The actual annual yield of wood per hectare is not maintained at field level. But subject to favorable climatic conditions and good maintenance, the average approximate yield of wood of some of the species is given in the Statement-III below.

(c) No information is maintained in this manner at the field level.

STATEMENT-I

Number of trees planted (Twenty Point Programme)

S.N	State/UT	1980-81 To 1986-87 (No. in crores) Total
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	118.6
2.	Assam	25.1
3.	Bihar	85.0
4.	Gujarat	154.0
5.	Haryana	53.3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	33.5
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.6
8.	Karnataka	131.6
9.	Kerala	50.4
10.	Madhya Pradesh	201.4
11.	Maharashtra	122.2
12.	Manipur	6.6
13.	Meghalaya	6.0
14.	Nagaland	12.8
15.	Orissa	85.6
16.	Punjab	34.5
17.	Rajasthan	46.0

1	2	3
18.	Sikkim	4.9
19.	Tamil Nadu	81.6
20.	Tripura	11.1
21.	Uttar Pradesh	196.5
22.	West Bengal	56.5
23.	A & N Islands	5.6
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.4
25.	Chandigarh	0.2
26.	Delhi	2.0
27.	Dadra & Nagra Haveli	1.6
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	2.0
29.	Lakshdweep	0.0
30.	Mizoram	27.2
31.	Pondicherry	0.5
	Grand Total	1,583.3

STATEMENT-II

LIST OF MAIN SPECIES

FUELWOOD

Deshi babul, vilayati babul, subabul, khejri, eucalyptus, kanji, casuarine, Australian babul, Israili babul.

FODDER

Subabul, safed siris, neem, lasora, kathal, kala siris, kachnar, ber babul, Maharukh, sainjna, khejri, bakain, arjun, bahera, sandan.

TIMBER

Eucalyptus, sagon, shisham, bans, Gamhar, babul, siris, jamun, khair, poplar, neem.

STATEMENT-III

AVERAGE APPROXIMATE
ANNUAL YIELD OF WOOD OF SOME TREE SPECIES

	Species	Yield (m3/ha/yr).
1.	Australian babul	15-20
2.	Deshi babul	4-8
3.	Neem	5-18
4.	Casuarina	5-18
5.	Shisham	5-8
6.	Eucalyptus	10-40
7.	Gamhar	18-32
8.	Subabul	20-35
9.	Vilayati babul	3-9
10.	Khejri	3-12

Note: The above figures are subject to favourable climatic conditions and good maintenance.

[*English*]

DR K.G. ADIYODI: We have planted 1583 crore trees during the last few years. The physical target has, of course, been fully achieved, and the money target. But the survival is below 50%. Is there any method to collect the exact survival from the block levels? If not, will Government take this up very seriously?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has asked about the survival. So far as the survival is concerned, it depends on climate and availability of water. Survival is good in those areas where rainfall is adequate and climate is good. Our annual survival is 40 to 90 per cent. You know that Rajasthan is a drought prone area and there has not been rainfall to the desired level there. Rajasthan has been experiencing drought for three successive years as a result of which the trees planted there do not survive, but in other States where rainfall is good and water is available, 90 per cent of planted trees survive. In this way, the survival in different states is 40 to 90 per cent - in some states, it is 50 per cent, in some states it is 60 per cent and in some other states, it is 70 per cent.

The second thing he asked is about average. I would like to say that the world's average is 7 cubic meters per hectare per annum whereas our average is 0.75 to 1 cubic meter per hectare per annum.

[*English*]

DR. K.G. ADIYODI: From the reply it is clear that our national average is far below the world's average. Even the Asian average we are not able to achieve. So it is a serious problem. When are you going to achieve it?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have just now said, the world's average is 7 cubic meters per hectare per annum whereas our average in India is 0.75 to one cubic meter per hectare per annum. As you know, we cannot compare it with other countries, because their climate is favourable and adequate water is available there. Besides, there is one more reason for this that the cattle grazing system as we have in our country is not there in other countries. There are very dense forests and very good forests. That is why their production is better but in our country, the rainfall is inadequate and the climate is also not favourable.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Every thing is bad here... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Everything is not bad. If you will see with good eyes, you will find everything good, but if you see with evil eyes, even the good thing will appear to be a bad thing.

I was telling you from the tree plantation point of view that the climate of other countries is more favourable for tree plantation than that of our country.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: The atmosphere is also not favourable.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You have polluted it and we are not responsible for that. You remain busy in polluting the atmosphere throughout the year. What I mean to say is that we try our level best to protect trees and to step up their yield or production. But as you know that we have to depend on nature and we have been experiencing drought for three successive years and as a result of which we are suffering a heavy loss.

[*English*]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: With respect to forests and other trees, three Acts substantially come into the picture. One is the Indian Forest Act, the other is Forest Conservation Act, and the third one is Tree Protection Act. The Tree Protection Act has been enacted by various State Governments under which there are beautiful provisions in the sense even if a private person wants to cut a tree from his compound, he has to take permission from the government, and after cutting it, he has to plant a tree of the nature that the government tells him to plant. In case he fails to plant a tree, the government can plant it at the expense of the owner. This is the type of provisions has got. Have you tried to see as to which are the State Governments which have enacted this Tree Protection Act? If some State Governments have not enacted the Tree Protection Act, which have beautiful provisions - for example, my State has enacted this legislation - will you please enquire from those State Governments whether they are going to enact this Tree Protection Act? If they do not do it, will you please direct them to enact this legislation?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the Forest Protection

Act is concerned, the Government has already enacted it and we have also directed the State Governments to protect the forests. We have given clear instructions to the State Governments to this effect, but we are trying to amend the Act to make it more stringent. We intend to bring Amendment Bill to this effect in the next session of the Parliament to remove lacuna. We want to make the provision of punishment more stringent so that illegal cutting of the forests and misuse of them could be effectively checked.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister might be aware of the fact that in India we do not have sufficient green coverage which should be about 33 per cent of the total land. Instead of it we find that we have only 6 per cent to 9 per cent green coverage. The main reason of it is that even after independence, the people, mostly the adivasi people who reside near forests, are still illegally cutting the forests, because they, due to compulsion of their poverty, depend on forests for their livelihood. All of you know that it is not possible to check the illegal cutting of forests without providing alternative employment to these people. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what action Government is going to take in this direction?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said by the hon. Member is very important and he is also right in saying so. If we do not pay attention towards the preservation of forests, we will face the problem of rainfall and our natural climate will also be disturbed. It is also true that we must have forests at least on one third of total land. As per the revenue record we have 28 per cent green coverage in our country, but actually it is less even than that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It is only in revenue record, but physically it is not so.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: So far as I know it is not more than 18 per cent and we must admit this fact. The Government alone cannot do anything and for this purpose we need full cooperation of all public representatives irrespective of their party or State which they represent. We try our level best to make the law more stringent, but even then we need your cooperation. As I have already told you that we have enacted laws for forest protection and we also implement them.

Secondly, you have asked about the poor adivasi people. It is true that if we have to remove them, we must provide them alternative source of their livelihood. We have started *Tree Patta* scheme for those adivasis who are living near the forests. We allot one to two hectares of land to them on which they can plant trees. Such allotted land is not transferred in their name, but they become the owners of trees planted by them on the said allotted land. Similarly, we have formulated schemes for nursery and the Central Government provides subsidy for this purpose. This scheme has been started to provide work to the poor people and to meet the requirement of plants of the forest department. Apart from this, the Government also provides seedlings at subsidised rate of 45 paise per seedling for social forestry and farm forestry.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many adivasis in Maharashtra have been benefited under this scheme? Secondly, I would like to know as to what species of trees have been planted there? In Maharashtra teak tree is the best tree. So I would like to know whether it has been included in the tree plantation programme in Maharashtra or not?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not have figures as to what kind of trees have been planted in a particular State, because that depends on

the soil, rainfall and climate of a particular area. The trees best suited to the climate and soil are planted. So far as Maharashtra is concerned, during last seven years, Rs. 122 crores have been spent on tree plantation in Maharashtra alone.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have completed 40 years of independence. Due to the contracts given to the contractors every year for cutting the trees, at present, we do not have even half of the forests which we had at the time of independence and as a result of it, everywhere we do not have adequate rainfall and filth is also increasing. You have said that Tree Plantation Programme has been started. So I would like to ask as to how many trees have been planted and in which States and what kind of trees would be planted in Seventh Five Year Plan and how would they be protected? As has been pointed out by Shri Choubeyji, the adivasis live in forests and earn their livelihood by selling wood in cities and graze their animals in the forests. But now due to the merciless cutting of forests, the adivasi people are becoming jobless as neither they nor their cattles get anything to eat from the forests. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what facilities Government propose to provide to these people? The merciless cutting of trees has adversely affected the rainfall in our area. I would like to know whether the Government has any report about the kind of trees which are useful to check the unhealthy atmosphere?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon. Member is very lengthy and it is also a good question. In this regard, I would like to say only this much that cutting of trees through contractors comes under state subject and the Central Government does not come in the picture. If you have any complaint you should ask the State Government as to why it gives contracts of cutting of trees to unscrupulous contractors. The Central Government also have the same complaint and we want that minimum trees should be cut. For this purpose a working plan is prepared under which old trees which are worth cutting are shown and only those trees could be cut in a particular year. If any State Government does not follow the working plan, we also ask them to strictly follow the same. It is a state subject, so in this regard you should ask the State Government. If anything comes to your notice, you can give it in writing and we will enquire into it whether that was included in the working plan or not?

It was also asked by the hon. Member as to how much amount Government is going to spend on this Scheme. I would like to inform that during Seventh Five Year Plan we are going to spend Rs. 2405 crores on tree plantation against the expenditure of Rs. 962 crores incurred in Sixth Five Year Plan throughout the country. In 1985-86 and 1986-87 we had spent Rs. 327 crores and Rs. 463 crores respectively on tree plantation programme.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI: When we talk so much of environment, we have to keep in mind plants, micro-flora, the soil, the air, the water, minerals and metals and of course the human being. Sir, destruction of any one part of this web means damage to life itself. Now, to maintain ecological environment plantation of trees is not the only way. But it is also necessary that we should keep in mind the motto of development without destruction, having a balanced compromise between consumption of natural resources for development and conservation of ecology. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken by the Government to prevent merciless cutting of trees and plants and also destruction by cattle and other natural calamities.

Once I asked the same question about merciless cutting of trees in the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu, but I got a reply about some nilgiris in Maharashtra.... (*Interruptions*) I would also like to know about the First Ecological Task Force for planting trees.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Only one supplementary is allowed.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI: It is part of the supplementary. This was raised with the blessings of our beloved late Shrimati Indira Gandhi.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, more than one supplementary is not allowed.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI: I would like to know as to what has happened to that force.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has rightly said that atmosphere, ecology and environment should be preserved and it is only possible if we prevent the destruction of trees. Indiscriminate cutting of trees has slightly disturbed the climate of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The second thing, she has pointed out is about the involvement. To maintain the ecological balance we have to protect the trees. For this purpose, it is the duty of every individual to extend full cooperation to the Government. Laws have been enacted and we have asked the State Governments for their speedy implementation. Many States have taken speedy action to implement them. We have written to the States time and again to protect the forests. But as I have already said, the States did not implement the law fully. We are going to make this law more

As regards protection from drought and flood, there is no denying the fact that if there will be no trees, drought will occur and also floods will occur. We require both trees and good environment in order to protect ourselves from drought and floods. Only trees will not serve the purpose but it requires other things also. We are making every effort to create good environment. All of us are required to work unitedly for this purpose. Only then the environment will be free from pollution.

[*English*]

Environmental Pollution

*439. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up an expert Committee to study and examine the extent of human exposure to high level of suspended particulate matter resulting from combustion of coal, oil and wood:

(b) if so, the result of the study; and

(c) the steps taken to control suspended particulate matter and sulphur-dioxide pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps taken to control suspended particulate matter and sulphur-dioxide pollution include the following:

(i) Ambient air quality standards for different categories of areas have been prescribed.

ing stations has been set up.

(iii) Emission standards have been laid down in respect of twelve varieties of major air polluting industries.

(iv) Air pollution control areas have been designated.

(v) Industrial units, are advised to install pollution control devices and flue gas desulphurisation plants.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has said 'No' and 'Does not arise' in his answer to parts (a) and (b) of the question. I was expecting that he will give in his answer the list of network of air quality monitoring stations but it has not been given. I would like to know whether he will be able to provide it now. Despite the monitoring stations and their suggestions, many of the industrial units do not comply with the requirements to stop the air pollution. For example, thermal power stations are required to instal electrostatic precipitators, but we see in Delhi that because of thermal power stations lot of coal has accumulated in the air which is flown throughout the crowded parts of Delhi. Even in North Avenue and South Avenue, we are finding lot of dust. How much dust goes into the ears and noses of the people and effects the lungs, is a question to be imagined. Wherever there are sugar factories and fertiliser plants, even in rural areas, the dust is also there. So, my first supplementary is to know the number of monitoring stations and their places.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Sir, as regards the number of monitoring stations which have been sanctioned, 75 stations were sanctioned earlier and ten more have been added very recently, bringing the total number of monitoring stations to 85. Out of these 85, 48 are operating and 37 are yet to become functional. The hon. Member wanted to know the names of these monitoring stations. I can provide that long list to the hon. Member. Presently I do not have the long list but if the hon. Member is interested in knowing the specific names of those monitoring stations, I shall certainly provide.

As far as the thermal power stations are concerned, it is the ignition which is polluting the atmosphere, and specially it is more severe a problem in Delhi. We have taken a number of steps to force these power stations to instal effective electrostatic precipitators. Some of these power stations have installed electrostatic precipitators, but the difficulty is that the electrostatic precipitators which were installed were designed on the technology which was available in the Western countries. There is a basic difference between the conditions prevailing in the West and the conditions prevailing in India because of two factors - one is the wheather and the other is the coal and oil which is being used here. In India, the coal which is used is a low sulphur content and more ash content coal. In the Western countries, the coal which is used has got more sulphur content and less ash content. So, those electrostatic precipitators which were designed on that pattern, had not worked well. Therefore, BHEL has now designed new electrostatic precipitators which are being installed. It takes time to give order and to instal it. Therefore, we have given a time-bound programme to these thermal power stations to instal electrostatic precipitators and we are taking all steps. In some cases we found that they are not taking any steps. We have asked them to close down that thermal power station. We have also prosecuted one thermal power station in Delhi itself. These are the steps which we are taking, and you know, Sir, that this is a process which will take some time.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Sir, the Minister

has given round and round answer. He just tried to create an air-pocket. My major question in the first supplementary was that it is not only the low sulphur content which is responsible for air pollution, but even the ash which is very dangerous for the lungs. The dust that is coming out of hundreds of cement factories being installed all over the country, also requires to be controlled. My second supplementary is that along with the industrial units, the vehicles running on the roads, specially in the crowded metropolitan cities, that is, Madras, Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay, and even in other crowded cities, are also creating lot of air pollution. So, I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of enacting some laws for the vehicles which emit more gas because of the faulty engines or because of no proper repairs of the engines. Under the Motor Vehicles Act we insist that there should be red light on the back of the vehicles, the brakes should be properly checked, and the lights should be on when the brakes are applied, and if these are not provided, we punish them. So, likewise in crowded cities, are you going to enact a law that if there are faulty engines in the vehicles and they are emitting lot of gas, if even fifty per cent combustion is not there, and the air pollution is more, action will be taken... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is enough.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Sir, I think I could not explain to the hon. Member in reply to his first question. I am sorry for that. Actually, the low sulphur content coal which is used here, has got more ash content, and because of low sulphur content, the electrostatic precipitators which are designed on the basis of the technology in the West, are not working well. Appropriate technology has been developed in BHEL and when those electrostatic precipitators with the appropriate technology suited to the Indian conditions will be installed, they will work well, provided the maintenance is well taken care of.

As far as the vehicular pollution is concerned, the specific question put by the hon. Member was whether we are going to have some law to control the vehicular pollution. I understand that in the Motor Vehicles Act which is presently there, there is a provision for making some rules at the State level. The State Governments can make rules under the Motor Vehicles Act. In Maharashtra, in Bombay they have made certain rules under the Motor Vehicles Act to control the vehicular pollution. We have taken up the matter with the other States also to frame rules to control the vehicular pollution. We have also taken up the matter with the concerned Ministry to change the Motor Vehicles law which is an old law, and provide measures for the control of vehicular pollution in the law itself so that there may not be any need of depending on the States to frame rules under that law. These are the steps which we are taking. We have also taken up the matter with the Petroleum Ministry to reduce the lead content in the oil which is being used.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They are mixing kerosene also in the petrol and that also creates more pollution.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: The standards have been prescribed for it. And also the Motor Vehicles Act has been amended in the House in May, 1987 and it has been taken up.

The hon. Member wanted to know the places where monitoring centres....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: The open cast mining in coal field indulged by Coal India Ltd has resulted in lot of environmental problems. Will the Minister tell us whether any steps have been taken to stop this

damaging practice in the coal field of Assam? (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You repeat the question.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: The open cast mining from the top by felling trees in vast areas has resulted in lot of environmental problems, specially in the coal field of Assam. This is being indulged by the contractors engaged by the Coal India Ltd. This has resulted in evacuation of a large number of tribal people, besides other problems. Will the Minister inform the House whether any steps have been taken to do away with the very damaging practice ind 'lged by the Coal India Ltd?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: As far as we are concerned, when any mining case comes to us for clearance, we try to discourage this open cast mining. It is because, I know the hazards of open cast mining. Unless it is not possible to have the other system, we do not normally agree to the open cast mining. I know the hazards which are there.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: It is not more economical or more viable technologically.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: There are many things. If the report of the expert is that the open cast mining is only possible and the other system is not possible, only then, we allow open cast mining. Otherwise normally we do not allow open cast mining which is certainly a hazard.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify the position regarding pollution caused due to mining of coal. If coal-mining is stopped, it will create great difficulty for us. We have to develop the country also. I would like to inform the hon. Member that it will be the sole responsibility of the mine or the factory management to check the emission of ashes and smoke which creates pollution problem. If they do not take any action in this direction, legal action will be taken against them.

[*English*]

Cut in US Aid

*440. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI†:
SHRI K.V. SHANKARA GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has conveyed to the United States its unhappiness over the decision of the House of the Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee to cut by one third American Development assistance for India during 1988;

(b) if so, the reaction of the U.S. Government;

(c) whether the U.S. Government has agreed to reconsider its decision; and

(d) if not, to what extent it will affect India's development projects and the steps being taken to meet it?

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

STATEMENT

While considering the Foreign Aid Bill proposed by the US Administration for US FY 1988, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US House of Representatives passed a

Resolution in March '87 that development assistance to India be reduced to $35 million instead of $50 million proposed by the US administration. The House Foreign Affairs Committee considers Foreign Aid Bill proposed by the US Administration as a part of their legislative approval process. The Aid Bill is to be further debated by the full House of Representatives. The full Senate is also yet to discuss the Aid Bill. The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate which has already discussed the Aid Bill has not made any recommendation of a cut for India. Therefore, at this stage, it is not possible to state what the final quantum of development assistance to India for the Fiscal Year 1988 will be. the proposed reduction in US development assistance to India will not have any overall impact on our development being a very small proportion of our investment, the preponderant part of which is financed through our own resources.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: I would like to ask the hon. Minister what are the various reasons given by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of the Representatives for such a cut of $15 million as against $50 million during the year 1988 by U.S.A.

Has any assurance been given by the Reagan Administration at the time of our Prime Minister visit to U.S.A. for the developmental assistance? What is the outcome of the final committee?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: This is only recommendation of one of the committees. For final decision on the aid, the procedure is that as soon as the U.S. Admn. sends its proposal, it is considered by the Committee for Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives and the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate. Then it is considered both by the House of Representatives and by the Senate and thereafter, if necessary , a Conference between the Committees is held with a view to sort out the differences and thereafter ultimately the aid is decided. Therefore, if one of the Committees has recommended cut in the aid, then it is not final. I am hopeful that perhaps aid of 50 million dollars would be forthcoming. But I would say that we are receiving this aid not on our own request. They are giving the aid to us as they are giving to all other nations and, therefore, there should not be any apprehension. Even if the help is not to the extent of 50 million dollars, it would not have any adverse effect on our economy because most of our projects are financed by us from our own resources.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: What are the main reasons given by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US House of Representatives for such a cut of 15 million dollars during 1988 by US?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: United States fiscal year starts from October 1 to September 30th. The major neighbouring countries which receive aid are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Philippines and India. But so far as Pakistan and other countries are concerned, they are given military aid also. So far as India is concerned, we are only getting developmental aid.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Which are the main projects wherein development assistance has been given by US during 1988?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: So far as 50 million dollars are concerned, we have signed the following agreement.

One agreement is about the Hill areas and Water Development.	8	million dollars.
National Social Forestry.	11.50	-do-
Agricultural Research.	3	-do-
Irrigation Management Projects.		
Bio-Medical Research Support.		
Programme for the advancement of Commercial Technology.		
Vaccine Immunology Project.		

These seven agreements have already been signed.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: I think that US assistance whether it is 30 million dollars or 50 million dollars, it is a very small portion of our over-all development expenditure. In view of the fact that US Government has given to Pakistan, over 4.04 million dollars for military assistance, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government themselves will visit the place where the House of US Congress is proposing to reduce 50 million dollars to 35 million dollars. Will the Government consider it or reject this?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: This US aid is coming to us, as I have already stated, not on our request; we do not go and request them to give this. They started this aid long time back. In 1972, they suspended this and again in 1978, they started it.

[*Translation*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT: The question is very simple.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: I am giving the reply. The difficulty is that. You become very impatient.

[*English*]

So far as India is concerned, we do not avail any military assistance from United States of America.

So far as Pakistan is concerned, last year i.e. 1987, military assistance was given to the extent of 313.4 million dollars and so far as 1988 is concerned, it is 290.0.

So far as India is concerned, last year we received $ 53 million. This year, American Administration suggested an outlay of $ 50 million. We will think about the cut when the final decision comes.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: I would like to know whether Foreign Affairs Committee thought about this decision and influenced the IDA from 18% to 15% and with observation and direction to India to improve our relations with Israel. If so, what is the reaction of the Government? I will put my question again so that it would be clear to you. My question is whether the Foreign Affairs Committee's decision has influenced the IDA and it has reduced the assistance to 15 per cent from 18 per cent with the recommendation to improve our relations with Israel. If so, what is the reaction of the Government?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: So far as the Foreign Affairs Committee of the United States House of Representatives is concerned, this is only a recommendation...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: My question is: whether the decision of the Foreign Affairs Committee has influenced the IDA authority to reduce the aid to 15 per cent from 18 per cent with the recommendation that we have to improve our relations with Israel.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: That is what I was about to tell you. What prompted them to take a particular decision and suggest a cut in the aid, we are not concerned with it. So far as the aid to us is concerned, it has not been constant of a similar figure of a similar percentage. But it has varied from year to year. Therefore, we would not like to go into the details as to what were the guiding factors for that recommendation.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): I would like to supplement what my hon. colleague has said. The question pertains to U.S. Aid cut. It does not pertain to IDA Aid. Regarding IDA, what is required is a separate question. But this question is entirely a different one. But I might make it clear that any influence, any resolution passed by any Foreign Affairs Committee, is not going to change our policy regarding Israel. We are standing firm on that.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. G.G. SWELL: Sir, although the quantum of this aid is small, I do not agree with the Minister when he said that "we are not concerned with the reasons as to why this United States House Committee has arrived at this particular decision". Now, I would like to know whether on our part, we have tried to ascertain whether there are some economic reasons for this Committee to take this kind of a decision or it is an act of peevishness. If it is peevishness, what are the reasons to make them feel peeved about it. Have we done anything on our part from our Embassy there to try to ascertain the reasons? To say that we are not concerned with it, that does not give any proper reply.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: As I said earlier, the U.S. Aid decision would finally be known after the scrutiny or decision by many Committees, the Senate and the Congress.

Now, one of the Committees has decided this. Therefore, we should not prejudge the matter and jump to conclusions because still there is some process yet to be followed. But, I can tell you as my hon. Minister has said that if anybody wants to put the economic shackles on the feet of India, then we would like to forego the aid rather than allow them to put the shackles on our feet for getting aid.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. G.G. SWELL: I have asked you whether we have on our own tried to find it out. We have an Embassy in Washington. We have other organisations in Washington, in the U.S. Have we, on our own part, tried to ascertain as to what are the reasons as to why they have arrived at this decision? Your answer is something else.

SHRI B.K. GHADVI: Presently, on this count, I don't have any information. I will pass it on to him later when it is available.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the request for development assistance was made by the Government of

India or the Government of U.S.A. Will this assistance be given in the form of grant-in-aid or it will have to be repaid? What are the schemes for which this assistance is being given or proposed to be given? Are those schemes included in our plans and form part of our Five Year Plans? Perhaps, works we are going to do with this assistance may not be beneficial for us, because in lieu of that a burden and an obligation is being imposed on us. Can we not reject this assistance keeping in view our self-respect?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Sir, in reply to hon. Member's question, I would like to clarify that this assistance is not in the form of a donation for which we made any sort of request. There is nothing of the sort. As has already been said by my colleague, the U.S.A. has been giving this assistance since long. It is being received in the form of loan as well as grant-in-aid. The portion covered under loan is repaid in 40 years and there is grace period of 10 years. In other words repayment starts after 10 years.The rate of interest for first ten years is 2 per cent and thereafter, it is 3 per cent. The schemes to be implemented with the help of this assistance include some such schemes which are continuing since long. A list of these schemes has been given by my colleague. For example, we have been receiving assistance for Medium Irrigation Scheme in Gujarat, M.P. Minor Irrigation Scheme, Hill Area Land and Water Development Scheme, Integrated Rural Health, Population and Family Planning, HUDCO, Survival Health Support Project etc. etc. and it is still being received. This assistance was also received for these schemes.

So far as the national honour is concerned, I would like to tell that there is no question of national honour being sacrificed. We would never like to receive assistance in any form at the cost of our national honour.

Pollution from Badarpur Thermal Power House

*441 SHRI BHARAT SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high efficiency electrostatic precipitators to replace the three units of the Badarpur Power House in Delhi, which were not functioning satisfactorily, have been installed;

(b) whether there are still complaints that Badarpur Thermal Power House continues to cause pollution and spreads ash on the animal fodder and on the roof tops of the houses in the nearby villages; and

(c) if so, what further steps Government are contemplating to prevent the pollution caused by this Power House?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The steps taken to prevent the pollution include the following:

The Thermal Power House has been directed to install high efficiency precipitators to replace those three units which are not functioning satisfactorily by May 1988.

Improvement in coal handling and ash disposal facilities;

Emission and effluent standards have been prescribed; and

Thermal Power House has been directed to take necessary measures for compliance of these standards on time bound basis.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHARAT SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to the time by which arrangements will be made to check falling of coal ash emanaling from Badarpur Thermal Power Station on nearby houses, kitchens, fodder for cattle and grass because it causes a lot of inconvenience to the people of the area. The ash accumulates on grass, roofs, kitchens, food articles, milk and at every place. You may use wet coal or think of taking any other measures so that the ash does not spread in the entire village causing suffering to men and animals.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Sir, as I have already stated, 4 steps have since been taken in this power station. As I have stated just now in the first question that Electro Static Precipitators which were based on Western technology were installed there. These equipments did not work properly. Hence we have asked the Thermal Power Station to replace the western electrostatic precipitators by those manufactured by the BHEL on the basis of appropriate technology by May, 1988. It is obvious that placing of orders for electrostatic precipitators and manufacturing of them in BHEL and installing them in the Thermal Power Station will take some time. Therefore, we have given them a reasonable time and asked them to install electrostatic precipitators by May, 1988.

So far as the question of difficulty is concerned, I fully agree that this pollution by the Thermal Power Station has been taking place and it has become a matter of concern for everybody. Therefore, it has been our effort to chalk out a time-bound programme and install the electrostatic precipitators by May, 1988 in the thermal station.

SHRI BHARAT SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, May 1988 is far away. Before that some arrangements should be made to bring down the coal ash which is carried away in the air. In other words, arrangements should be made to ensure that the ash does not fly in the air. This should be brought down and it should either be dissolved in water or some other method may be applied so that the ash may not fall on roofs, houses, kitchens and on sleeping people and diseases may not spread.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have already submitted that installing an improved electro-static precepitator is one of the steps which is most important. Besides, the authorities of Badarpur Power Station have been asked to resort to coal-handling and they are taking the steps to comply with it. Unless people are prepared to manage without power and air-conditioners and use hand fans, taking of any immediate action may create some other problems. It will a very difficult situation for us in this House. The Department of Energy will create problems for us.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you one thing. The problem of Delhi is due to three power stations - Badarpur, Indraprastha and Rajghat. As the hon. Minister has already stated, work at Badarpur will be completed by May, 1988. If one starts to work on project and tries to control it, it may take 4 to 6 months time. Pollution at the Indraprastha Station will be brought under control by December 1987 and Precipitator will be installed in it by then. Thereafter, this problem will be reduced in Delhi to a great extent.

[*English*]

Setting up of Telephone Industries in Orissa

*442. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had approved some telephone industries to be set up in the State of Orissa during 1983-84;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of industries which have been set up and started functioning alongwith their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c). Letter of Intent has been issued by Government to one unit, namely Orissa State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. (OSEDC) in May, 1984 for setting up a telephone instrument plant in the State of Orissa. M/s OSEDC has since formed a Joint Sector unit, namely M/s Unitel Communications Limited for implementation of this project and entered into foreign collaboration with M/s Ericsson Information System Sweden). The unit is being set up in Tehsil Bhubaneshwar, District Puri, Orissa.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Sir, first of all, I congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister and thank the Government of India for sanction of this project. Sir, I am glad to learn from the Hon. Minister that a telephone industry is being set up in Bhubaneshwar Tehsil. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister by which year the telephone industry is going to start commercial production and what steps have been taken to expedite the implementation of this project?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Sir, the project is in progress and the production is expected to take place in early 1988.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Sir, my second supplementary is whether site has been selected for the location of the telephone industry near Bhubaneshwar and what is the anticipated cost of the industry and details of the employment generation?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Sir, the capital cost of the industry is Rs. 80 lakhs. As regards site, it has been selected but I do not know where exactly is the site. I will be able to give answer to the Hon. Member later.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Sir, regarding employment generation?

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, this project is going to be implemented with the Unitel Electronics Ltd. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the DGTD has imposed a condition of SKD about the import of chips and whether, in order to avoid unnecessary delay in commissioning and completion of the project, the Government is considering to waive this condition.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: I am not aware of any condition that has been imposed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Government please state that in Bihar...

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This project concerns Orissa.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: There is no telephone industry in Bihar Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KUNWAR RAM: There is no telephone industry in Bihar, but the raw material is available in plenty in the State. I would like to know if the Government will establish a telephone industry in Bihar?

[*English*]

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Well, that is a separate question. If a separate question is put in this regard, I will be happy to answer.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Lead Bank Scheme

*443. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the introduction of the Lead Bank Scheme for the Community Development Blocks after decentralising the existing Lead Bank Scheme for the districts and also by designating the District Lead Bank as the Lead Bank for each block; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard and the likely date w.e.f. which if is to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

Wasteland Development

*444. SHRI H. PATEL:
SHRIMATI PATEL RAMBEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had received proposals for wasteland development from the State Government and other organisations in various districts of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken and outcome thereon;

(d) the amount spent on wasteland development in Gujarat for the last three years;

(e) the action plan drawn up for wasteland development for the remaining period of Seventh Five Year Plan in Gujarat; and

(f) the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) to (d). Wasteland Development in Gujarat is carried out under the Centrally sponsored Schemes, and State Plan Schemes including Externally Aided Social Forestry Project. In addition, propoals for assistance are received from Voluntary and Non-Government Organisations. Details are given in Statement - I and II below.

(e) and (f). The Action Plan is prepared on year-to-year basis. The physical target of Wasteland Development for 1987-88 is 1,50,000 ha. and Rs. 28.42 crores have been allocated.

STATEMENT-I

(I) Achievement of Wasteland Development in Gujarat from the period 1984-85 to 1986-87 under Twenty Point Programme.

Year	*Wasteland development by Afforestation in thousand ha.*	*Expenditure/Allocation for wastelands development (Rs. in crores)*
1984-85	145.17	29.82
1985-86	124.85	27.24 (allocated)
1986-87	113.55	29.37 (allocated)

(II) Scheme/Projectwise Achievements of Wastelands Development in Gujarat for the period 1984-85 to 1986-87.

Name of Scheme/Project	*Year*	*Physical Achievement ha.*	*Central Assistance Released (Rs. in lakhs)*
1. Centrally Sponsored Schemes of NWDB	1984-85	3500	96.43
	1985-86	3588	75.00
	1986-87	2564	252.00
		*(*9.2 crore seedlings)*	
2. Rural Development Schemes (NREP and (RLEGP)	1984-85	6375	230.26
	1985-86	11577	478.45
	1986-87	9371	636.78
3. World Bank/USAID aided Gujarat Social Forestry Project.	1984-86	82685	1746**
	1985-86	46069	1722**
	1986-87	44065	1726**

* No. of sedlings raised under Decentralised People's Nursery Scheme.

** Expenditure incurred on the project.

STATEMENT-II

Proposals received for assistance during the period 1985-86 to 1987-88 (so far) from Voluntary and Non-Government organisations from Gujarat State:

1.	Total No. of Proposals received	22
2.	Proposals rejected	2
3.	Proposals under consideration	6
4.	Proposals sanctioned	14

1.	Number of proposals sanctioned	14
2.	Outlay sanctioned Rs. in lakhs	218.25
3.	Amount released Rs. in lakhs	144.42
4.	Wasteland to be developed as per sanctioned project in ha.	5734
5.	Achievements reported so far in ha.	4045

[*Translation*]

Lok Sabha

Starred Question No. 445 to be Answered on 26th August 1987

Books/Scholarship to SC/ST Boys in M.P.

*445. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent every year on providing text books and scholarships to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pradesh and the number of students benefited;

(b) whether any complaint has been received that some of the students do not get scholarship and text books; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) A statement is given below.

(b) No specific complaint has been received by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

(a) According to information supplied by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh the expenditure incurred on award of scholarship and supply of text books and the number of beneficiaries was as follows:-

Year	*Scheduled Castes*		*Scheduled Tribes*	
	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakhs)	*No. of students benefited*	*Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakhs)*	*No. of students benefited*
		Scholarships		
1985-86	890.00	3,64,978	727.68	2,77,468
1986-87	938.27	3,64,414	866.00	3,04,771
		Supply of text books		
1985-86	19.18	5,79,950	19.09	4,49,258
1986-87	20.19	4,38,171	23.89	5,10,915

[*English*]

Rural-Urban per Capita Income Ratio

*446. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the rural-urban per capita income ratio in 1970-71 when it was compiled for the first time;

(b) the ratio as per the latest figures available;

(c) whether this ratio has since come down or gone up and how much; and

(d) the steps since taken to bring the rural and urban per capita income to almost parity and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The ratio of rural areas and urban areas per capita income according to the estimates compiled for 1970-71 was 1 : 2.4.

(b) No corresponding ratio is available for the subsequent years.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The overall thrust of planned growth has been to reduce disparities in income. Almost all of the points of the 20-point Programme including IRDP, NREP, RLEGP are oriented towards the target groups in the rural areas. These programmes are being continued in the Seventh Plan with an accel-

erated pace with emphasis on agricultural growth, developing the potential of dry land agriculture and adoption of special measures to increase the productivity of small and marginal farmers.

Computer Training Institutes in Kerala

*447. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up more institutes for computer training in the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)(i) Recently the Government of Kerala has set up an Institute for Human Resources Development for Electronics. This Institute is also conducting a number of computer training programmes which will benefit participants from the State of Kerala.

(ii) The National Informatics Centre of the Department of Electronics has set up a State Cell in Trivandrum for facilitating computerisation work of the Government of Kerala. A computer (ND-550) has been installed in this Cell and is fully operational. A training Cell will soon be set up there shortly which will cater to the Training needs of officials and staff of the Government of Kerala.

(iii) In order to meet the manpower requirements in the area of computers, Department of Electronics has proposed to set up an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Pune, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad and Delhi. Over a period of time affiliated centres (branch units) of these IIITs will be set up at every state capital including Trivandrum. Necessary procedures in this regard are being worked out.

Rise In Drug Addition

*448. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports regarding sharp rise in drug addiction as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated 17th June, 1987; and

(b) if so, the specific steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b). The study report is regarding a 'Multi Centred Study on Drug Abuse Amongst Students' commissioned by this Ministry in 1985 in 4 metropolitan cities and five other cities. While use of some intoxicants/drugs have shown an increase in some centres the use of all the intoxicants taken together has shown a slight decline. The study was limited in area as also confined to the students. Considering the ill effects of drug abuse and that drugs are reaching in many parts of the country and affecting various sectors of population a veriety of measures are being taken by the Government to deal with this problem. These include awareness building and publicity, counselling and guidance, de-addiction, and rehabilitation programmes. The voluntary organisations are being involved in providing the services and in creating awareness amongst the various seg-

ments of the society.

Interest Rates of R.B.I.

*449. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans and deposits in a number of banks have started shrinking seriously due to the new interest rates of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, whether some of the borrowers have decided to go out of the banks;

(c) if so, whether the coupon rates on new loans have also come down; and

(d) the extent to which the deposits have decreased and whether Government are considering to revise their decision, if not, the main reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there has not been any shrinkage in deposits and advances of banks as a result of new interest rates made effective from April, 1987. The agreegate deposits of all Scheduled Commercial Banks have gone up Rs. 4775 crores during the first four months of 1987-88.

The Reserve Bank of India has further reported that there has not been any change in the coupon rates for the loan maturities floated under the borrowing programme so far in the current financial year.

Gas Leaks

*450. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of gas leakage that have come to the notice of Government during the last three months and where;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to prevent such recurrence in future; and

(d) the various problems posing imminent threat to environment which have surfaced recently?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) A total of 11 incidents of gas leakages have come to the notice of the Government during the last three months. These occurred at Thane, Pune and Chembur in Maharashtra, Puri District in Orissa, Baroda in Gujarat, Bhatinda and Dera Bassi (District Patiala) in Punjab and at Raisen District, Bhopal, Indore and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The reasons are given below:

— Improper maintenance of gas handling system;

— Accidental leakage of gas;

— Release of gases due to inadequate supply of water to condenser plants;
and

— Wearing out of plant conveyor systems such as pipelines and tubes.

(c) The steps taken include the following:

(i) Manufacturing processes are stopped till thorough inspection

is conducted by factories inspectorate and clearance accorded for restarting.

(ii) State Pollution Control Board issues orders restraining the industry from operation till thorough checking is done by factory inspectorate, State Pollution Control Board and any other committee constituted by the repsective authorities of the State.

(iii) The Madhya Pradesh State Government has constituted district level committees under the Chairmanship of District Collectors for inspection of various industries in the Districts. The Regional Officer of the State Pollution Control Board is a member of such committees. The State Government has also identified the hazardous industries in the State.

(d) The gas leakages relating to chlorine, oleum and ammonia which occured during the last 3 months affected several people to a minor extent and they were discharged after treatment for one or two days.

Rehabilitation of Shipping Industry by SCICI

*451. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual budget of Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India to assist in rehabilitating shipping industry;

(b) the budget for the current year;

(c) whether this body has been set up only to help big shipping magnates; and

(d) the other allied industries of shipping that can apply for rehabilitation finance from SCICI.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d). The Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India (SCICI) has reported that its overall Budget for the current year is Rs. 180 crores and that actual allocation of funds for rehabilitation assistance would depend on the requirement for such assistance for eligible & potentially viable shipping and fishing companies, irrespective of their size.

(c) No, Sir.

Smuggling of Gold through Air Cargo Complex, Trivandrum

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

(a) whether there are complaints that gold worth Rs. 10 crores was smuggled through Air Cargo Complex, Trivandrum during the last nine months; and

(b) if so, the details there of and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item under the caption "Gold worth Rs. 10 crores was smuggled through Air Cargo Complex" published in daily "Matrubhoomi:, Trivandrum dated 28th July, 1987. However, there is no information regarding gold worth Rs. 10 crores being smuggled through Air Cargo Complex, Trivandrum. Although, intelligence received by the Government and seizures made indicate that gold continues to be sensitive to smuggling, smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not feasible

to estimate the quantum of gold smuggled through Trivandrum airport. However, during the period from November, 1986 to July, 1987, contraband gold worth Rs. 2.2 crores was seized by the Customs authorities at Trivandrum airport.

Issue of Shares and Debentures

*453. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA:
DR. B.L. SHAILESH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the companies while making public issue of share and debentures do not give proper and correct information in their prospectus;

(b) whether Government have received complaints in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken to ensure that the companies before inviting investment from public and public financial institutions render all detailed information including their past track record of performance, debts and foreign collaboration arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Government have received very few specific complaints in this regard. It may, therefore, not be correct to infer that companies while making public issue of shares and debentures do not give proper and correct information in their prospectuses required to be delivered to the Registrar of Companies in the prescribed form contained in Schedule II to the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) The existing disclosure provisions in the Companies Act provide for detailed information in this regard.

Water Pollution

*454. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received reports from World Health Organisation about the seriousness of water pollution in the country;

(b) whether large number of people die due to water pollution;

(c) whether the rate of such death incidents is alarmingly increasing during the last five years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to supply pollution free water both to rural and urban population?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Under International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, it was originally targetted to provide drinking water supply facilities to 100 per cent of urban and rural population by the end of the decade (1981-1990). Based on the mid term review of the progress of work and financial outlays, it has now been targetted to cover 90% of urban population and 100% rural population with safe drinking water supply facilities by 1990.

Trade Practice by Stereo Cassette Companies

*455. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the stereo cassettes produced by reputed manufacturers are found to have varied length of tape for the same price;

(b) if so, whether this makes purchasers to pay higher price for less length of tape; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or contemplated by Government to safeguard consumers against this unfair trade practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. The price of pre-recorded cassettes of reputed manufacturers is dependent on music content and not on the length of tape. The tape length varies depending upon the duration of the music unlike blank cassettes which have a fixed length.

(c) Does not arise.

Remission of Loans by Haryana Government

*456. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP:
CH. RAM PARKASH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware that Government of Haryana are reported to have announced their decision to the remission of Rs. 227.51 crore loans advanced by the cooperative and commercial banks;

(b) if so, the details of the State Government's decision; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the State Government of Haryana has taken a decision that following amount of loans outstanding as on 23.3.1986 may be remitted:-

i) Overdues of short and medium term loans aggregating Rs. 45.29 crores advanced by cooperative institutions to farmers owning land upto 6.25 acres, landless labourers, rural artisans, petty shopkeepers, etc., subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10,000/- per beneficiary.

ii) An amount of Rs. 12 crores consisting of Rs. 10,000/- for each tractor loanee advanced by Land Development Banks.

iii) Overdues to the extent of Rs. 8.36 crores advanced by Social Welfare Department and four corporations working under it subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10,000/- per beneficiary.

The State Government is also of the view that overdues of Rs. 15.86 crores relating to loans advanced by the commercial banks jointly with the corporations under Social Welfare Department of the State and also overdues of Rs. 146 crores relating to

small loans given by commercial banks may be written off under Small Loan Guarantee Scheme, 1971.

(c) It has been the consistent stand of RBI that generalised waivers of loans are harmful to the credit system. Such action vitiates the recovery discipline and adversely affects the viability of financial institutions as well as their capacity and capability to recycle funds. There are already instructions of RBI for providing proper relief to borrowers who are affected by natural calamities or by other adverse circumstances. The banks can submit claims under Small loans Guarantee Scheme to Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), only after exhausting all avenues of recovery and even then it doen not absolve the borrower from his liability to repay the dues to bank. The RBI has reiterated that no authority other than the Commercial Banks themselves can write off their loans on merits of each case.

Levy of Consignment Tax

*457. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI:
SHRI D.B. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has suggested for an early introduction of a bill in the Parliament for enabling the levy of consignment tax;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government to the said proposal; and

(c) the details of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). The Chief Minister of Maharashtra wrote in February, 1987 suggesting early legislation for levy of tax on inter-State consignment of goods. As some of the issues involved are yet to be sorted out, it has not been possible to take a final decision.

[*Translation*]

Loans for Developing Wastelands

*458. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme to grant loans for developing wastelands;

(b) if so, the outlines of the scheme;

(c) the total amount of loans given under the scheme so far;

(d) the number of the persons who have been given loan upto ten thousand rupees; and

(e) the number of those persons who have not repaid the loan during this period as per the rules laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) extends refinance facilities to the eligible institutions so as to enable them to finance schemes of following categories for the development of wastelands:-

(i) Setting up of nurseries for raising seedlings for planting on wastelands;

(ii) Planting of trees on wasteland; and

(iii) Raising of tree plantations on wastelands by user industries in private, public or joint sectors to meet their raw material needs or by individuals or cooperatives to meet the raw material requirements of user-industry with apprpopriate market tie up.

NABARD has issued detailed guidelines in respect of these shcemes and has provided refinance support of nearly Rs. 1.5 crores during the last two years.

(d) and (e). In accordance with the statutes governing the public sector banks and in accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers, information relating to or the affairs of the individual constituents cannot be divulged.

[English]

Quality of Coins

*459. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that coins of small denomination i.e. 10 paise and 5 paise become completely worn out within two years of their manufacture since they are not of good quality;

(b) where these coins are being minted;

(c) whether there is any check on the quality of the coins that are minted; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to ensure its quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) The normal life of 10 paise and 5 paise coins made of aluminium magnesium alloys is about 10 to 15 years. The possibility of some coins getting completely worn out due to corrosion, improper handling and high intensity of circulation, within a few years of their manufacture cannot, however, be ruled out.

(b) These are being minted in the India Government Mints at Bombay, Cualcutta and Hyderabad.

(c) and (d). The quality of coins is examined at the stages of melting, rolling blanking, annealing and coining apart from the check by *assay* for metal composition. The quality of coins is also ensured by physical examination of each coin after stamping. The arrangements for quality control are reviewed from time to time and action taken to strengthen them as and when necessary.

Smuggling Along Tripura - Bangladesh Border

4735. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to curb the smuggling along the Tripura - Bangladesh border;

(b) whether it is a fact that a few months ago a large quantity of milk powder packets which were suspected to contain radio-active contents possibly from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union, which were sent to Bangladesh by Poland, was detected; and

(c) whether these were got tested at some food and drug laboratory to find out whether they were radio active and if so, the outcome of the test?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Reports received by Govern-

ment and seizures made indicate that Indo-Bangladesh border continues to be vulnrable to smuggling activities across the border. The anti-smuggling drive in general has been intensified all along the Indo-Bangladesh border. The Preventive and Intelligence machinery deployed in the region remains vigilant against smuggling activities across the border. Appropriate measures are taken to check smuggling activities in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Govt. agencies deployed in the Indo-Bangladesh region.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Bank Account of Unions Affiliated to I.N.T.U.C.

4736. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank management has asked its Bhubaneshwar and Madras circle to close down the current/saving bank accounts in the names of Unions affiliated to INTUC, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the reasons why the provisions of Payment of Wages Act are not implemented as regards check off facility for the unions in State Bank of India;

(c) whether cases have come to notice where the State Bank management violated the labour laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d). State Bank of India has reported that as a policy followed for the last 20 years, the bank has not been allowing opening of accounts in the names of minority unions operating in the bank. In keeping with this policy/practice, the controlling authorities have withdrawn the facility of bank accounts in the name of minority unions in Bhubaneshwar and Madras circle offices. The unions have since moved the High Court and therefore the matter is sub-judice. The provision of the Payment of Wages Act is not an obligation/enforcing clause for the employer to extend the check off facility to a particular union. The bank has also reported that labour laws as applicable to the banking industry are meticulously followed at their offices. However, in the case of instances of violations pointed out by officials of the Labour Ministry, like non-maintenance of prescribed registrers under the Payment of Bonus Act, immediate corrective action is taken.

National Institutes for Handicapped

4737. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Institutes that have been opened for handicapped in the country;

(b) whether any new Institute is proposed to be opened for the disabled; and

(c) if so, the location therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Government has set up the following four National Institutes as Apex institutions in each of the four major area of disability:-

1. National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun;

2. National Institute for the Oerhopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta;

3. Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay; and

4. National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.

(b) and (c). At present no proposal for setting up any other Institute for the disabled is under consideration of the Government.

Coaching Centres for IAS/IPS in Chhotanagpur and Santhal Parganas

4738. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of institutions in Chhotanagpur and Santhal Parganas of South Bihar which prepare tribal students for IAS/IPS examination and other examinations of all India character; and

(b) the details of the institutions and their activities and the number of tribals benefited by such institutions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) A pre-examination Training Centre for preparing Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates for various competitive examinations including examinations of all India character has been set up at Ranchi with six sub-centre at Dumka, Sahibganj, latehar, Gumla, Chaibassa and Lohardaga in Chhotanagpur and Santhal Parganas districts. Three centres have also been recently set up by the State Government at Patna, Darbhanga and Bhagalpur, run through the Universities of Patna, Darbhanga and Bhagalpur for preparing these candidates for All India Civil Services like IAS, IPS etc. There is no such centre in Chhotanagpur and Santhal Parganas area.

(b) The Pre-Examination Training Centre at Ranchi with 6 sub-centres at Dumka, Sahibganj, Latehar, Gumla, Chaibassa and Lahardaga are being run by the Govt. of Bihar under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of 'Coaching & Allied Scheme' under which financial assistance is provided to the State Government on matching grant basis. These centres with a strength of 25 each provide coaching to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates for various competitive examinations like Assistants' Grade Examination, Stenographers' Grade Examination etc. conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, and Clerks' Grade Examination conducted by the Staff Selection Commission. These centres also provide coaching for other examinations like Bihar Civil Service Examination etc.

Credit Scheme for Economic Development of People

4739. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently formulated a new credit scheme for economic development of people living below the poverty line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). The Government have introduced a new Scheme called Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) with effect from 1st September, 1986 for providing economic assistance to urban poor having family income of less than Rs. 600/- per month. SEPUP covers all cities/towns with population exceeding 10,000 as per 1981 census and which are not covered by Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Under the programme, a borrower is eligible for a loan upto Rs. 5,000/- at an

interest rate of 10% per annum and a subsidy at the rate of 25% of the amount of assistance is provided by the Central Government. The subsidy amount is to be kept with the financing bank as term deposit and is to be adjusted towards the end of repayment of the loan amount.

Central Team to Wynad District of Kerala

4740. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry have sent a Central team to the Wynad District of Kerala where the largest number of tribals reside to study their living conditions implementation of welfare programmes and their overall welfare;

(b) whether the team has submitted their report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) (1) The Jurisdiction of different implementing agencies for tribal development in the district should be rationalised and the tribal areas in the district should be brought under one Integrated Tribal Development Project and the Development Block machinery involved in greater measure.

(2) The working of the three major projects in the district for tribals namely, the Sugandhagiri Cardamom Project, Pookot Lake Dairy Project and Priyadarshini Plantation Cooperative should be streamlined so as to make them more viable.

(3) Wide publicity should be given to the scheme of concessional food-grains for tribal areas.

(4) Medical and educational facilities in the district should be expanded to reach more tribal people in remote areas.

(5) The Block Development Officer should be involved in tribal development work in a more meaningful manner. Action Plan on tribal development for each year should be prepared in advance to avoid lapse of funds.

(6) The Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes could take up more viable schemes for the benefit of the tribals of Wynad district.

Steps to Ease Demand Constraint

4741. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether stagnation in agriculture and the recessionary phase in the capital goods and engineering industry has created a demand constraint in the country;' and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). According to available information, industrial production which has recorded a notable increase of 8.7 per cent in 1985-86 has shown a further increase of 8.3 per cent during April-February, 1986-87 - latest available. Of this, the growth in manufacturing sector was as much as 9.7 per cent in 1985-86 and 8.4 per cent in 1986-87. Though production in some of the industries may be constrained by specific factors, there is no clear evidence of general reces-

sion. The budget proposals during the last few years have provided a number of incentives to strengthen industrial production.

Loans to Poor and Unemployed In Maharashtra

4742. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of cash loans assistance and implements given under the new 20-Point Programme to the Poor and unemployed people to enable them to gain self employment in various parts of Maharashtra during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): The progress made by the banks in granting loans under 20-Point Programme, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), the Scheme for providing Self-Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) and the Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) in Maharashtra is as under:

i) 20-Point Programme

Period ending	*No. of a/cs (in lakhs)*	*Balance Outstanding (Rs. in crores)*
June, 1984	7.64	384.64
June, 1985	8.74	510.16

ii) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

Period	*No. of families assisted*	*Subsidy utilised* (Rs. in crores)	*Term credit disbursed* (Rs. in crores)
1985-86	1,90,174	33.36	60.58
1986-87	2,38,118	41.93	72.82
1987-88	14,965	3.32	5.57

(Upto May, 1987)

iii) Under the Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) introduced with effect from September, 1986, 34,457 loans involving Rs. 979.52 lakhs have been sanctioned upto March, 1987.

iv) Self-Employmet Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY)

The Proformance during the last 3 years is as under :-

Years	*Loans sanctioned*	
	No.	*Amount (Rs. in crores)*
1984-85	18,667	31.09
1985-86	13,848	26.31
1986-87	13,466	24.28

Seizure of Narcotic Drugs at International Airports

4743. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which drugs like heroin, hashish, etc. were seized from the foreigners by the customs authorities in each of the International Airports during the last year;

(b) the value of the drugs seized; and

(c) how the seized drugs were disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). During 1986, there were 70 cases involving 63 foreigners in which drugs like heroin, hashish etc. were seized by the customs authorities at the international airports at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. No precise value of the drugs seized can be determined as the illicit market price varies from place to place depending upon purity, place of origin, etc. The confiscated drugs ripe for disposal after due legal proceedings, are sent to the Government factories. While opium and morphine are further processed, other drugs are destroyed.

Employment Generation in Eighth Plan

4744. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether total employment is likely to be the main concern of the Eighth Plan as reported in the Economic Times dated 20 June, 1987; and

(b) if so, the present projections thereof and how these are proposed to be attained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Employment has been one of the main areas of concern in Indian planning. Exercises to determine the priorities and strategy for the Eighth Plan have started. These priorities and strategy will in due course be considered by the Planning Commission and the National Development Council.

Deposits and Advances in Midnapur District, West Bengal

4745. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the deposits collected by the banks in Midnapur district, West Bengal during 1985 and 1986, separately;

(b) the amount advanced to people in Midnapur during 1985 and 1986, separately;

(c) the amount advanced to industrial, agricultural and priority sectors during 1985 and 1986, separately;

(d) whether the targets for deposits and advances to industrial, agricultural and prior-

ity sectors have been achieved; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and action taken/proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). The aggregate deposits and gross bank credit of all Scheduled Commercial Banks in Midnapur District of West Bengal as at the end of December 1985 and December 1986 were as under:-

(Amount in Rupees lakhs)

Year ended December	Deposits	Advances
1985	24045	7229
1986	30861	9041

(c) and (d). Credit outlays envisaged and credit disbursed under the Annual Action Plans for Midnapur District for 1985 and 1986 are given below:-

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Year		*Agricultural & Allied Activities*	*S.S.I.*	*Services*	*Total*
1985	Credit outlays	3442	662	839	4943
	Achievements	1662	458	1225	3345
	%age of achievements to credit outlays	48.3	69.1	146.0	67.7
1986	Credit outlays	4424	1402	1800	7626
	Achievements	2230	620	889	3739
	%age of achievements to credit outlays	50.4	44.2	49.4	49.0

Note: Data relates to all banks including private sector banks and cooperative banks.

(e) some of the reasons for lower achievements by banks with regard to lendings under Annual Action Plans for Midnapur District are reported to be inadequate supply of inputs like seed and fertilizer, inadequate irrigation facilities, lack of marketing support etc.

For the overall development of Midnapur District some schemes have been formulated by banks which include poultry scheme by NABARD involving Rs. 42.75 lakhs. Agricultural Finance Corporation has also reported to have formulated scheme for fisheries.

Nationalisation of Non-Banking Financial Institutions

4746. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of non-banking financial companies accepting

deposits from the people are operating in the country;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to nationalise such companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d). the deposit acceptance activities of the Non-Banking Financial Companies are being regulated under the directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

Government have no proposal at present to nationalise any of the non-banking financial companies.

Anti-Podu Cultivation

4747. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on anti-podu cultivation schemes during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent in Orissa during the last three years for such schemes;

(c) whether State Government has contributed for it;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the result of the schemes undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) to (d). Details in respect of Centrally Sponsored Schemes are given in the Statement below.

Details of expenditure incurred by the States are being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(e) the schemes have created awareness of the need for permanent cultivation instead of podu cultivation.

STATEMENT

I. *Under Pilot Projects with Central Assistance*

(Amount released in lakhs)

	State	*1984-85*	*1985-86*	*1986-87*
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.76	6.00	6.00
2.	Mizoram	11.24	19.00	19.00
	Total	20.00	25.00	25.00

II. *Under Tribal Welfare Programme*

(Amount released in lakhs)

	State	*1984-85*	*1985-86*	*1986-87*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	192.00	75.00	100.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	51.26	-	-
3.	Orissa	150.00	90.00	-
4.	Meghalaya	-	5.00	-
5.	Tripura	-	20.00	10.00
	Total	393.26	190.00	110.00

Marine Park

4748. SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of marine parks developed in the country;

(b) the expenditure incurred for developing these parks; and

(c) the details of Government's programme in regard to development of marine parks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) There are three marine national parks in the country located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Gulf of Mannar and in the Jamnagar district of Gujarat.

(b) Rs. 12.60 lakhs have been provided as central assistance.

(c) The establishment of national parks, marine or others, is done by the concerned States and Union Territories. The central Government would encourage the establishment and conservation of marine national parks and provide financial assistance to them to the extent possible, after the establishment of the same, provided the objective is the conservation of marine ecosystems and natural resources.

[*Translation*]

Welfare Schemes for SCs/STs, Bihar

4749. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes being implemented in Bihar;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of these schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Various welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes being implemented in Bihar have been mentioned in the Statement below.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Committees at District level, Divisional level and State level review the implementation of the programmes and evaluate the progress made. Those Committees are headed by Collectors, Divisional Commissioners and the Chief Secretary respectively. Thus the review of the schemes under the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan is done at various levels from field to the State level. Besides, officers of the Ministry of Welfare go for field visits. Review is also done during the annual Tribal Sub-Plan/ Special Component Plan discussions in the Planning Commission and in the Ministry of Welfare.

STATEMENT

The State Government under Special Component Plan (for Scheduled Castes) and Tribal Sub-Plan (for Scheduled Tribes) have quantified outlays under the following major developmental sectors for their welfare:-

1. Agriculture
2. Rural Electrification
3. Village & Small Industries
4. General Education
5. Rural Water Supply
6. Health
7. House-sites to Rural Landless Labourers
8. Public Distribution system
9. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)
10. National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)
11. Animal Husbandry
12. Minor Irrigation
13. Urban Development
14. Housing
15. Rural Roads
16. Co-operation
17. Police Housing
18. District Planning
19. Major & Medium Irrigation
20. Surplus ceiling land.

2. Schemes under General Education are:-

1) Stipend to students reading in High Schools
2) Middle school stipends
3) Primary school stipends
4) Technical stipends
5) Hostel grants to Giri students
6) Reimbursement of examination fees
7) Supply of uniforms to girl students in schools
8) Residential schools
9) Hostels (its opening, maintenance & construction).

3. Centrally Sponsored Schemes undertaken by the State Govt. are:-

1) Pre-matric scholarships for children of those engaged in unclean occupations.

2) Book Banks for Medical & Engineering students

3) Construction of Girls Hostels

4) Pre-examination Training Centre

5) Assistance to Bihar State Scheduled Caste Cooperative Development Corporation for income generating schemes

6) Special Central Assistance for Special Component Plan/Tribal Sub-Plan.

[*English*]

Assistance to Handicapped Advocates

4750. SHRI C. SAMBU: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide financial assistance to the physically handicapped advocates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The scheme of Government of India, Welfare of the handicapped provide for education and training. For the purpose of self employment the handicapped are eligible to the schemes like all other people.

Loans to Poor and Unemployed in Bihar

4751. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH:
SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loans, assistance and implements given under the new 20-Point Programme to the poor and unemployed people in various districts of Bihar to enable them to gain self employment during the last three years; and

(b) the number of persons who have been brought above the poverty line in each district of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) The progress made by the banks in granting loans under 20-Point Programme, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), the Scheme for providing Self-Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) and the Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) in Bihar is as under:

i) 20-Point Programme

Period ending	No. of a/cs (in lakhs)	Balance outstanding (Rs. in crores)
June, 1984	7.12	365.61
June, 1985	8.66	500.76

ii) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

Period	No. of families assisted	Subsidy Utilised	Term credit disbursed
		(Rs. in crores)	
1985-86	4,21,135	49.54	97.30
1986-87	5,24,546	75.01	136.24
1987-88 (Upto May, 1987)	15,017	1.02	1.30

(iii) *Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP)*

Since the introduction of the programme from September, 1986, 12,232 loans have been sanctioned.

(iv) *Scheme for providing Self-Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY)*

Performance of the Scheme during the last three years is as under:

Year	Loans sanctioned No.	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1984-85	14,806	26.75
1985-86	26,376	50.55
1986-87	22,256	54.02

(b) The proper utilisation of assistance is expected to improve the economic status of the beneficiaries.

Defrauding of Banks in Kerala

4752. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether swindling of rupees one crore from banks in Kerala has come to light as reported in Economic Times of 3 August, 1987 and if so, details thereof;

(b) whether similar swindles have come to light during last three years in the country and if so, details thereof; and

(c) if so, corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) State Bank of Travancore has reported that a case of fraud, involving Rs. 8.21 lakhs approximately through 32 mail transfers, purportedly issued by State Bank of India, Saugor Branch, Madhya Pradesh, has been detected at 11 of its branches. The Bank has lodged a complaint with C.B.I. in this regard.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that banks report to it all types of frauds which include, among others, swindlings by fake mail transfers. However, the present system of maintaining statistics does not indicate separate information on swindlings in banks by adopting the modus operandi of use of fake mail transfers. However, as per information readily available with RBI in April, 1986, State Bank of India had reported to the RBI a case of fraud involving an amount of about Rs. 5.71 lakhs which was perpetrated by employing fake mail transfer advices. The Bank had lodged a complaint with the CBI in this regard.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that the primary responsibility for preventing frauds is that of the bank's management. The RBI has further stated that by and large frauds have occurred in banks not on account of lacunae in the systems and procedures but owing to non-observance of the prescribed procedures and safeguards. Banks have books of instructions indicating precautions/checks which their staff should observe to prevent occurrence/recurrence of frauds. Banks are taking steps to strengthen the control mechanisms including the internal audit/inspection machinery and to make them effective so as to eliminate the scope for frauds and malpractices. Banks have also been taking a serious view of irregularities committed by its employees and initiate action to inflict punishment befitting the seriousness of the irregularities committed by the delinquent employees. RBI has also been circulating to banks details of frauds of ingenious nature and advising banks to adopt safeguards. The need for obtaining proper and effective introduction when new accounts are opened has also been re-stressed.

Construction of Mint at Salboni

4753. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of proposed Mint at Salbani in Midnapore District has started;

(b) if so, the time schedule for its completion;

(c) the financial allocation made in 1987-88 in this regard; and

(d) the probable date of starting production of the proposed Mint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARD-

HANA POOJARY): (a) to (d). There is no proposal to set up a mint at Salbani. It is, however, proposed to set up a New Note Press at Salboni. Necessary pre-investment activities, including land acquisition, soil testing, preparation of detailed feasibility report, etc. for setting up the New Press have been authorised. The detailed feasibility report is expected to be got ready by the end of this calendar year. It will take 48 months to commission the press after the investment decision is taken. A sum of Rs. 25.00 lakhs has been allocated for the above purposes in the financial year 1987-88.

Promotion to SC/ST Officers in Central Bank of India

4754. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether promotion from Junior Management Scale-I to Middle Management Grade Scale-II is based on seniority in Central Bank of India;

(b) names of the public sector banks which have provided for reservation @15 per cent and 7.1/2 per cent respectively for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotion based on seniority from JMG Scale-I to MMG-II;

(c) whether public sector banks have been advised by Government to provide reservation in promotion from JMG Scale-I to MMG Scale-II onwards for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe officers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Central Bank of India has reported that promotion from Junior Management Grade Scale-I to Middle Management Grade Scale-II is based on selection method in the bank.

(b) to (d). Public Sector Banks have been advised to provide reservations for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotions within officers cadres, at the rate of 15% and 71/2%, whenever such promotions are made on the basis of 'seniority subject to fitness'. In promotions based on 'selection within the officers cadres, no reservations are applicable but the banks have to extend concessions to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in terms of para 12.2(a) of the 'Brochure on Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Services, (6th Edition).

23 of the 26 Public Sector Banks, information from whom has become available, have reported that they are following the selection method in effecting promotions from Junior Management Grade Scale-I to Middle Management Grade Scale-II in their respective banks. Indian Overseas Bank has reported that it is effecting promotions from Junior Management Grade Scale-I to Middle Management Grade Scale-II on the basis of seniority subject to fitness and is providing for reservations for the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes at the rate of 15% and 71/2% respectively. Bank of Maharashtra and Bank of India also follow the method of 'seniority subject to fitness' for a portion of their promotion from Junior Management Grade Scale-I to Middle Management Grade Scale-II and for such portion of promotions, are providing reservations for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at the prescribed rates.

[*Translation*]

Committee to Safeguard the Interest of SC/STs

4755. SHRI R.P. SUMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a high level Committee under the

Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to review the measures for safeguarding the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the names of the Members of the Committee;

(c) the number of meetings of the Committee held since its inception and the conclusions arrived at therein; and

(d) whether meetings of the Committee are held regularly?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b). A High Power Committee was constituted by the Government of India to review the performance in the matter of recruitment of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in services posts in or under the Government, the Union Territories and Public Sector Undertakings under the control of the Government vide Ministry of Home Affairs Resolution No. 27/10/68-Estt (C) dated 27.6.1968 read with Resolution No. 27/8/73-Estt (SCT) dated 8.11.1973, Resolution No. 36021/4/75-Estt (SCT) dated 4.9.1975, Resolution No. 36021/2/77-Estt (SCT) dated 23.8.1978 and Resolution No. 36021/2/80-Estt (SCT) dated 2.6.1982.

Presently the constitution of the committee is as follows:-

1.	Prime Minister	-	Chairman
2.	Minister of Home Affairs	-	Member
3.	Minister of Finance	-	Member
4.	Minister of Law & Justice	-	Member
5.	Minister of Water Resources	-	Member
6.	Minister of Industry	-	Member
7.	Minister of State of the Ministry of Welfare	-	Member
8.	Minister of State of the Ministry of Communications	-	Member
9.	Minister of State of the Ministry of Labour	-	Member
10.	Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	-	Member
11.	Minister of State, Department of Railways	-	Member
12.	Minister of State in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	-	Member

13.	Secretary, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	-	Member
14.	Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises	-	Member

(c) and (d). The High Power Committee has met eight times. The last meeting was held on 20th October, 1978. In the various meetings of the High Power Committee recommendations like representation of SCs/STs in services under the Public Sector Undertakings, increasing the amount of scholarships for their higher studies particularly in the field of engineering and medicine, pre-examination coaching centers for I.A.S. etc., examinations, giving more intensive training to tribal candidates, book bank facilities for SC/STs, pursuing studies in professional courses, enhancing of period of carry forward from two years to three years, exchange of vacancies between SC/STs and vice-versa etc. were made.

The next meeting of the High Power Committee is scheduled to be held on 17th September, 1987.

[*English*]

Equity Participation by DEC of USA & Olivetti of Italy

4756. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether DEC of U.S.A. and Olivetti of Italy have been allowed equity participation in the collaborations being set up by them to manufacture computers in India;

(b) if so, the broad terms and conditions imposed on them;

(c) whether both the above collaborations have imposed certain export obligations; and

(d) if so, the reasons and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b). M/s Hinditron Computers Private Limited and M/s Modi Xerox Limited have been issued Letters of Intent for foreign collaboration with equity participation of 40% with M/s Digital Equipment Holdings, Netherlands (a subsidiary of M/s DEC of USA) and M/s Ing. C Olivetti & Company of Italy respectively for the manufacture of computers. The broad terms and conditions approved are :-

(i)	For DEC case	Lumpsum know-how fees	US $ one million net of taxes.
		Royalty	5% for five years.
(ii)	For Olivetti case	Lumpsum know-how fees	US $ 0.75 million subject to taxes.
		Royalty	5% for five years.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Export obligation has been imposed to partially compensate for the foreign exchange outflow on the continuous import of components and parts required for the manufacturing activity. Export obligation of 30% has been applied on M/s Hinditron Computers Pvt. Ltd. collaborating with M/s Digital Equipment Holding at the time of approval of letter of intent itself. However, in the case of M/s Modi Olivetti (originally M/s Modi Xerox) where a letter of intent was issued prior to July 1986, export obligation of 10% of the total ex-factory value or 50% of imported raw material and components, whichever is higher was imposed at the time of their foreign collaboration approval.

D.A. to Central Government Employees

4757. SHRI KESHAORAO PARDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 540 on 29-7-1987 regarding D.A. for Central Government Employees and state:

(a) whether the consumer price index number in respect of June, 1987 has since been received; and

(b) if so, the amount of dearness allowance that has become due to Central Government Employees and when this D.A. will be paid to them?

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

(b) The revised rates of dearness allowance payable with effect from 1-7-1987 for the employees drawing basic pay upto Rs. 3500/-; those between Rs. 3501/- and upto Rs. 6000/-, and those above Rs. 6000/- works out to 13%, 9% and 8% respectively. The question regarding release of this dearness allowance is under consideration and a decision will be taken soon.

Corruption in Forest Department

4758. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to root-out corruption in the forests departments to various States;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the number of Officers/Employees against whom cases have been registered during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to reports received so far by the Government of India, a total of 17 cases involving corruption have been registered against the Indian Forest Service officers of the various States/UTs during the current year 1987. Information relating to State Forest Service Officers is not reported to the Government of India.

Import of Computers

4759. DR. SANKTA PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 5254 on 1 April, 1987 regarding Import of Computers and state the names of organisations/bodies which had been given clearance for the import of computers valuing above Rs. 10 lakhs during 1984, 1985 and 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOP-

MENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): The lists of organisations which have been given clearance by Department of Electronics for import of computers/upgrades costing above Rs. 10 lakhs in 1984, 1985 and 1986 are given in the statements I, II and III below :

STATEMENT-I

List of Organisations which have been given clearances by Department of Electronics for import of Computers/Upgrades costing above Rs. 10 lakhs in 1984

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation
1	2
1.	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
2.	Allahabad University, Allahabad.
3.	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay.
4.	Bombay Electric Supply & Transport Corp., Bombay.
5.	Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai.
6.	Centre for Development of Telematics, Delhi.
7.	Computer Maintenance Corporation, Bombay.
8.	Computer Maintenance Corporation, Delhi.
9.	Calcutta Port Trust, Calcutta.
10.	Calcutta University, Calcutta.
11.	Director General Civil Aviation, Delhi.
12.	Defence R & D Organisation, Bangalore.
13.	Defence R & D Organisation, Delhi.
14.	Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., Delhi.
15.	Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad.
16.	Employees Federation of India, Bombay.

1	2
17.	Engineers India Ltd., Delhi.
18.	Electronics Res. & Devp. Establishment, Bangalore.
19.	Hindustan Aeronautical Laboratory, Bangalore.
20.	Hindustan Aeronautical Laboratory (Korwa), Lucknow,
21.	Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore.
22.	Institute of Banking Personnel Selection, Bombay.
23.	Indian Metereological Department, Delhi.
24.	Indian Space Research Organisation, Bangalore.
25.	Indian Tobacco Company Ltd., Calcutta.
26.	Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Bangalore.
27.	Kerala State Electronic Development Corporation, Aroor.
28.	Maruti Udyog Limited, Delhi.
29.	National Aluminium Company, Orissa.
30.	North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.
31.	National Informatics Centre, Delhi.
32.	Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd., Neyveli.
33.	National Physical Laboratory, Delhi.
34.	National Thermal Power Corporation, Delhi.
35.	Oil India Limited, Duliajan.
36.	Oil & Natural Gas Commission, Dehradun.
37.	Indian Post & Telegraph Department, Delhi.
38.	Physics Deptt. University of Poona, Poona.
39.	Patna University, Patna.

1	2
40.	Railway Board, Delhi.
41.	Reactor Research Centre, Kalpakkam.
42.	Raman Research Institute, Bangalore.
43.	Rajasthan University, Jaipur.
44.	Steel Authority of India Ltd., Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai.
45.	SAIL Bokaro Steel Plant, Dhanbad.
46.	Steel Authority of India Ltd. (RDCIS), Ranchi.
47.	Semiconductor Complex Limited, Mohali.
48.	Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta.
49.	STQC of DOE (Eastern Reg. Test Lab.), Calcutta.
50.	Tata Instt. of Fundamental Research, Bombay.
51.	Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., Jamshedpur.
52.	Telecommunications Research Centre (P&T), Delhi.
53.	Tuberculosis Research Centre, Madras.
54.	University of Kashmir, Srinagar.
55.	University of Nagpur, Nagpur.
56.	Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum.

STATEMENT-II

List of Organisations which have been given clearences by Department of Electronics for Import of Computers/Upgrades costing above Rs. 10 lakhs in 1985.

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation
1	2
1.	Air India, Bombay.
2.	Ashok Leyland Ltd., Madras.
3.	Automotive Research Association of India, Poona.
4.	Armament Research & Development Establishment, Bangalore.
5.	Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore.
6.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., Hyderabad.
7.	Central Board of Excise & Customs, Delhi.
8.	Centre for Development of Telematics, Delhi.
9.	Central Electricity Authority, Delhi.
10.	CMC Limited, Delhi.
11.	Central Machine Tool Institute, Bangalore.
12.	Defence Electronics Application Lab., Dehradun.
13.	Director General Civil Aviation, Delhi.
14.	Department of Space (NNRMS) Bangalore.
15.	Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad.
16.	Engineers India Ltd., Delhi.
17.	Electronics Test Laboratory (STQC), Calcutta.
18.	Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore.
19.	Institute of Armament Technology, Pune.
20.	Indian Institute of Technology, (CAD), Bombay.

1	2
21.	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.
22.	Indian Institute of Technology, (CAD), Kanpur.
23.	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.
24.	India Meteorological Department, Delhi.
25.	Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta.
26.	National Centre for Software Development and Computing Techniques, Bombay.
27.	NIC (Budget Division Ministry of Finance), Delhi.
28.	National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad.
29.	Naval Science & Technology Laboratory, Vizag.
30.	National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd., Delhi.
31.	Oil & Natural Gas Commission, Bombay.
32.	Oil & Natural Gas Commission, Dehradun.
33.	Oil & Natural Gas Commission, Delhi.
34.	Post & Telegraph Billing Centres, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras.
35.	Reserve Bank of India, Bombay.
36.	Railways Design & Standards Organisation, Lucknow.
37.	Raksha Mantralaya, Delhi.
38.	Reactor Research Centre, Kalpakkam.
39.	Reliance Textile Industries Ltd., Ahmedabad.
40.	Semiconductor Complex Ltd., Chandigarh.
41.	Tata Memorial Centre, Bombay.
42.	Telecommunication research Centre, Delhi.

STATEMENT-III

List of Organisations which have been given clearances by Department of Electronics for import of Computers/Upgrades costing above Rs. 10 lakhs in 1986.

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation
1	2
1.	ADE, Bangalore.
2.	Air India, Bombay.
3.	ASCII-Cum Centre, Hyderabad.
4.	Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore.
5.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., Hyderabad.
6.	Bokaro Steel Plant (SAIL), Bokaro.
7.	Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai.
8.	Regional Computer Centre, Calcutta.
9.	City Bank, Bombay.
10.	Canara Bank, Bangalore.
11.	Centre for Dev. of Telematics, Delhi.
12.	CLRI, Madras.
13.	Central Mining Plng. & Design Instt. Ranchi.
14.	Central Mining Research Station, Dhanbad.
15.	Central Railway, Bombay.
16.	CRDE, Bangalore.
17.	Department of Atomic Energy, Bombay.
18.	Department of Revenue, Delhi.
19.	Department of Space, NNRMS, Bangalore.
20.	ECIL, Hyderabad.

1	2
21.	Engineers India Ltd. Delhi.
22.	Eastern Railway, Calcutta.
23.	Hindustan Aeronautical Ltd., Bangalore.
24.	Hindustan Aeronautical Ltd., Korwa.
25.	Hotel Oberoi Towers, Bombay.
26.	I.G. National Centre for Arts, Delhi.
27.	Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.
28.	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
29.	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
30.	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.
31.	India Meteorological Department, Delhi.
32.	IPCL, Vadodra.
33.	Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta.
34.	Indian Space Research Orgn., Bangalore.
35.	Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Delhi.
36.	Mazgaon Dock Ltd., Bombay.
37.	Mukand Iron & Steel Works, Bombay.
38.	Ministry of Finance, CBEC, Delhi.
39.	Ministry of Finance (MOF) CBEC, Madras.
40.	National Aeronautical Lab., Bangalore.
41.	National Hospital, Bombay.
42.	NHPC, Delhi.
43.	National Informatics Centre, Delhi.

1	2
44.	National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.
45.	National Physical Oceanography Lab., Cochin.
46.	NR (Prs.) Railways, NDLS.
47.	National Thermal Power Centre, Ramagundam.
48.	Philips, Bombay.
49.	PRDO, Bangalore.
50.	Punjab University, Chandigarh.
51.	Reserve Bank of India, Bombay.
52.	Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh.
53.	RDSO, Lucknow.
54.	Reactor Research Centre, Kalpakkam.
55.	Semiconductor Complex Ltd., Chandigarh.
56.	SITA, Bombay.
57.	SNDT Univ., Bombay.
58.	School of Plng. & Archit, Delhi.
59.	Thai Intercontinental, Bombay.
60.	Tata Instt.. of Fundamental Research, Bombay.
61.	Thapar R&D, Patiala.
62.	University Agri. Science, Bangalore.
63.	University of Roorkee, Roorkee.
64.	Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum.

[*Translation*]

Deposits in Bidi Workers Welfare Fund in Madhya Pradesh

4760. SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts in Madhya Pradesh from where money has been deposited in the Bidi workers welfare fund and the total amount realised from all the districts during the last three years; and

(b) the names of the districts in Madhya Pradesh where money has been spent on the welfare work for the Bidi workers during the last three years indicating the details of the welfare work on which the amount has been spent and the total amount spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) District-wise details of collection to the Bidi workers welfare fund is not available since the accounts are maintained State-wise. the amount of cess collected for Bidi workers welfare fund from the State of Madhya Pradesh for the years 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 are Rs. 78 lakhs, Rs. 80 lakhs and Rs. 81 lakhs respectively.

(b) District-wise details of expenditure from the fund is not available since the accounts are maintained region-wise. the details of expenditure from the Bidi workers welfare fund in the Jabalpur region covering the State of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years is as under :-

Head of Expenditure		YEARS		
		1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
			(Rs. in lakhs)	
1.	Administration	3.41	3.63	4.40
2.	Health	13.33	19.27	19.42
3.	Education	10.96	8.92	11.81
4.	Recreation	0.05	0.09	0.01
5.	Housing	0.25	0.23	0.15
	Total:	28.00	32.14	35.79

[*English*]

Study Report about Radiation around Indian Rare Earths Ltd. Alwaye

4761. SHRI P.A. ANTONY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come acros the latest study reports about growing radiation and growth of cancer rate in and around the Indian Rare Earths Ltd. Alwaye, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such dangerous developments and allay the apprehensions of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b). Government has seen a study report on the occupational health hazards at Indian Rare Earth's Ltd., Alwaye, conducted by Kerala Sasthra Sahitya Parishat, Trichur. Investigations conducted by the Government have, however, revealed that workers of Indian Rare Earths Ltd. have not contracted cancer, as a consequence of their work environment. The study appears to have relied upon inaccurate and incomplete information.

(c) The workers of IRE are subject to annual medical check up. The company ensures that workers are not exposed to radiation beyond the levels specified by the Safety Review Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy which stipulates the levels in accordance with the standards laid down by the International Committee on Radiological Protection. The IRE Management have, contradicted the allegations made through the medium of Newspapers. In spite of this, the issue has been raised again and again by concerned groups. In order to allay the apprehensions of the people, Government has appointed a Committee of specialists to carry out an independent study and the report of the Committee is awaited.

Fraud in State Bank of Indore, Amana Branch In Madhya Pradesh

4762. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of fraud involving about 55 lakhs was detected in State Bank of Indore, Amana Branch, District Dewas in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of employees found guilty; and

(c) the present position of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that two cases of fraud, involving amounts of Rs. 119.46 lakhs and of Rs.12.85 lakhs were detected in State Bank of Indore, Amana Branch, District Dewas in Madhya Pradesh, on 8.8.77 and 12.9.84 respectively. RBI has further reported that in the first case the fraud had been committed by the party by manipulation in the hypothecation stock statement and disposal of hypothecated stocks without crediting the proceeds thereof to the account and that the funds had been utilised by the party for:

(a) Project over-run/acquisition of fixed assets;

(b) losses during gestation period;

(c) operational cash losses; and

(d) investment in associate concern.

No staff involvement was noted by State Bank of Indore in this case. The Bank has, however, been advised by the RBI to place this case before its Board of Directors.

In so far as the second case is concerned, State Bank of Indore has reported that the Police, with whom it had lodged a complaint against the party for unauthorised removal of stocks, have submitted a Revision Petition which is pending in the Court. The Bank has further reported that the civil suit filed by it against the party for the recovery of its dues is also pending before the Court. In the meantime, the Bank has cautioned the concerned officials for the procedural lapses committed by them in this case.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Uranium

4763. SHRI SHIV PRASAD SAHU:
DR. D.N. REDDY:
SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE:
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY:
SHRI SRI HARI RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the frequency of the cases of theft and smuggling of uranium from Jaduguda Uranium Mines in Chaibasa district of Bihar for being smuggled into China and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to effectively stop this illegal activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) No case of theft and smuggling of Uranium Concentrate from Jaduguda Uranium Mines in Chaibasa District of Bihar has been established so far.

(b) Strict Security measures exist in the Uranium Mine and Mill Complex at Jaduguda under Central Industrial Security Force personnel who are on duty round the clock. the place where the final product. comes out from the plant is fenced and guarded by CISF personnel in all the three shifts to prevent theft of uranium from Jaduguda Mill.

[*English*]

Consumer Price Index

4764. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of points added to the consumer price index from 1.7.86 to 31.7.87;

(b) the number of Dearness Allowances sanctioned to the Government employees from 1.7.86 to 31.7.87 and at what rate;

(c) the number of DAs that are due, from when and at what rate;

(d) whether the new consumer price index has been introduced; and

(e) if so, from when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The All India Consumer Price

Index Numbers for the month ending June, 1986 was 658 and the twelve monthly index average as on 1.7.1986 was 632.41. The Price index numbers for the month ending June, 1987 is 715 and the twelve monthly index average as on 1.7.1987 is 687.5. The figures for the month ending July, 1987 have not yet become available.

(b) On the basis of the revised Dearness Allowance formula, Dearness Allowance was sanctioned to Central Govt. employees w.e.f. 1.7.1986 and 1.1.1987. The rates of Dearness Allowance payable w.e.f. 1.7.1986 to employees drawing basic pay upto Rs. 3500/-, and those between Rs. 3501/- and upto Rs. 6000/-, and those above Rs. 6000/- worked out to 4%, 3% and 2% respectively and the revised rates of D.A. w.e.f. 1.1.1987 for the above basic pay ranges worked out to 8%, 6% and 5% respectively.

(c) On the basis of the percentage increase in the 12-monthly index average of consumer price index numbers for the month ending June, 1987 over the index average 608, Dearness Allowance at the revised rates has become due for consideration w.e.f. 1.7.1987. The revised rates of D.A. w.e.f. 1.7.1987 for the employees drawing basic pay upto Rs. 3500/-, those between Rs. 3501/- and upto Rs. 6000/-, and those above Rs. 6000/- works out to 13%, 9% and 8% respectively.

(d) and (e). The new consumer Price Index has not been introduced so far.

Depreciation Allowance

4765. SHRI D.P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise the rates of depreciation allowance; 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.

(b) Does not arise.

Check on Wasteful Expenditure

4766. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations made by certain Members of Parliament as a result of deliberations at a workshop on "Curb in Government expenditure" held in May, 1987.

(b) the measures adopted to exercise checks on wasteful expenditure by the various Government agencies; and

(c) whether the recommendations to switch over to the financial year ending with September 30 instead of March 31 has been accepted.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The recommendations have been forwarded to the Ministries/Departments concerned for appropriate action.

(b) Government have initiated several steps, like application of the technique of zero base budgeting. etc. to curb wasteful expenditure.

(c) No, Sir.

Advances by Delhi Branch of State Bank of Indore

4767. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI:
SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi branch of State Bank of Indore had given the facilities of advances of about one crore rupees to some firms engaged in export trade;

(b) whether these advances have been recovered and if not, the reasons for not recovering this heavy amount; and

(c) the action taken by the bank in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). The State Bank of Indore has reported that at its Chandni Chowk, Delhi Branch certain Letters of Credit opened for imports within the overall sanctioned limits of an export house, which has stood guarantee, continue to be outstanding because of the failure of the parties to retire the bills/in time. The Bank has decided to file suit against the parties/ guarantors to recover its dues.

New Anti-Poverty Schemes

4768. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start any new anti-poverty schemes in addition to the existing ones;

(b) if so, what are these schemes and their salient features;

(c) whether the new schemes are likely to consist of any scheme for women; and

(d) if so, what is the scheme for women and its distinguishing features from the existing ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

Non-supply of vouchers for expenditure by NDDB

4769. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Member Audit Board, Bombay has drawn attention to non-supply of vouchers for an expenditure of Rs. 666.46 lakhs by National Dairy Development Board out of Indian Dairy Corporation funds during 1985-86;

(b) whether National Dairy Development Board has failed to supply such vouchers since 1970 and if so, total funds involved so far;

(c) whether C & AG has been asked to carry out audit of the above expenditure at NDDB's Head Quarters;

(d) whether any action has been taken in this regard; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

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

(b) The IDC Management has stated that it was not feasible to obtain copies of numerous vouchers for expenditure incurred by NDDB on its behalf and to keep them as part of IDC's record. Consequently, the vouchers for the expenditure incurred by NDDB on behalf of IDC were not made

available to Audit. The information regarding total funds involved so far since 1970 is not available.

(c) to (e). NDDB is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860. Their status is that of a technical consultant/ contractor to IDC. The accounts of the NDDB are not subject to audit by CAG.

Loans for Purchase of Reliance Shares

4770. SHRI H.M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Reserve Bank of India in handing over the business of London branches of Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India and Central Bank of India to State Bank of India, Bank of India and Bank of Baroda on the basis of the findings on the loans granted by them for purchase of Reliance shares;

(b) whether in the routine inspections the Reserve Bank of India had detected these advances by these banks before the appointment of a committee for finding out and handing over the business to other banks;

(c) whether the inspecting authorities of the Reserve Bank of India had made any reference to these advances; and

(d) if so, the reasons why suitable action was not taken on the presentation of the report by inspecting authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the London branches of Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India and Union Bank of India had not granted any advances for purchase of shares of Reliance Industries Ltd.

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

[*Translation*]

Effect of Publicity against Intoxicants

4771. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the effect on the public of the publicity made against smoking intoxicants, addiction, etc;

(b) whether any scientific study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to make the publicity more effective in the light of these findings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c). Although no such study has been conducted it is felt that there is greater awareness about the ill effects of such things.

(d) An advisory committee which includes non-officials on prohibition and Drug Abuse has been set up. At the Official level an inter-ministerial committee has been set up to make the publicity more effective. Relevant information including that collected from voluntary organisation working in this laid field is made available to the media.

Recruitment of SC/ST IAS Officers

4772. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of shortfall of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Indian Administrative Service as on 1 July, 1987; and

(b) the steps taken to increase their representation in IAS and other civil services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is no shortfall in the quota of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Indian Administrative Service as on 1st July, 1987.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Principal Tribes in West Bengal

4773. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of principal tribes living in West Bengal and their population; and

(b) the growth rate of tribes during the last three years in West Bengal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The names and population as per 1971 Census of principal Scheduled Tribes living in West Bengal are as follows:-

Names	Population (1971 Census)
1. SANTAL	13,76,980
2. ORAON	2,91,173
3. MUNDA	1,98,701
4. BHUMIJ	1,69,426
5. KORA	93,586

The tribe wise population figure of the Scheduled Tribe population of West Bengal as per 1981 Census is not yet published.

(b) As the Census is conducted decennially, the growth rate for the last three years is not available.

The growth rate of the Scheduled Tribe population of West Bengal in the decades 1961-71 and 1971-81 was 23.31% and 21.22% respectively.

[*Translation*]

Funds under Hill Area Development Programme

4774. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the hill and desert areas in the country which get special assistance from Union Government under the Special Area Development Programme;

(b) the names of the hill and desert areas separately proposed to get special assistance during the Seventh Five Year Plan and details of the amount proposed to be given;

(c) the details of the areas and population;

(d) whether desert areas have been allotted less than half of the amount than that of hill areas keeping in view the criteria of the population; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI

SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). The name, area and population of the hill and desert areas and the amount of special central assistance allocated to them for the Seventh Plan under the Special Area Development Programme are given in the statement below

(d) and (e). Hill and desert are two distinct areas due to their different geo-physical features and resource endowments. The problems and needs of each of them are also different. Hence, the two cannot be treated alike.

STATEMENT

Funds under Hill Areas Development Programme

	No. of districts covered under the programme	Area (000 Sq. Km)	Population (lakhs) 1981 Census	Allocation of Special Central assistance in VII th Plan (Rs. crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1. *Hill Areas*				
(A) *Himalayan Group of Hill Areas*				
1. Assam	2	15.21	6.30	118.20
2. Tamil Nadu	1	2.54	6.29	33.75
3. Uttar Pradesh	8	51.12	48.36	553.50
4. West Bengal	3			
	(Sub-Divisions of the District)	2.42	5.51	44.55
				3.50 (Survey & Studies)
Sub-Total (A)	11+3 Sub-Divisions	71.29	66.46	753.50
(B) *Western Ghats Hill Region*	*No. of Talukas*			
1. Kerala	29	28.10	123.80	23.80
2. Maharashtra	62	58.40	101.20	38.10
3. Tamil Nadu	29	28.00*	95.40*	19.90

1	2	3	4	5
4. Karnataka	40	44.30	66.70	28.20
5. Goa	3	1.70	1.30	6.00
				0.50 (Surveys & Studies, etc.)
Sub-Total (B)	163	160.50	388.40	116.50
Grand Total (A+B)		231.79	454.86	870.00

II. *Desert Areas*

1	*No. of Dists. covered under the programme* 2	3	4	5
1. Gujarat	2	9.37	10.20	9.84
2. Haryana	4	17.62	32.70	20.60
3. Himachal Pradesh	2	29.70	0.20	12.50
4. Jammu & Kashmir	2	96.70	1.30	12.50
5. Rajasthan	11	208.75	105.30	189.50
Total	21	362.14	149.70	244.94

* Includes Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu shown under HADP.

[*English*]

NABARD Assistance for Wasteland Development

4775. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has taken up the development of some pilot projects under which wastelands development and tree plantation are included; and

(b) if so, the details of these pilot projects and the programme proposed to be implemented by NABARD through these pilot projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural

Development (NABARD) has prepared two Model Projects for development of wastelands one in Sadar Block in Balasore District of Orissa and another in Nalgonda Block in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh. The model projects have been prepared for development of large tracts of wastelands. It has been estimated that the schemes will generate gross income of Rs. 13,500 per Hectare from the sale of wood, small timber, etc. and it will be possible to repay the loan at the end of the 8th year. These schemes which are location specific have been prepared based on the wood balance study. The financing of these model projects will be undertaken by the commercial banks and NABARD would extend refinance facilities to them.

Poaching and Smuggling of Forest Wealth

4776. SHRI H.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a proposal to set up a high power inter-State wireless network to curb poaching and smuggling of forests wealth in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the names of States who have agreed to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A centrally sponsored scheme called 'Control of poaching and illegal trade in Wildlife' has been started since 1986-87. The scheme includes the improvement of telecommunications through a network of wireless stations and use of walkie-talkie sets, enhancing of mobility by providing vehicles, provision of arms to protection staff, setting up of check-posts and rewards for information and for apprehension of offenders. The scheme is being implemented in a co-ordinated manner in the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. The scheme is being implemented by the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Another centrally sponsored scheme called 'Development of infrastructure for protection of forests from biotic interference' was started in 1986-87 for safeguarding forest wealth. The scheme seeks to protect important and threatened forest areas by (i) establishing wireless communication within and between forest areas; (ii) suitably arming forest protection staff and making them more mobile, and (iii) acquiring private forests occuring as enclaves within Government forests or along peripheries of vulnerable sections of such forests. This scheme is being implemented by the states of Kerala, Gujarat, West Bengal, Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh.

Research work under MONEX

4777. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries that participated to carry out international research work under the programme of MONEX to understand the behaviour of the monsoon in the Indian ocean;

(b) the reasons for the project remaining incomplete;

(c) the extent to which this project has been helpful in predicting the monsoon; and

(d) the causes of successive failure of monsoons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) List of countries which participated under MONEX is enclosed. It was conducted from 01 May 1979 to 31 August 1979.

(b) The project was completed.

(c) The mechanism of monsoon is a complex phenomenon. With the data collected during 1979, we are now in a better position to predict monsoon.

(d) The possible causes of successive failure of monsoon are;

(i) Weak monsoon trough

(ii) Less frequent/absence of monsoon weather system like monsoon lows/depressions in Bay of Bengal/Arabian Sea.

(iii) Presence of adverse upper tropospheric flow patterns over northwest India and north of Indian sub-continent.

(iv) Frequent movement of extra-tropical weather systems across more southerly latitudes resulting in intrusion of westerly dry wind regime to north India.

(v) Unusual behavior of E1-Nino (Warming of sea-surface water over equatorial southeast Pacific) and southern Oscillation.

(vi) Irregular snow fall on the Himalaya during winter.

List of Participating Countries in MONEX

1. AFGHANISTAN
2. AUSTRALIA
3. BAHRAIN
4. BANGLADESH
5. BOTSWANA
6. BURUNDI
7. BULGARIA
8. BURMA
9. CHINA
10. EGYPT
11. GREECE
12. HONGKONG
13. INDIA
14. INDONESIA
15. IRAN
16. IRAQ
17. JAPAN
18. JORDAN
19. KENYA
20. KOREA DPR
21. KOREA R
22. KUWAIT
23. LOAS

24. MADAGASCAR

25. MALAYSIA

26. MALAWI

27. MALDIVES

28. MOZAMBIQUE

29. NEPAL

30. OCEAN ISLAND

31. OMAN

32. PHILIPPINES

33. ROMANIA

34. SAUDI ARABIA

35. SCYCHELLES

36. SINGAPORE

37. SOMALIA

38. SRI LANKA

39. SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

40. TANZANIA

41. THAILAND

42. TURKEY

43. U.A.E.

44. VIETNAM

45. YEMEN

46. ZAMBIA

47. U.S.A.

48. U.S.S.R.

49. FRANCE

Conversion of Sea Waves Into Energy

4778. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed an agreement with foreign countries for a joint venture for conversion of sea waves into energy and for desalination of sea water to use it as drinking water;

(b) if so, when such agreement was signed; and

(c) if not, why India is not utilising the technical know-how of foreign countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b). Does not arise.

(c) India has adequate expertise in developing suitable techniques for the conversion of sea waves into energy and for the desalination of sea water into drinking water. Two desalination plants, each of 50,000 litre capacity, have already been set up in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh using indigenous knowhow. Laboratory experiments on the conversion of wave energy into electrical energy have been completed and field trials will be conducted soon.

Study of Socio-Economic Analysis of Civil Services Candidates

4779. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UPSC has undertaken a study of the Socio-economic analysis of Civil Services candidates between 1975 and 1986; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings results of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b): The Union Public Service Commission has been collecting data on Socio Economic background of candidates of the Civil Services Examination. An analysis of information furnished by the candidates to the Commission reveals that nearly fifty percent of successful candidates of the 1982 and 1983 examinations could be categorised as being from rural areas, if the place of birth was taken as the sole criterion. If residence in a village during the first fifteen years is taken as the criterion, the percentage of candidates from rural areas worked out to about 33 1/3% for these years. If the place of residence of parents/guardian during the last fifteen years is taken as the criterion, the percentage of candidates from rural areas works out to 37.7%. The Commission is carrying on studies over an extended period to observe the trend and then to come to a reasoned conclusion.

Posting of Husband and Wife in Nationalised Banks

4780. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any circular was issued by his Ministry or the relevant banking body regarding posting of husband and wife at the same place in the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, when this circular was issued; and

(c) how far it is being implemented?

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

(b) and (c). Department of Personnel and Training circulated guidelines in April, 1986 regarding posting of husband and wife at the same station. These guidelines were circulated to all public sector banks in May, 1986 for information and necessary action. The matter was further considered by Government in consultation with Indian Banks Association and further guidelines have been issued on 10th August, 1987 laying down norms to be followed by the banks while posting husband and wife at the same station where both spouses happen to be employed in public sector banks. Banks have been advised to follow these guidelines keeping in view their administrative convenience, availability of vacancies, etc.

Smuggling of Tiger Bones

4781. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have expressed concern to Union Government over the alleged smuggling of tiger bones out of the country to manufacture a magical medicine known as 'tiger wine';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to stop the smuggling of tiger bones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). No instance of smuggling of tiger bones out of the country has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified throughout the country. Appropriate steps are taken in close co-ordination with the Wild Life Preservation authorities concerned for check/detection of smuggling of tiger skins and bones out of the country.

[*Translation*]

Export of Opium Products

4782. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the products manufactured in the opium factories of the country are exported; and

(b) if so, the value of opium products exported in 1986-87 and also during the first quarter of 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). The value of opiates exported in 1986-87 was Rs. 2405.61 lakhs (provisional) and in the first quarter of 1987-88 - Rs. 229.23 lakhs (provisional).

Coaching Facilities for Backward Class Students for All India Competitive Exams

4783. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the benefit of the poor and backward class candidates in rural areas appearing for I.A.S., I.P.S. and other All India Competitive Examinations, facilities are proposed to be provided to them to get coaching freely in a wider way;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme worked out in this regard; and

(c) the likely date by which the coaching centers will be opened and the places chosen for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). As there is no Central list for Backward classes, the question of providing coaching facilities to such candidates for preparation for appearing in the competitive examination does not arise. However the Ministry of Welfare is at present conducting centers for SC/ST candidates in order to assist them in appearing in the Civil Services Exam. and various other examinations. At present there are 64 coaching centres run for the benefit of SC/ST candidates.

Revenue Stamps for Salaries through Cheques

4784. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether for payments worth every Rs. 20/- and above a 20 paise receipt stamp is to be affixed;

(b) when salaries to Government employees and other are credited to banks, whether 20 paise is deducted towards receipt stamp;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to adopt a uniform policy for both employees who take salaries by cash and by cheque?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) (a) For payments exceeding Rs. 20/-, a twenty paise revenue stamp is to be affixed.

(b) For salaries credited to banks, a twenty paise revenue stamp is to be affixed either by the person concerned if he receives the cheque, or by the bank if the cheque is sent direct to the bank.

(c) Does not arise.

Industrial Pollution

4785. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought the assistance of our scientists and some foreign experts about the plants which have the power to check pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the said plants; and

(d) whether any hybrid plants have been developed to control the industrial pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Indian Scientists were involved in carrying out studies to assess the impact of air pollutants on plants. No assistance of foreign experts in this regard has been sought.

(b) Various aspects of the study include:

(i) Pollution sink efficiency, growth response and productivity of plants with respect to fly-ash and sulphur dioxide.

(ii) Effects of pollutants on physiology and biochemistry of plants; Eco-physiological studies.

(iii) Effects of sulphur dioxide on plants in industrial and urban areas.

(iv) Studies on tree canopies in relation to environmental pollution.

(c) Plants used in mitigating air pollution include:

Mangifera indica, Tectona grandis, Polyalthia longifolia, Thespesia populinea, Cyamopsis tetragonoloba, Nerium indicum and Pithecolobium dulce.

(d) No, Sir.

Strengthening R & D Structure

4786. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that advanced nations are getting tight fisted about their technology transfer as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated 17 July, 1987;

(b) whether increased emphasis and attention is being paid to strengthen our own R & D structure with priority for items of immediate general field use;

(c) whether Industry-wise priority list has been drawn up for guidance of R & D units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Many countries in the world transfer technologies to other countries only on financial and economic considerations; as such they do not easily transfer technologies when they apprehend competition from the recipient of the technology.

(b) Yes, Sir. Even now more than 75% of the R & D expenditure in the country is funded by the Government. Increased emphasis is being laid on the their programmes to make them relevant to the current needs of the country. Efforts are being made to improve linkages between the industries, universities, national laboratories and other publicly funded R & D institutions. The R & D effort by the industry for the industry is of recent origin and there are nearly 1000 R & D units which have been recognised by the Ministry of Science and Technology whose output is in fact for immediate field use.

(c) and (d). The National Register of Foreign Collaboration (a scheme in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) has identified about 100 products and areas for analysis which includes aspects such as R & D efforts (in-house and national) for absorption, adaptation and upgradation of technology. Some of the areas for which the studies have been initiated include Dry Cell Batteries, Diesel Engines, Fibre Glass, Lead Acid Batteries, Mopeds, Compressors, Hand Tools and Pre Calculators.

Misdelivery of Passports by Customs Officers

4787. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases have been reported to various collectors of customs regarding passports being misplaced or exchanged with other passengers' passports by the customs officers; and

(b) if so, how many such passports have been mis-delivered by the customs officers to wrong passengers in 1986 and till June, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). It is not true that several cases of passports being mis-placed or mis-delivered by the customs officers have been reported to various Collectors of Customs. Only one such case was reported during 1986 and 3 cases, during 1987 (upto June).

Agreements for Co-operation in Science & Technology

4788. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) names of States with whom we have agreements for co-operation in the field of science & technology;

(b) number of Indian scientific and technological personnel deputed to those States under the agreements and vice-versa;

(c) the value of scientific equipment supplied to those States under the agreements and vice-versa; and

(d) number of Indian trainees sent to each State under the agreements and vice-versa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

P.R. Ganapathy Report on Loans given to Farmers

4789. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri P.R. Ganapathy was submitted a report to the Government on the loans given to the farmers during 1977 and 1979 cyclones in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the recommendations made in the report;

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations and implemented them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[*Translation*]

Insurance Scheme for Wells/ Tubewells

4790. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK:
SHRI MANIK REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any insurance scheme in regard to the unsuccessful wells/ tube-wells;

(b) if so, when this scheme was introduced;

(c) whether grants are given for this purpose by Government; and

(d) the names of the insurance companies which are assisting in this insurance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme known as 'Assistance to Failed Wells Compensation Fund' was introduced in the concerned States/Union Territories in 1985 for the duration of Seventh Plan period.

(c) The Plan outlay is shared by Central and State Governments on 50 : 50 basis.

(d) All the four subsidiaries of General Insurance Corporation of India viz. (i) National Insurance Co. Ltd., Calcutta, (ii) New India Assurance Co. Ltd., Bombay; (iii) Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd., New Delhi; and (iv) United India Insurance Co. Ltd., Madras; are assisting in the implementation of this Scheme.

[*English*]

Foreign Exchange Expenses of Cigarette Companies

4791. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total amount of foreign exchange spent by cigarette companies as the office expenses abroad during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): Reserve Bank of India have allowed only one cigarette company, viz. M/s ITC Ltd, Calcutta, to open an office abroad - at New York. The details of foreign exchange released are as Under:-

	Period	Purpose	Exchange released
1.	February 1985 to January, 1986	Sale of cigarettes, Tobaccos; Packaging and printing; selling of leaf tobaccos; Export of Marine Food products, General Merchandise items.	US Dollar 1,55,490 p.a. *Plus* Air India Rupee voucher of Rs. 2 lakhs.
2.	February 1986 to January, 1987	Sale of cigarettes, Tobaccos; Packaging and printing; selling of leaf tobaccos; Export of Marine Food products, General Merchandise items.	US Dollar 1,55,490 p.a. *Plus* Air India Rupee voucher of Rs. 2 lakhs.
3.	February 1986 to July, 1986	Hotel activity	US Dollar 40,800
4.	August 1986 to January 1987	Hotel activity	US Dollar 89,000 and US Dollar 22,000 towards non-recurring expenses.

Foreign Travel Tax for Visitors to Bangladesh

4792. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN:
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce foreign travel tax for visitors going from India to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether this would be applicable only to Indian Nationals going to Bangladesh or for all; and

(c) whether Bangladesh has introduced foreign travel tax for persons coming to India from that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Foreign Travel Tax @ Rs. 50/- per passenger is charged from all passengers going to neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, in terms of the provi-

sions of section 35 (1) (ii) of the Finance Act, 1979 with effect from 15th June, 1979.

(c) An embarkation fee of Taka 200 is payable by all persons travelling by air from Bangladesh.

Liberalised Pensions to Widows of Employees Retired before 1961-62

4793. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
DR. G.S. RAJHANS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the widows of those Central Government employees who retired from services prior to 1961-62 are still not getting family pensions as per the liberalised pension rules;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) efforts Government purpose to make to render pensionary benefits to such widows with immediate effect?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) to (c). Liberalised family pension in terms of rule 54 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 has been extended w.e.f. 22.9. 1977 to the widows of all Govt. servants who were borne on pensionable establishments and retired/died in service prior to 1.1.1964 or thereafter irrespective of the fact whether the Govt. servants had opted for 1964 Family Pension Scheme or not.

The Government have no details about windows who are not yet getting family pension as per liberalisd pension rules.

Deforestation of Western Ghats

4794. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of deforestation in the Western Ghats in the Southern region;

(b) the extent to which this has affected the rainfall in Kerala and the neighbouring States; and

(c) the remedial steps being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) As per National Remote Sensing Agency's report, the forest area in the following States has gone down from 1972-75 to 1980-82 to the extent given below:-

Area figures in square kilometers

State	Forest area in 1972-75	Forest area in 1980-82	Fall in forest area	Percentage change
1. Karnataka	29,480	25,655	3,825	12.97
2. Kerala	8,611	7,376	1,235	14.34
3. Tamil Nadu	16,676	13,187	3,489	20.92

The figures given above include the forest areas of the Western Ghats in the Southern region.

(b) Scientific evidence to clearly establish that the irregularity in monsoon is mainly due to deforestation of mountain tops and depletion of forests elsewhere, does not exist.

(c) The following remedial steps have been taken:-

(i) Large scale afforestation.

(ii) The Government are endeavouring to propagate tree-planting and enlisting people's cooperation for their protection.

(iii) Restriction on fellings above altitude of 1,000 meters.

(iv) Avoiding clearfelling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable, restricting it to areas, not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(v) Identification of critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(vi) Increase in protected areas like Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks.

(vii) Soil Conservation measures.

(viii) Creation of new firewood and fodder reserves under Western Ghats Development Programme.

(ix) Strict implementation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Scrutiny of Resources Generating Areas

4795. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has decided to have a scrutiny of areas which could generate resources to finance Plans in a non-inflationary manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has also reviewed the emerging issues in the financial sphere, and in particular the long term imbalance in the growth of revenues and non-plan revenue expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As already indicated in the Seventh Plan, the emphasis is being given on raising resources for funding the Plans in a non-inflationary manner. Various areas suggested in this context are, inter-alia, better tax compliance, counter tax avoidance, reducing tax evasion, rationalisation and simplification of the tax structure, discontinuance of tax concessions wherever not justified and containing the growth in non-Plan expenditure as well as improvement in capacity utilisation, raising the productivity levels, better inventory management, rationalisation of pricing policy, etc., in the case of public sector enterprises.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The review has highlighted the need for a closer scrutiny of the areas of the fiscal system which could strengthen resource generation and check the long term imbal-

ance in the growth of revenues and non-Plan revenue expenditure.

[*Translation*]

Afforestation of Aravalli Ranges

4796. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prevailing drought and famine conditions in Rajasthan has resulted in reduction of forest area to a great extent;

(b) the efforts made to increase the forest area in Rajasthan;

(c) the details of scheme being implemented to afforest the Aravalli ranges; and

(d) the amount spent during the last three years for the purpose and proposed to be allocated for the remaining period of Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) The forest resources are showing indication of deterioration due to prevailing drought and famine conditions.

(b) and (c). Apart from State Sector Schemes of afforestation, a Centrally sponsored scheme namely, "Rural Fuelwood Plantation and Afforestation of Eco-Sensitive Non-Himalayan Areas" is being implemented. In addition, Afforestation Schemes are taken up under the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), the Rural Development Programme (DDP), and Drought-Prone Area Programme (DPAP). Furthermore, to reduce the pressure on the forests, a national project for bio-gas development is implemented and steps have been taken to strengthen the retail sale network for LPG and kerosene.

(d)(i) Separate figures are not available for afforestation in Aravalli Ranges. However, the amount spent during the last three years for afforestation in Rajasthan is given below:-

Year	*Amount* (Rs. in lakhs)
1984-85	1880
1985-86	1866
1986-87	2892

(ii) Small portion of Aravalli Ranges also occur in Gujarat and Haryana.

(iii) Allocation for afforestation programme is done on year to year basis and the central assistance depends upon the programme proposed by the State, allocation available under the central budget and the extent of matching share provided in the State Budget.

[*English*]

Extension of Service Granted to Joint Secretaries and Additional Secretaries

4797. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of Joint Secretaries and Additional Secretaries given extension in service after attaining the age of 58 years during the year 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): None, Sir.

Court Cases Regarding Appointment of Officers, directors in Banks

4798. SHRI P. PENCHALLATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases regarding the appointment of officers, directors in various nationalised banks are pending before various courts in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Presumably the question refers to court cases relating to the appointment of a non workman employee as director on the Boards of each of the nationalised banks. Appointment of officer-directors on the boards of nationalised banks is governed by the provisions contained in the Nationalised Banks is governed by the provisions contained in the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemes, 1970 and 1980. These Schemes provide for appointment by the Central Government in consultation with RBI one director from among the employees of nationalised banks who are not workmen on the Board of nationalised banks who are not workmen on the Board of nationalised banks. Some of the Bank Officers' Associations have filed cases in various courts of law praying for issue of direction to the Union of India to appoint Officers' Directors only from among the principal office bearers of their Associations. The matter is sub-judice.

Environment Protection Council

4799. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has taken initiative in asking the States to set up environment protection councils, if so, which of the States have responded;

(b) whether Government will provide technical man power, equipment, laboratory facilities to implement the scheme;

(c) the facilities including financial assistance that are provided to States for the implementation of the schemes; and

(d) whether any scheme has been implemented in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Six States, namely Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Delhi have so far constituted Environment Protection Councils in their States/ Union Territory.

(b) The Environmental Protection Councils are serviced by the State Departments in-charge of environment. There is a scheme to assist State Departments of Environment for strengthening their man power and equipment.

(c) Financial assistance is provided to the State Departments in-charge of environment for strengthening their man power and equipment.

(d) Rs. 14.244 lakhs have been sanctioned and Rs. 5.296 lakhs have been released so far to Orissa under this scheme.

[*Translation*]

Appointment of Officers of Bank of Baroda in Nainital Bank

4800. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any financial administrative link between the Nainital Bank and the Bank of Baroda;

(b) whether the officers of Bank of Baroda have been appointed as Chairman and General Manager in Nainital Bank; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that Bank of Baroda is holding the majority of shares in the paid up capital of the Nainital Bank Limited. By virtue of its controlling interests and with a view to providing managerial support to the Nainital Bank Limited, Bank of Baroda has been deputing its officers to the Nainital Bank Limited. The present Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Nainital Bank Ltd. is an officer on deputation from Bank of Baroda.

[*English*]

Schools for Mentally Retarded Children

4801. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and places of schools for mentally retarded children in the country;

(b) the number of children in these schools;

(c) the facilities given to these children by Union Government; and

(d) whether more facilities are proposed to be provided by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Presently there are nearly 300 Schools for mentally retarded children in the country. It is not possible to give all the details here, as it is too time consuming. However, statewise distributions of institutions is given in the statement below.

(b) As per information available nearly 12,000 mentally handicapped children attend special schools.

(c) and (d). Most of the Schools for mentally handicapped children are managed by the Voluntary Organisations. Grants are made available to Organisations who send projects connected with the facilities to be provided for mentally handicapped persons. The National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Secundrabad provides Extension & Consultancy Services to Voluntary Organisations and State Governments if necessary, in the area of mentally handicapped.

STATEMENT

Statewise Distribution of Number of Institutions for Mentally retarded Persons

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of Institutions for M.R. persons	No. of M.R. persons served
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	- (not indicated)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	21	434
3.	Assam	02	76
4.	Bihar	02	- (not indicated)
5.	Chandigarh	03	55
6.	Delhi	19	813
7.	Goa	01	70
8.	Gujarat	25	1308 (including 450 out patients)
9.	Haryana	01	21
10.	Himachal Pradesh	01	40
11.	Karnataka	63	1244
12.	Kerala	32	945
13.	Madhya Pradesh	01	80
14.	Maharashtra	52	3631
15.	Manipur	01	60
16.	Orissa	04	152
17.	Pondicherry	02	25
18.	Punjab	01	42
19.	Rajasthan	04	124

1	2	3	4
20.	Tamil Nadu	33	1676
21.	Uttar Pradesh	06	199
22.	West Bengal	11	1018 (including 200 12,013 out patients)
		286	12,013

Training to Income Tax Authorities

4802. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether income-tax authorities dealing with the assessment of income-tax returns are taught the different modus operandi adopted by traders to suppress their real sales, turn over, profit; etc.; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

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

(b) In the induction training for probationary officers adequate case study in tax investigation is given. In the in-service training courses for both Group 'A' and Group 'B' officers at different stages of their career, training in investigation is given. For Group 'A' officers, there are 2 week courses on investigation and prosecution, 10 working days courses on investigation of tax-fraud and 5 weeks courses on management and investigation. For group 'B' officers, there is a 45 days orientation course and later a 2 week course in investigation and prosecution.

[*Translation*]

Environmental Clearance

4803. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for a 33 K.V. power line connecting Sheopur and Gauras in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh is pending his Ministry's clearance;

(b) the likely date when it would be cleared; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The proposal has been closed for want of essential information from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. Hence it is not possible to indicate the exact date when the proposal will be cleared.

[*English*]

Violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

4804. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MO-

HANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some five star hotels have been permitted in some States to clear hundred acres of reserve forest in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and also in violation of the environmental ban of any construction within the five hundred meters of high tide mark along the beach;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether enforcing agency of Forest (Conservation) Act is inadequate to take up the cases of such violation, if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). This Ministry has not permitted diversion of forest land for construction of any five-star hotel in any State.

(c) Whenever any instance of such violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 comes to the notice of the Ministry, concerned State Government is asked to take stringent disciplinary action against the erring officials.

Cleaning of Ganga

4805. SHRI RAM DHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ganga Cleaning Project has not made significant progress to achieve its objective because of lack of public participation; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to make it a people's project as declared by the Prime Minister on June 14, 1986 at Varanasi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) The Ganga cleaning project has made significant progress.

(b) Action has been taken on a wide front to inform the people about the progress of the Ganga Action Plan and for securing their cooperation and participation in its implementation as follows:

- Ganga Sewa Shivirs have been held in Hardwar, Varanasi, Kanpur and Patna where several hundred N.S.S. and N.Y.K. volunteers participated and undertook through Shramdan soil conservation, tree planting, cleaning of ghats and other activities.

- About 4,000 schools children have participated in similar activities in Hardwar and Varanasi.

- A special programme for involving students in 100 secondary and higher secondary schools in U.P., Bihar and West Bengal in water quality has been initiated.

- Several thousand pilgrims have participated in afforestation and public awareness programmes in Hardwar, Allahabad, Sultanganj etc.

- Involvement of youth in schemes of national importance such as the Ganga Action Plan is one of the items in the 20-Point Programme, 1986. The programmes of Ganga Sewa Shivirs, Padayatras, schools programmes etc. will continue to be organised in suitable locations along the river.

Atomic Power Plant in Kaiga Karnataka

4806. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up an Atomic Power Plant at Kaiga in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction so far; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have approved setting up of a 2 x 235 MW capacity Atomic Power Station at Kaiga.

(b) Work relating to site investigation, land acquisition, development of infrastructure facilities and advance procurement and manufacture of long time-cycle components is in progress.

(c) Does not arise.

Assistance for Establishing Industries in Backward Areas

4807. SHRI MOHAN BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the projects specified in backward areas for which the Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India sanctioned assistance during the year 1986-87 together with the amount sanctioned in each case;

(b) the Government's policy for giving assistance through the above mentioned institutions for establishing industries in backward areas of the country;

(c) whether any instructions have been issued to nationalised banks also to finance the industrial units which are to be established in industrially backward areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). The Government have been encouraging development of backward areas through various incentives which inter alia include financial assistance on concessional terms for setting up of industrial units in backward areas. The main concessions allowed by the financial institutions for setting up of projects in backward areas are in the form of lower rate of interest, lower promoters contribution, reduced rates of commitment charges and flexible approach in the norms of debt-equity ratio, etc. The details of the assistance sanctioned by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) for backward areas during 1986-87 (July-June) is given in the Statement below. As far as details of assistance sanctioned in each individual case is concerned, in accordance with the statutes governing financial institutions and as per the pactices and usages customary amongst bankers, information relating to or to the affairs of the individual constituents of financial institutions cannot be divulged.

(c) and (d). The banks allow concessional rates of interest for term loans to small scale industries set up in backward areas. Lower rate of interest is also allowed in case of composite loans upto Rs. 25,000/- for small scale industries set up in backward

areas. Under the scheme for providing self-employment to the educated unemployed youth also concessional interest rate is Provided for ventures taken up in backward areas for composite loans upto Rs. 35,000/

STATEMENT

Assistance sanctioned in notified backward areas by the Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India during 1986-87 (July-June).

(Rs. In crores)

	Number	*Amount*
I.D.B.I.	263	723.00
I.F.C.I.	296	426.40
I.C.I.C.I.	358	428.42

[*Translation*]

Non-Clearance of Cheques by RBI

4808. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Reserve Bank of India had stopped the clearance of several cheques of any Co-operative bank in Ahmedabad (Gujarat); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that in the month of June 1987 it had been brought to its notice that Harisiddha Cooperative Bank Ltd., an urban co-operative bank in Ahmedabad was indulging in irregularities by misutilising the clearing mechanism at the Ahmedabad Office of RBI. RBI after examining the matter issued orders for the bank's suspension from participating in the Clearing House and also issued necessary directions under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (as applicable to cooperative societies) precluding the bank from incurring any liability and making payments to depositors in excess of Rs. 250 per depositor. After the bank had cleared its debit balance with RBI, the directions were revoked with effect from 27.6.1987. RBI also carried out a quick investigation of the bank's financial position and its working. On the basis of the findings of the investigation, RBI, in exercise of the powers vested under Section 115 A of the Gujarat Cooperative Societies Act 1961, issued directions on 23.7.1987 to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Gujarat, requiring him to supersede the bank's management with immediate effect. The supersession orders issued by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies have, however, been challenged by the management of the bank in the Gujarat High court which has issued stay orders and the matter is Sub-judice.

[*English*]

Telegu Ganga Project

4809. SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since received required information from the Andhra Pradesh Government in connection with the clearance of the Telegu-Ganga Project;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in clearing the project; and

(c) if not, when it will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

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

Selection of Beneficiaries for Credit Camps

4810. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the associations of bank officers have made objections and protest against the arbitrary manner in which beneficiaries are selected for credit camps;

(b) details of the objections raised; and

(c) Government's/Reserve Bank of India's view in respect of each of such objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). There is no separate criteria for selecting beneficiaries for bank loans disbursed in credit camps. The banks have to adhere to guidelines/procedures laid down from time to time by Reserve Bank of India for identification of beneficiaries for loans pertaining to priority sector including those disbursed through credit camps. Any non-observance of such guidelines is to be looked into by management of the bank and /or Reserve bank of India for necessary remedial action.

[*Translation*]

Levy on Hand-Woven Woollen Blankets

4811. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish excise duty on the hand-woven blanket of woollen yarns in order to safeguard the weaker section of society who weave it; 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) and (b). Excise duty is leviable only on processed woollen blankets, unprocessed woollen blankets being statutorily free of duty. A number of excise duty exemptions are available in respect of processed woollen blankets such as exemptions from duty for shoddy woollen blankets and blankets made from indigenous wool, woollen blankets woven on hand-looms and processed without the aid of power or steam, or certified as 'khadi', woollen blankets woven on hand-looms and processed with the aid of power by a registered hand-loom co-operative society or any organisation set up or approved by the Government for the purpose of development of handlooms etc. These exemptions provide adequate safeguard to hand-woven woollen blanket industry.

[*English*]

Per Capita Availability of Rice, Butter, Milk, etc.

4812. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the daily per capita availability of rice, edible oils, pulses, sugar and milk produced in the country and the number of calories which a person derives daily from the same; and

(b) the number of calories required for a healthy person daily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER

OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Daily per capita net availability of rice, edible oils, pulses, sugar and milk according to the provisionally available data works out as follows:

S.No.	*Item*	*Per capita availability per day in grams*	*Year for which information is related*
1.	Rice	218.9	1986
2.	Pulses	40.6	1986
3.	Edible Oils	11.0	1985-86
4.	Milk	153.4	1985-86
5.	Sugar	29.9	1985-86

The number of calories derived from these items alone works out to approximately 1221 calories per capita per day.

(b) The number of calories required for a healthy person depends upon age, sex, weight and nature of work of the person. The Test Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand constituted by the Planning Commission (1979) adopted an average norm of 2400 calories per capita per day for rural areas and 2100 calories per capita per day for urban areas.

Creation of Indian Metropolitan Cities Administrative Service

4813. KUMARI D.K. THARA DEVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment propose to create an Indian Metropolitan Cities Administrative Service for specialized management of Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, New Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Kanpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Scheme for Hoshiarpur District of Punjab

4814. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to sate:

(a) whether Government have implemented any scheme for the welfare of the Scheduled castes/Tribes and Backward Classes in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab during the last three years ending 31st March, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes implemented during the last five years ending 31st March, 1987 and the work done under such schemes: and

(d) the amount spent year-wise under each head of such schemes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The required information in respect of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes is given in the Statement below. As regards schemes for Scheduled Tribes, no tribe has been scheduled in Punjab under the Presidential Orders.

STATEMENT

Schemes for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab Implemented during the Last Five Years Physical Achievement and Expenditure.

Sr. No.	Name of the Scheme	Year	Expenditure (Rs.)	Physical Achievement
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Free Books and Stationary to Scheduled Caste Students	1982-83	6,76,963	20,200 Students
		1983-84	8,21,579	23,800 - do -
		1984-85	6,64,796	20,300 - do -
		1985-86	10,92,000	25,800 - do -
		1986-87	18,05,638	36,673 -do -
			50,60,976	1,26,773 - do -
2.	Coaching in Stenography	1982-83	18,000	15 Trainees.
		1983-84	18,000	15 - do -
		1984-85	14,400	12 - do -
		1985-86	18,000	15 - do -
		1986-87	13,336	15 - do -
			81,766	72 - do -
3.	Award to Brilliant Scheduled Caste Students.	1982-83	-	- -
		1983-84	-	- -

1	2	3	4	5
		1984-85	35,400	51 Students
		1985-86	1,20,900	447 - do -
		1986-87	1,51,800	576 - do -
			3,08,100	1074 - do -
4.	Subsidy for the purchase of Agriculture Land.	1982-83	70,000	14 Beneficiaries
		1983-84	80,000	16 - do -
		1984-85	75,000	15 - do -
		1985-86	70,000	14 Beneficiaries
		1986-87		Scheme Dropped
			2,95,000	59
5.	Environmental Improvement of Scheduled Castes Basties	1982-83	13,38,097	10 villages
	(Payment of Street & Construction of Surface Drains)	1983-84	16,82,632	18 - do -
		1984-85	9,39,707	8 - do -
		1985-86	4,20,959	6 - do -
		1986-87	6,46,300	5 - do -
			50,27,695	47 - do -
6.	Drinking Water Scheme	1982-83	44,000	50 Villages
		1983-84	44,000	51 - do -
		1984-85	46,700	51 - do -

1	2	3	4	5
		1985-86	27,300	30 - do -
		1986-87	28,000	32 - do -
			1,90,000	214
7.	One Electric Point to Un-electricfied Sch. Caste House Holds.	1986-87	1,02,700	395 Beneficiaries
	This scheme was introduced during the year 1986-87			
8.	Construction of Houses for	1982-83	1,68,000	84 Beneficiaries
		1983-84	4,12,000	206 - do -
		1984-85	3,82,000	191 - do -
		1985-86	95,000	19 - do -
		1986-87	1,45,000	29 - do -
			12,02,000	529
9.	Construction of House for Vimukat Jaties	1982-83	24,000	12- do -
		1983-84	1,46,000	73 - do -
		1984-85	1,10,000	55 - do -
		1985-86	45,000	9 - do -
		1986-87	75,000	15 - do -
			4,00,000	164
10.	Assistance to Sch. Caste for the Dev. of Manurial Pits.	1982-83	2,20,805	473 Families.
		1983-84	1,00,770	204 - do -
		1984-85	Scheme Dropped.	
			3,21,575	677

1	2	3	4	5	
11.	Construction of Dharamshala/ Chaupals	1982-83	5,96,000	. 104	Villages.
		1983-84	1,00,000	10	- do -
		1984-85	1,40,000	14	- do -
		1985-86	2,60,000	26	- do -
		1986-87	9,45,000	63	- do -
			20,41,000	217	
12.	Grant for the Purchase of utensils for Sch. Caste Dharamshalas.	1986-87	1,54,000	77	- do -
	(This scheme was introduced during the year 1986-87)				
13.	Removal of Untouchability	1986-87	11,000		
			5,000 One outstanding panchayat.		
			1,000 One outstanding writers.		
			1,000 Seminars and Debates.		
			4,000 Inter-Caste Marriage.		
14.	Supply of Improved Tools to Leather Artisans.	1986-87	88,000	44	Beneficiaries.
15.	Punjab Scheduled Castes Land Dev. and Finance Corporation.	(Under Direct Loaning Scheme)			
		1982-83	5,79,000	55	Beneficiaries
		1983-84	6,34,000	54	- do -
		1984-85	7,93,000	63	Beneficiaries
		1985-86	11,53,000	106	- do -

1	2	3	4		5
		1986-87	5,67,000	47	- do -
			37,26,000	325	
		(Under Bank Tie-up Scheme)			
		(Amount incl. Capital Subsidy)			
		1982-83	35,54,000	757	Beneficiaries
		1983-84	60,11,000	1521	- do -
		1984-85	75,70,000	1859	- do -
		1985-86	102,56,000	2195	- do -
		1986-87	120,35,000	2290	- do -
			3,94,26,000	8622	
16.	Punjab Backward Clases Land Dev. and Finance Corporation.	(Under Direct Loaning Scheme)			
		1982-83	1,41,000	23	Beneficiaries
		1983-84	1,17,000	22	- do -
		1984 85	83,000	163	- do -
		1985-86	38,000	121	- do -
		1986-87	38,000	144	- do -
			4,17,000	1331	
		(Under Bank Tie-up Scheme)			
		1982-83	15,84,000	423	Beneficiaries
		1983-84	18,92,000	436	- do -
		1984-85	9,20,000	211	- do -

1	2	3	4	5
		1985-86	13,12,000	267 - do -
		1986-87	7,18,000	137 - do -
			64,26,000	1474

In addition, three schemes are being implemented through the Education Department Expenditure incurred on these schemes during the last five years was as follows:-

		Year	Amount in rupees
1.	Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes	1982-83	14,51,327
		1983-84	13,27,802
		1984-85	14,97,713
		1985-86	15,07,831
		1986-87	15,51,961
			73,36,634
2.	State Welfare Scheme.	1982-83	8,35,713
		1983-84	8,47,321
		1984-85	8,87,721
		1985-86	8,99,723
		1986-87	9,31,702
			44,02,180
1.	Special grant to Scheduled Caste girl students.	1982-83	87,614
		1983-84	91,171
		1984-85	95,804
		1985-86	98,702
		1986-87	1,14,894
			4,88,185

Government Offices not within the Purview of Administrative Tribunal

4815. SHRI KAMLA PRSAD RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Central Government offices/Ministries Autonomous Bodies whose employees have been debarred to go to the Administrative Tribunal for the redressal of their grievances relating to service matters; and

(b) the reasons thereof and the alternative open to them for the redressed to their grievances?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b). As per Section 2 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 the provisions of this Act shall not apply to:

(a) any member of the naval, military or air forces or of any other armed forces of the Union;

(b) any officer or servant of the Supreme Court or of any High Court;

(c) any persons appointed to the secretarial staff of either House of Parliament or to the secretarial staff of any State Legislature or a House thereof or, in the case of a Union territory having a Legislature, of that Legislature.

In respect of the Corporations and Societies owned or controlled by the Central Govt. and local or other authorities within the territory of India the Central Administrative Tribunal will have jurisdiction only after necessary notifications bringing them under the purview of the Act are issued by the Central Government. So far notifications have been issued bringing the Organisations mentioned in statement below under the purview of the Central Administrative Tribunal. Notifications in respect of the other organisations have not been issued as the Central Administrative Tribunal is not presently in a position to take on the extra-work load. Appointment of new Members/Vice-Chairman is held up in view of recent Supreme Court judgement directing amendment of the procedure for their appointment.

The Members of the Armed Forces of the Union are excluded from the purview of the Tribunal as they are governed by the relevant Acts of the Parliament and the Rules made under those Acts. They will have the avenues for redressal of grievances available to them under those provisions and also judicial remedies as admissible under the law. In respect of the employees of the Secretariat of both the Houses of Parliament they are under the control of Presiding Officers of the Houses concenred and judicial remedies are available for redressal of their grievances. Similarly the employees of the Supreme Court and High Courts are under the control of the Chief Justices concerned and as such are not brought under the purview of the Central Administrative Tribunal. The forum available to those who are excluded from the purview of the Administrative Tribunals Act prior to setting up of the Central Administrative Tribunal will continue to be available.

STATEMENT

List of Organisations brought under the Central Administrative Tribunal under Section 14 (2) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

1. Central Board of Trustees Constituted under the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous

Provisions Act, 1952.

2. Employees State Insurance Corporation.

3. Central Board for Workers' Education.

4. National Labour Institute.

5. National Council of Safety in Mines, Dhanbad.

6. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

7. Central Social Welfare Board.

8. Indian Council for Agricultural Research.

Production of Digital Switching System by (C-DOT)

4816. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for the development of telematics (C-DOT) has decided to produce digital switching systems based on its own technology;

(b) whether it is also a fact that C-DOT has sought Rs. 30 crores from the Government to set up a factory for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has decided to transfer technology for production of digital switching system developed by it to ITI and they are jointly with ITI setting up a 20,000 line model pilot production plant in one of the ITI' units at Bangalore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Customs Quarters at Viramgaon Nagar

4817. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the residential quarters of the Department of Customs in Viramgaon Nagar in Ahmedabad District and the arrangements made for their maintenance; and

(b) the number of quarters given on rent and those lying vacant and the action proposal to be taken for their utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). There are six residential quarters of the Customs and Central Excise Department in Viramgaon Nagar, Ahmedabad District, which have remained unoccupied as only a small office consisting of an Inspector and a Sepoy is functioning from here. The CPWD are responsible for the maintenance of these quarters, but no repair work has been carried out as their cost would be prohibitive in view of the old and dilapidated nature of these quarters. Instead, steps are being taken to dispose of these quarters and the land on which they are constructed.

[*English*]

Promotion Policy of L.I.C.

4818. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the meeting of the Board of Directors of Life Insurance Corporation on 23 July, 1987 the promotion policy for L.I.C. employees was finalised but the assurance which was given by the Finance Minister to the delegation on 26 November, 1986 to grant one promotion to all the class III and class IV LIC employees in their service career has not been implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons for this; and

(c) whether the LIC propose to revise the promotional policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). A proposal for revising the existing promotion rules of Class III and Class IV employees of LIC was considered by the Board of Life Insurance Corporation at its meeting held on 23 July, 1987 and has recently been submitted to the Government. Government are not aware of any assurance stated to have been given by the then Finance Minister to the delegation of employees on 26th Novemeber, 1986 about granting one promotion to all the Class III and Class IV LIC employees in their service career.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Pending Welfare Proposals of Sikkim

4819. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain proposals received by the Union Government from Sikkim Government for tribals werlfare are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details of these proposals;

(c) whether Government propose to take some decision on these proposals;

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

(e) if no decision has been taken the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following proposals received from the Government of Sikkim for grants-in-aid under First Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India are pending with the Ministry of Welfare:

		ESTIMATED COST (Rs. in Lakhs)
I	Development of Tribal Handicrafts:	
	(i) Training Centre, Community Centres and Men's Hostel	30.5
	(ii) Service-cum-Marketing Centres and Wool Dyeing Centres.	28.5
		59.0

II Cardamom Curing Houses and Subsidy to Cardamom Cultivators

(i)	Construction of Cardamom Curing Houses (over the Period 1986-87 to 1989-90)	50.0
(ii)	Subsidy to Cardamom cultivators (over the period 1986-87 to 1989-90)	17.50
		67.50

(c) to (e). Of the total provision under First Provise to Article 275(1) of the Constitution, the share of Sikkim on pro-rata basis for 1987-88, works out to Rs. 2.76 lakhs which has already been released and State Government advised to take up schemes of Yak breeding and piggery which were submitted by the State Government along with other schemes mentioned above.

Raids on Houses of Income Tax Officers

4820. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Income-tax officers in the Income-tax Department whose houses were raided by the C.B.I. during the period 1 January, 1986 to 31 July, 1987 and the value of goods and the particulars of documents seized from there in these raids;

(b) the number of the officers found guilty and arrested as a result of these raids and the action taken against them; and

(c) the number of arrested persons against whom cases have been filed in courts and the present position of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Ten. Detailed information in respect of value of goods and particulars of documents seized in the raids has not been received;

(b) One officer was found 'not guilty'. One Officer has been suspended. Full information regarding the remaining eight officers is awaited;

(c) No case has been filed.

Cases of Drug Smuggling in April-June 1987

4821. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of drug smuggling detected during the period April to June, 1987;

(b) the valuse thereof in the international market; and

(c) measures taken to strengthen anti-smuggling operations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). Reports received by the Narcotics Control Bureau indicate that during April to June, 1987, 305 cases of drug smuggling were detected. No precise value of the drugs seized can be determined as the

illicit international market price varies from place to place and time to time, depending upon the purity of the drug, local demand and supply position, place of origin, etc.

The field formations remain vigilant to curb drug smuggling activities. The preventive and intellignece machinery has been geared up an appropriate enforcement measures are taken in co-ordinantion with the Central and State government authorities concerened. A liberalised reward scheme has been announced by the Government under which the Central and State enforcement officers and their informants are entitled to reward for drug seizures.

Development of Processes by Central Leather Research Laboratory

4822. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proceses developed by the Central Leather Research Laboratory, Madras during the last three years;

(b) the number of the processes out of these utilised by the industry; and

(c) the number of the processes not utilised by the industry and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) During the last three years, the Cental Leather Research Institute, Madras had developed fifteen processes.

(b) Of these, four processes were licensed against payments and eleven processes were given as technical aid free of charge. All processes except one have been commercialised by industry.

(c) The one process not yet commercialised by industry has been licensed very recently and it takes some time for a process to go into production

Resource Mobilisation

4823. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR:
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has advised different State Governments to improve their resources position;

(b) if so, the performance of different State Governments in resource mobilisation in 1986-87; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is given below:

Yield estimated from measures of Additional Resource Mobilisation by State Governments & its enterprises in 1986-87

(Rs. crores)

States	*Yield in 1986-87 (Latest Estimates)*				
	Budgetary Measures		*Net Yield from*		Grand Total
	Tax Revenue	Non-tax Measures tariff	Increase in Electricity fares	Increase in Bus	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Andhra Pradesh	20.00	-	-	-	20.00
2. Assam	-	-	-	-	-
3. Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-
4. Bihar	38.50	62.91	5.31	-	106.72
5. Gujarat	37.68	25.16	-	7.60	70.44
6. Haryana	-	3.60	-	-	3.60
7. Himachal Pradesh	0.40	0.72	1.71	-	2.83
8. Jammu & Kashmir	2.50	-	-	-	2.50
9. Karnataka	42.63	0.85	24.17	-	67.65
10. Kerala	22.00	20.00	-	-	42.00
11. Madhya Pradesh	24.50	7.23	36.10	-	67.83
12. Maharashtra	162.87	-	-	-	162.87
13. Manipur	-	0.68	-	-	0.68
14. Meghalaya	-	0.30	-	-	0.30
15. Mizoram	0.58	1.04	-	-	1.62
16. Nagaland	0.05	-	-	-	0.05

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
17. Orissa	41.32	57.00	-	-	98.32
18. Punjab	31.31	2.91	-	15.00	49.22
19. Rajasthan	20.35	-	-	-	20.35
20. Sikkim	0.20	0.48	-	-	0.68
21. Tamil Nadu	20.00	-	-	-	20.00
22. Tripura	0.20	0.15	-	-	0.35
23. Uttar Pradesh	33.25	7.00	41.03	-	81.28
24. West Bengal	47.00	-	11.18	-	58.18
Total - All States	**545.34**	**190.03**	**119.50**	**22.60**	**877.47**

Loans to Unemployed Youth in Andhra Pradesh

4824. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some irregularities committed in giving loans by the various branches of the nationalised banks in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Mahboob Nagar District under the scheme for providing self employment to educated unemployed youths have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps being taken to set these irregularities right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). The Reserve Bank of India have reported that no such complaint has been received by them. Whenever specific complaints are received by the Government/Reserve Bank of India, these are taken up with the concerned banks for remedial measures.

New Forest Policy

4825. SHRI RAGHUMA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a new forest policy to protect the natural forests of the country and not to permit any forest based enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). The National Forest Policy of 1952 is being revised. A copy of the revised policy will be placed on the Table of the House.

House Building Loans to Employees in Bank of Baroda

4826. SHRI SIMON TIGGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government employees are disbursed house building advances for construction of house in two advance instalments;

(b) whether all nationalised banks are following above procedure except Bank of Baroda;

(c) whether employees of Bank of Baroda are being disbursed the house building loans in five to six instalments and that too only after expending the money from their own sources;

(d) whether the procedure adopted by Bank of Baroda is causing undue hardship and harassment to their employees; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take to alleviate the hardships of employees of bank of Baroda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Yes, Sir. House Building Advance for construction of house is disbursed in two equal instalments in advance — the first on completion of mortgage and other formalities and the second, when the construction has reached the plinth level.

(b) to (e). The Scheme of staff housing loan for employees in the nationalised banks is not the same as in the case of Central Government employees. Bank of Baroda has reported that House Building loans are disbursed as under:

1. For purchase of a ready house/flat, the amount is disbursed to the vendor against sale deeds;

2. For purchase of flats/houses through builders/Co-operative Housing Societies disbursement is made as per the agreement entered into between the vendor and the purchaser against the certificate of progress report;

3. In case of individual construction, disbursement is made to the vendor against sale deeds for purchase of land and for construction 10% of the loan amount is disbursed to start construction. Further amount is disbursed in stages as and when bills of costs are submitted.

Bank of Baroda has also reported that in normal circumstances, the applications for disbursement of House Building loans are processed speedily to avoid hardship to the employees. The Bank has also informed that it has set up a Special Cell at Head Office to dispose off applications speedily.

World Bank Assistance for Technical Education

4827. SHRI NARSINGH SURYAWANSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating the possibility of having World Bank involvement in education in general and in technical education in particular; 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). World Bank Group assistance to India has been generally tied

to specific project investments. At present no project proposal relating to the education sector is under consideration for World Bank Group assistance.

Loans to Employees for Building Houses

4828. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bank employees including officers who have ben granted loans for building houses during last three years and total amount incurred by each nationalised bank, state-wise;

(b) the number of employees who have repaid the amount promptly and the amount of interest collected from them; and

(c) the steps taken against defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and to the extent possible, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Extinction of Birhor tribe

4830. SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Birhor Tribe in Chhota-nagpur of Bihar is on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any remedial measures in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) (a) During the decade 1961-1971, the population of Birhor Tribe who inhabit mostly the chota-nagpur area in Bihar increased from 2,438 to 3,464. Tribe-wise population of 1981 Census has not yet been published. There is no positive evidence to indicate they are on the verge of extinction.

(b) and (c). Birhor tribe has been identified as a primitive group for according special treatment under tribal sub-plan approach. The Ministry provided SCA of Rs. 207.08 lakhs during VI Plan and Rs. 56.00 lakhs and Rs. 62.00 lakhs in 1985-86 and 1986-87 respectively to Govt. of Bihar to implement programmes for Birhors and other 8 primitive tribal groups. The tentative allocation for 1987-88 is Rs. 62.13 lakhs. A special project report for development of Birhors has been prepared by the State Government.

[*English*]

Tribal Welfare Schemes for South Bihar

4831. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for the tribal development schemes since the inception of Tribal Sub Plan chhota-nagpur and Santhal Parganas of South Bihar, year wise;

(b) the achievements made so far of these schemes;

(c) the average monthly income of the people of this region; and

(d) the percentage of literacy among tribal population of the region?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIR-

IDHAR GOMANGO): (a) A statement showing allocation of funds is given below.

(b) During Sixth Plan, 3.99 lakh Scheduled Tribe families were economically assisted under family beneficiary programmes against the target of 2.00 lakh Scheduled Tribes families. As against the target of 4.59 lakh Scheduled Tribe families to be assisted during the 7th Plan, the achievement up to July, 1987 is 2.69 lakh families. The main schemes of tribal development are under Agriculture, Minor irrigation, Cooperation Water and Power Development, Industries and Minerals, Transport & Communication, Education, Health and Housing, etc.

(c) No comprehensive survey to ascertain the average monthly income of tribals in Santhal Pargana & Chhotanagpur has been conducted.

(d) According to 1981 census, the literacy among tribal population in Bihar is 17%.

STATEMENT

Allocation of funds for Tribal Development in Bihar since inception of tribal sub-Plan.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	*Flow of funds from State Plan to Tribal* sub-Plan	*Special Central Assistance*	*Total*
1974-79	17717.00	2753.00	20470.00
1979-80	6525.00	972.00	7497.00
1980-85	60696.00	6935.00	67631.00
1985-86	19413.00	1964.00	21377.00
1986-87	25950.00	2066.00	28016.00
1987-88	39500.00	2078.00	41578.00

Opening of Bank Branches in Himachal Pradesh by UCO Bank

4832. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UCO Bank has informed the Reserve bank of India of its inability to open any of the nineteen new branches for which licences have been allotted to this bank under the New branch Licensing Policy of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to allot the centers to the other nationalised banks operating in the region; and

(c) the names of the centers, district-wise, which were allotted to the UCO Bank for the opening up of new branches and where the bank has expressed its inability to open them and the names of the nationalised banks to which each of the new centers has now been allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-1990, 19 licences were issued to UCO Bank for opening branches in Himachal Pradesh. UCO Bank has surrendered all the 19 licences expressing its inability to open branches at these centers on the ground that 73% of its existing branches in India are already in the rural and semi-urban areas and they will have administrative and other problems in increasing this percentage. RBI has since reallotted these 19 centers in Himachal Pradesh to other banks.

(c) The names of other banks to whom the 19 centers have been Reallotted are given below:-

Name of centre	Name of District	Name of bank reallotted to
1	2	3
1. Behal	Bilaspur	State Bank of Patiala
2. Ghandir	-do-	-do-
3. Langota	Hamirpur	Central Bank of India
4. Lagipal	Kulu	Punjab National Bank
5. Seobag	-do-	-do-
6. Kalath	-do-	-do-
7. Manhri	Shimla	-do-
8. Banoti	-do-	-do-
9. Dhagoli	-do-	State Bank of Patiala
10. Dangori	-do-	-do-
11. Neripul	Sirmur	-do-
12. Nasani	-do-	-do-
13. Dharwa	-do-	-do-

1	2	3
14. Koti Dhiman	-do-	-do-
15. Didag Khandtyon	-do-	State Bank of India
16. Rajani	-do-	-do-
17. Bhawai	-do-	-do-
18. Hind	Solan	Punjab National Bank
19. Lonarghat	-do-	State Bank of Patiala

Modificalon of Service Rules to Avoid Delay in Taking Decisions

4833. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2432 on 10.4.85 regarding modification of service rules to avoid delays and state:

(a) whether any cases of inordinate delay in the disposal of cases by the Government employees have been taken note of during the past three years including the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Ministry/ Department-wise and the action taken to improve the situation;

(c) whether any improvement in the procedure of greater delegation of power at appropriate levels have also been effected so as to streamline the administration and to eliminate any delay in taking/implementing the Government decisions;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b). To check delays, the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure prescribes for preparation of Weekly Arrears Statement and monthly statement of cases pending disposal for over a month. These statements are reviewed by senior officers and action is taken to expedite disposal of pending cases. Information on ministry-wise cases in which delays occurred in their disposal is not available in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

(c) to (e). Improvements in procedures and greater elongation of power is a continuing process. A few examples of the steps taken in this direction are given below.

(i) Procedure for issue of industrial approvals has been rationalised which have quickened the disposal of applications.

(ii) The nationalised banks have been advised to give immediate credit to outstation cheques upto the amount of Rs. 2,500/-.

(iii) 'Quick Payment System' has

been introduced in major customs houses for settlement of drawback claims.

(iv) The Ministry of Finance has increased the powers of the administrative ministries to sanction schemes from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 5 crores.

(v) A time-limit of two weeks has been fixed for disposal of applications for de-registration of MRTP Companies.

(vi) Regional Licensing Authorities under the Import and Export Trade Control Organisation have been authorised to grant supplementary licences upto the value of Rs. 5 lakhs for S.S.I. Units and Rs. 50 lakhs for large scale units.

(vii) The limit of Rs. 5,000 for settlement of cases of deceased depositors without production of succession certificates has been increased to Rs. 20,000 by the Department of Posts.

(viii) Powers of registration of powerlooms which were earlier vested in Textiles Commissioner have been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territories.

Opening of Bank Branch at Sansarpur Terrace, District Kangra

4834. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Himachal Pradesh have approached his Ministry/ Reserve Bank of India for the conversion of the licence allotted to the Gramin Bank at Sansarpur Terrace in Tehsil Dhera, District Kangra to licence for a nationalised bank;

(b) whether his Ministry have acknowledged the receipt of request raegarding conversion of licence from Government of Himachal Pradesh vide letter No. 12 (246) 861-Dev. 282F dated 21 January, 1987;

(c) if so, the action taken by the RBI in this regard and the name of the nationalised bank to which the centre has been allotted; and

(d) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons for delay and the likely date by which licence in favour of nationalised bank is to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the State Government of Himachal Pradesh while forwarding list of identified centers for opening bank offices in the District of Kangra under the current Branch Licensing Policy for opening branches in the rural and semi-urban areas had included Sansarpur terrace in the list. The State Government had also suggested that it may be allotted to a commercial bank. As the Regional Rural Bank (RRD) had earlier applied for this centre for opening a branch office and since this has also been recommended by the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), the centre was allotted to the Regional Rural Bank and advised to the State Government. RBI has not received any request subsequently from the State Government asking for re-allotment of the licence allotted to the Regional Rural Bank in favour of a nationalised bank. RBI has been asked to look into the possibility of allotting the centre to a commercial bank if the branch has not been opened by the Regional Rural Bank so far.

Environmental Pollution

4835. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:
SHRI H.B. PATIL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study has been carried out by the India Institute of Technology, New Delhi on the discharge of the toxic exhaust into the atmosphere in Bombay, Delhi and other metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, when the study was made and its findings; and

(c) the steps being taken to curb the pollution in the metros?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The study was conducted in 1985. The study conducted at fifty busy traffic junctions of Delhi showed that at eleven traffic junctions the levels of suspended particulate matter, carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen are above the prescribed limits for ambient air quality. The levels of sulphur dioxide are within the prescribed limits.

(c) The steps taken include the following:

- Standards for vehicular exhausts have been laid down for enforcement through the Transport Directorate;

- The petroleum industry has been asked to progressively reduce the lead content in petrol;

- Campaigns have ben launched for public awareness; and

- Facilities for analysis of exhausts from vehicles have been provided.

- State Government have been directed to amend the Motor Vehicles rules for enforcing the prescribed emission standards.

A Motor Vehicles Bill to replace the existing Motor Vehicles Act 1939 has been introduced in the Parliament in May, 1987. The Bill has provision to empower the Central Government to provide for standards for emission of air pollutants.

Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor

4836. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been shortfalls in the performance of the self-employment programme for Urban Poor;

(b) whether a large number of States have not been able to achieve the targets under this scheme;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of this scheme for providing employment to the unemployed urban youth; if so, when and through which agency; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred under this scheme as per latest information available with Government and the number of youth, State-wise provided self-employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (e). Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor

(SEPUP) was launched with effect from September, 1986. The target fixed for each centre was one case for every 300 population. The Reserve Bank of India has informed that as per the progress report received by them banks have sanctioned 3.21 lakhs loan under this scheme. Thus, the banks were able to sanction a good number of cases under this scheme during the initial period of six months.

SEPUP covers not only youth but persons of other age groups as well, who are otherwise suitable for undertaking the proposed venture. The progress under this scheme is kept under continuous review by Reserve Bank of India.

The Reserve Bank of India has reported that during 1986-87, an amount of Rs. 85.46 crores was disbursed to 2.67 lakh beneficiaries in various States.

Black Money Spent in Marriages

4837. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lavish expenditure incurred on marriage receptions, at 5-star hotels and clubs comes within the definition of 'Ostentatious expenditure' within the meaning of Section 133 (A) (5) of the Indian Income-Tax Act, 1961;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected in the capital during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 upto 31.7.1987;

(c) the manner in which these cases were processed and the extent of black money spent/mopped up;

(d) whether Government propose to instruct all 5-Star Hotels and important Clubs to report particulars of the marriage reception hosted involving payment of Rs. 50,000 and above either singly or jointly to Income-Tax authorities; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and other measures proposed to countenance such spending of ill-gotten wealth?

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

(b) During the financial years 1986-87 and 1987-88 (upto 31.7.1987), a total number of 102 cases of ostentatious expenditure including marriage were enquired into where the expenditure incurred was more than Rs. 50,000.

(c) The amount of tax evasion will be known only when the assessments involved are completed and become final.

(d) and (e). Government is fully committed to restrict channelisation of black money into unproductive expenditure. Information regarding spending of unaccounted money is obtained on the basis of selective survey. Whenever specific information is received, action under the Direct Taxes Acts is taken.

Crisis in Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited

4838. DR. B.L. SHAILESH:
SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ:
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SAMBHAJI RAO KAKADE:
SHRI AJOY BISWAS:
SHRI V. SOBHANADRESSWARA RAO:
SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA:
SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS:
DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO:
SHRI MEWA SINGH GILL:
DR. SUDHIR ROY:

SHRI R.P. DAS:
SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire fleet of 24 ships of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited is likely to be immobilised as the Company is in the grip of acute financial crisis;

(b) whether the Company is even unable to buy food and provision for its crew presently stranded on board the Company's ships;

(c) the number of Company's ships at present impounded by foreign countries for non-payment of dues and the steps being taken by Government for the release of the ships;

(d) the financial stake of Government in this company; and

(e) the reasons for the crisis in the Company and the remedial measures Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (e). The financial operation of Scindias have been adversely affected during the last few years and it has incurred considerable losses. As per information readily available, at present 20 of its ships are held up 3 on account of being arrested in foreign ports, 2 on account of being stranded at different ports, 9 awaiting employment and 6 laid up for scrapping.

The Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. owes to Government approximately Rs. 128 crores as on 2.4.1987 on account of overdue interest, rupee loans, payments made under guarantee obligations, etc.

To alleviate the misery of the crew stranded in foreign ports, the Indian Embassies concerned had been advised to make arrangements for supply of requirements for the subsistence of the crew and also for repatriation where it is necessary, with the cost to be ultimately treated as loan to Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.

A Notice had been issued under Section 8 of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986 by Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited who are the "designated person" under Section 16 of the concerned Act, to Scindia Steam Navigation company Limited recalling all the dues owed by the Company to Government of India. Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited has also appointed a Receiver under Section 9 of the Act and has reconstituted the Board of Directors of Scindias under section 10 of the Act.

Projects of A.P. Cleared by Union Government

4839. SHRI C. SAMBU: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the projects about which government of Andhra Pradesh approached Union Government for clearance and approval during last three years;

(b) the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fraud in State Bank of Indore, Agra Branch in U.P.

4840. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some mis-appropriation of about Rs. 22,75,000/- in two cases through some letter of credit and D.B.P. bills purchased by the State Bank of Indore, Agra branch in Uttar Pradesh has come to light during 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of employees found guilty in this case;

(c) whether some officers have left the branch without informing the officer after this fraud; and

(d) the action taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) State Bank of Indore has reported that there has been no mis-appropriation of about Rs. 22.75 lakhs at its Agra Branch. However, bills purchase facility sanctioned to two parties had become irregular because of return of bills. In one case the full amount has been recovered and steps have been taken for the recovery of dues in the other case also. In accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing the nationalised banks and in accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers, further information relating to the affairs of the constituents cannot be divulged.

(b) and (d). The Bank has reported that there appear to be lapses in making assessment of the parties as also in handling the bills purchase business. The Bank has taken steps to fix staff accountability in this regard.

(c) The Bank has reported that it is not true that the officers left the Branch without informing the Bank.

Development of Rural Areas

4841. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans are under the consideration of Government for decongesting unorganised settlements in both urban rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, broad outlines thereof;

(c) whether, in order to check the unlimited growth of urban centers, facilities like health, medicine, employment and recreation are being provided in rural areas under such plans;

(d) if so, etails thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). Several programmes have been taken up in rural areas for economic development and to provide employment. These include Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Integrated Rural Employment Programme, Integrated Rural Development Programme and Training for Rural Youth for Self-Employment. To some extent these programmes help to check migration of rural population to urban centres.

[Translation]

Promotion to Officers in central Bank of India

4842. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inquiry was conducted against high officers of various branches of Central Bank of India in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether promotions have been given to them even after their conviction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

[*English*]

Seizure of Contraband in Indira Gandhi International Airport Ware house

4843. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs (Preventive) unit examined some consignments lying in the Warehouse of Indira Gandhi International Airport and seized lot of contraband on 22 July, 1987;

(b) if so, the details of the contraband including the names of the articles seized and the parties involved;

(c) whether some Airlines employees were found guilty;

(d) the destination of the consignments; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). No contraband goods were seized by the Customs (Preventive) Unit in the warehouse of Indira Gandhi International Airport on 22.7.1987. However, during the period between 13th to 18th July, 1987, the Cargo Preventive Unit in the Warehouse of Indira Gandhi International Airport seized miscellaneous contraband goods worth Rs. 48.65 lakhs from 10 consignments which arrived from Singapore and were destined for Kathmandu, Nepal. The goods were declared as personal effects in the Airway Bills. However, on examination, electronic goods of various types in commercial quantity were found. The names of the parties involved are as under:-

(1) M/s R.K. Jummu and Party, Kathmandu.

(2) M/s R.R. Sreshtha, Kathmandu.

(3) M/s P. Raj Bhandari and Party, Kathmandu.

(4) M/s V.L. Maden, Kathmandu.

(5) M/s L.K. Pariyar, Kathmandu.

(6) M/s Everest Air Cargo Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu.

(7) M/s Nirmala Sharma and Party, Kathmandu.

(8) M/s M.D. Gurung and Party, Kathmandu.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All consignments were in transit and destined for Kathmandu, Nepal.

(e) The goods have been seized under the provisions of the Customs Act. Appropriate action under the law would be taken against all concerned on completion of investigations.

Computer Production and Export

4844. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the computer manufacturers in the country are being asked by Government to export part of their production;

(b) if so, what are the figures of export, both in terms of money and number of computers and the allied products exported during the last three years;

(c) the projections of exports of computers and the allied products during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to make computer manufacturers to increase their exports; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating any change in its policy to sanction new/additional capacity in computers only with export obligation and if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. All units whose proposal was considered by the Government after 25th July, 1986 have been asked to export part of their production in respect of computers and peripherals.

The details of export of computers during past three years are given in the Statement below.

(c) Projections for exports (Rupees in crores):

1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	
10.00	16.00	25.00	(hardware and allied items)
80.00	144.00	300.00	(software)

(d) The Government has announced a software development and export policy in December 1986 which will give a boost to the soft ware export. An Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council has also been set up by the Ministry of Commerce to provide assistance to the exporters.

(e) Government are considering the general question of export obligation on computer manufacturers but no decision has been taken so far.

STATEMENT

Export of Computers & Allied Products

(Value : Rs. in lakhs)

	1984		1985		1986	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Computers	2	3.10	15	38.70	47	197.47
Allied Products	-	85.00	-	31.00	-	202.00
Software	-	2401.90	-	2799.30	-	4200.00

Suspension of Government Servants on Dowry Charges

4845. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made some amendments in rules to ensure that if an FIR is lodged against a Government Servant charging him of bride burning he will be suspended forthwith till he is cleared by the Court;

(b) how many Government employees in Ministry of Personnel have been proceeded against so far from 1985-86 onwards; and

(c) the percentage of Government employees vis-a-vis others in bride burning cases that have come to Government's notice in Delhi so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) Instructions have been issued on 22.6.87 to all Ministries/Departments that as soon as a government servant is arrested in connection with the registration of a dowry death case under Section 304-B of the Indian Penal Code, he should be placed under suspension. Even if he is not arrested, the Government servant shall be placed under suspension immediately on submission of a police report to the Magistrate, if the report *prima facie* indicates that he was involved in a case of dowry death.

(b) No Government servant in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions proper has been proceeded against in a bride burning case.

(c) 1.3% in 1985 and 1% in 1986.

NABARD Scheme for Tea Plantation

4846. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development propose to aid financially the tea extension programme;

(b) if so, the schemes/programmes

envisaged for the purpose;

(c) whether any ambitious scheme for tea plantation has been prepared; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether NABARD propose to finance the scheme; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance to the banks under schemes sanctioned for development of tea-plantation including tea extension programmes. The schemes prepared and submitted to NABARD by the banks for financing the development of the tea to NABARD by the banks for financing the development of the tea plantation are sanctioned by NABARD subject to technical and financial norms/parameters and other relevant factors.

(c) to (e). Tea Board had prepared an interest subsidy scheme for revitalising the Darjeeling Tea Gardens which envisaged extension of tea area by about 2000 hectares, replanting/replacement of old and uneconomic area of about 4500 hectares and rejuvenating in about 3000 hectares over a period of ten years commencing from 1983. NABARD has extended refinance facility to the extent of 1.92 crores under this scheme to the financing banks.

Loss/Profit from Orissa Rare Earths Plant

4847. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rare Earths plant at Gopalpur in Orissa has been running at a loss;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures adopted by Government to avoid the factors responsible for the losses of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plant has gone into commercial production only in October, 1986. Due to problems normally encountered during initial operations of new plants and some unforseen technical problems, the plant has not been able to attain the designed production capacity.

(c) Some moidications and additions to equipment are being carried out to overcome the constraints in achieving the desired level of production.

Rationalisation of Duty Structure on Drugs

4848. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether customs duty is more on inputs which go into the production of bulk drugs at basic stages;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce customs duty on such inputs which attract high rates of duty and rationalise the duty structure on drugs;

(d) if so, details thereof; 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). Bulk drugs generally carry an effective basic customs duty of 60% *ad valorem* and drug intermediates 70% *ad valorem*. Anxiliary duty of 40% *ad valorem* is also leviable in addition. Further, drug intermediates also attract additional (countervailing) duty equal to central excise duty. Bulk drugs are, however, exempted from central excise duty and hence from additional customs duty. Concessional rates of customs duty have been fixed, in consultation with the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, only for such drug intermediates which are predomominantly used in the manufacture of drugs and which generally have no indigenous angle.

Involvement of Foreigners in Smuggling of Gold

4849. SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the press reports regarding many cases of smuggling of gold from other countries into India;

(b) if so, whether any foreign nationals have been identified and arrested in this connection in the last two years;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) the specific steps taken/proposed to check smuggling operations through these foreigners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Reports received by the Government and seizures made indicate that gold continues to be sensitive to smuggling into the country.

(b) and (c). The details regarding the total quantity and value of contraband gold seized and the number of foreign nationals arrested in connection with smuggling activities, including smuggling of gold, during the last two years are given below

Year	Total quantity of gold seized (In Kgs.)	value of gold seized (Rs. in crores)	Number of persons arrested Foreigners
1985	2525	51.89	503
1986	2174	46.66	504

(d) The anti-smuggling drive throughout the country has been intensified. The anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country particularly in vulnerable areas of the sea-coast, land border regions and airports remains alert to check and detect smuggling into the country. Sophisticated anti-smuggling equipments such as metal detectors, X-ray machines are utilised for detection of gold concealed on the person of passengers and in their Baggage/in cargo. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the Central and State agencies concerned with/empowered in the Prevention and detection of smuggling into the country.

Check on the Funds for Welfare Schemes

4850. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds sanctioned by the Union Government under the various welfare schemes are not reaching the actual beneficiaries;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have issued any guidelines to the States in this regard; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

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

Blocks Selected for Integrated Rural Energy Schemes

4851. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has selected 15 blocks in the North Eastern Region for Integrated Rural Energy Schemes in the Seventh Plan period;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has provided any grant to the States in this regard; and

(c) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As part of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Rural Energy Planning (IREP) which was started during 1986-87 in the Seventh Plan, 13 blocks were selected in the North Eastern Region in 1986-87. Two more blocks have been selected under this scheme in 1987-88 so far.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During 1986-87 the Planning Commission released a grant of Rs. 3.21 lakhs in this region. During 1987-88, an amount of Rs. 11.37 lakhs has been approved uptil now.

New Criteria for Classifying Centrally Sponsored Schemes

4852. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new criteria is being adopted for classifying a scheme as Centrally Sponsored scheme;

(b) if so, whether the scheme would be in fulfilment of an important national objective like poverty alleviation or achievement of minimum standards in education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). The question of criteria for classifying a scheme as centrally Sponsored Scheme is, *inter-alia*, under consideration of a Committee which was set up by the National Development Council at its meeting held on 8th and 9th November, 1985 and the report of the NDC Committee is expected to be brought up before the National Development Council at its next meeting for taking an overall view of various issues pertaining to this matter.

Projects to be Undertaken in Karnataka

4853. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of important projects to be set up in Karnataka have not been undertaken due to the serious financial crisis in the State; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to help the State Government to come out of the financial crisis?

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

(b) It is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government to maintain its finances by reordering the priorities of expenditure. However, in case of financial difficulties of the State, the Centre has provided timely help to the Government of Karnataka by advance release of share in Central taxes/Central assistance and rephasing of State Government's debt liability.

Mid Term Appraisal of Seventh Plan

4854. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI KUNWAR RAM:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI B.N. REDDY:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Plan has been completed by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the planning Commission has decided to effect 15 per cent cut in the public sector plan outlay; and

(d) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

Impediments in Implementation of Various Projects

4855. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the revealing facts which have been noticed by his Ministry in connection with the implementation of the projects of various Departments;

(b) whether the review of the situation revealed time and cost over runs and any other defects of significant nature;

(c) whether any remedial measures are suggested; and

(d) the State-wise position in regard to tardy implementation of various major and medium irrigation and other projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER

OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Project implementation status of Central sector projects costing more than Rs. 20 crores each covered by the Quarterly Monitoring System of the Ministry, as on 31 March 1987, shows time and cost overruns across the whole range of projects in almost all sectors. The anticipated capital cost of 162 delayed projects out of a total of 290, has increased from the originally approved cost of Rs. 27568 crores to approximately Rs. 47592 crores. An analysis of the causes of time and cost over-runs of major projects shows that they suffer from problems at every stage in their implementation cycle.

(c) The remedial measure include -

- Constant pressure on project authorities for expeditious completion
- Inter-ministerial coordination and inter-action
- Close follow up by concerned Ministries and project authorities with State Governments, equipment suppliers, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.

(d) Statements I and II given below give State-wise details of (i) Major and medium irrigation projects spilled over into the 7th Plan and (ii) industrial projects covered by the quarterly monitoring system, which have reported time overrun.

STATEMENT-I

Name of State	*Irrigation Projects spilled over to VII Plan.*	
	Major	*Medium*
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	14	45
Assam	2	11
Bihar	11	27
Goa	1	2
Gujarat	11	82
Haryana	9	2
Himachal Pradesh	-	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1	15
Karnataka	13	19
Kerala	10	5

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	20	40
Maharashtra	42	86
Manipur	4	3
Orissa	5	25
Punjab	3	1
Rajasthan	6	14
Tamil Nadu	3	14
Tripura	-	3
Uttar Pradesh	23	21
West Bangal	3	15
UTs.	-	2
Total (All India)	181	433

STATEMENT -II

State	*No. of delayed projects*
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	17
Assam	7
Bihar	21
Gujarat	6
Haryana	3
Himachal Pradesh	1
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Kerala	5
Maharashtra	8
Madhya Pradesh	24
Orissa	11
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	1
Tamil Nadu	4
Tripura	1

1	2
Uttar Pradesh	7
West Bengal	15
Various power transmission lines/petroleum/ pipelines/ oil exploration and railways projects traversing different States.	28
Total	162

Accounts of Nationalised Banks

4856. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the nationalised banks have been found to have delayed the completion of their accounts in time;

(b) whether serious complaints have been made against the Allahabad Bank including that of getting their accounts completed by outside agencies;

(c) whether handling of accounts of the banks b' such agencies has shaken the confiden :e of its customers; and

(d) if so, the facts with reasons thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) In sofar as final accounts for the year 1986 are concerned, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that all the 28 public sector banks have compiled with the requirements of Section 31 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 which stipulates the period within which the Profit and Loss Account and the Balance Sheet of the banks are to be published and copies furnished as returns to RBI.

(b) to (d). Allahabad Bank has reported that there was a news item in a Bengali daily alleging passing of documents of the bank to outside agencies. Allahabad Bank has in this connection, clarified that in order to clear arrears of work in the area of balancing of books, the bank had requisitioned the services of an outside computer agency of contractual basis. According to Allahabad Bank, this steps has not shaken the confidence of the customers of the bank.

Income Tax Dues of big Groups of Companies

4857. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an alarming increase in the arrears of income tax dues in respect of various groups or companies belonging to big industrial houses;

(b) if so, names and details thereof;

(c) the amount of tax arrears in each case; and

(d) action taken and proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). There has been no alarming increase in the arrears of Income-tax dues in respect of various groups or companies belonging to big industrial houses.

(c) A statement showing the names of 20 big industrial houses and gross income-tax demand outstanding against them as on

1.4.1987 is given below.

(d) Depending upon the facts and circumstances of each case, appropriate action is taken from time to time by the concerned income-tax authorities for recovery/ reduction of outstanding demand. These actions include requesting the apellate authorities for expeditious disposal of pending appeals, resorting to proceedings under sections 226(3) and 179 of the Income-tax Act, levy of penalty u/s. 221 and attachment of movable and immovable properties after issuing recovery certificates to the Tax Recovery Officers under Section 222 of the Income-tax Act.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	*Name of Industrial House*	*Cross income-tax demand outstanding as on 1.4.1987 (Rs. in lakhs)*
1	2	3
1.	Birla	2422.67
2.	Tata	3922.18
3.	Thapar	379.87
4.	J.K. Singhania	4433.74
5.	Reliance	585.92
6.	Mafatlal	296.94
7.	Modi	5299.26
8.	M.A. Chidambaram	-
9.	A.C.C.	44.59
10.	Larsen & Toubro	14.43
11.	Bangur	242.33
12.	Bajaj	345.04
13.	Walchand	1096.63
14.	Shri Ram (DCM)	233.15
15.	T.V.S. Iyengar	19.90

1	2	3
16.	I.C.I.	38.28
17.	Sarabhai	1172.53
18.	Hindusthan Lever	578.51
19.	Kirloskar	35.60
20.	Mahindra & Mahindra	314.48

[*Translation*]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

4858. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the Foreign Exchange Reserve in terms of rupees during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether there has been a decrease in the Foreign Exchange Reserves when the value of rupee vis-a-vis international currencies is taken into account;

(c) if so, the position of Foreign Exchange Reserves during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to further increase the Reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). The position of Foreign Exchange Reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) during the last three years is indicted below:

As on	(Rs. Crores)
31.3.84	5497.9
31.3.85	6816.8
31.3.86	7384.3
31.3.87	7645.2

The data on aggregate reserves are accounted for by Reserve Bank in terms of our own current and not in terms of foreign currencies. The exchange value of rupee is determined with reference to the value of a blanket of currencies, mainly of countries which are India's major trading partners. In a regime of floating exchange rates, the exchange value of the rupee in relation to other currencies may move upward or downwards. The foreign exchange reserves expressed in terms of any other currency may vary upward or downward depending upon the movements in exchange rate of the rupee against that particular currency from time to time.

Irregularities in Import of Coins

4859. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether coins were imported last year from a business concern of South Korea;

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

(c) whether complaints in regard to certain irregularities in this deal have been received by Government;

(d) if so, whether Government have conducted any enquiry into these irregularities; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) 1,500 million pieces of 50 paise coins from M/s. Hyundai Corporation, South Korea were imported during the years 1985 to 1987 at a total cost of Rs. 44.6 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[*English*]

Compensatory Payments Racket

4860. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lost rupees 81 crores in foreign exchange as a number of organised syndicates abroad made compensatory payments through parallel banking channels to hundreds of Indian families as reported in the Times of India dated 24th July, 1987;

(b) if so, whether the Enforcement Directorate, Bombay zone which launched the raids uncovered illegal transactions worth Rs. 81 crores till 22 July, 1987; and

(c) if so, steps taken by Government to check such illegal transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). The Directorate of Enforcement has detected some cases involving compensatory payment amounting to about Rs. 81 crores.

(c) The Enforcement Directorate (FERA) remains vigilant to the problem of foreign exchange leakages and takes appropriate action under the F. E. R. Act and also preventive detention under the COFEPOSA against violators of law. The drive against such unauthorised transactions is a continuous process and the matter is also kept under constant review for taking appropriate administrative/legislative measures with a view to curibbing the same.

Funds for Welfare Schemes to Maharashtra

4861. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds have been allotted to Maharashtra for the welfare schemes for the people living below poverty line in the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Seventh Five Year Plan of Maharashtra State lays adequate emphasis on poverty alleviation programmes such as IRDP, DPAP, NREP, EGS which have direct

bearing on the uplift of the people living below the poverty line. Several schemes under Agriculture and Allied sectors, Minor Irrigation, Village & Small Industries, Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes and under Minimum Needs Programme are also intended to take care of such people.

(b) A statement showing Seventh Plan outlays under various heads of Development is given below. The State's Seventh Plan outlay includes Central Assistance (normal) of Rs. 1789.82 crores to the State.

STATEMENT

Seventh Plan (1985-90)-Heads of Development - Approved outlays - Maharashtra

(Rs. lakhs)

Heads/Sub-heads of Development	*Approved Outlays*
1	2
A. ECONOMIC SERVICES	
I. AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SERVICES	
Crop Husbandry	16500
Soil and Water Conservation	11866
Animal Husbandry	3775
Dairy Development	4300
Fisheries	1600
Forestry and Wild Life	10600
Food, Storage and Warehousing	200
Agricultural Research and Education	3745
Investment in Agri Fin. Institutions	775
Other Agricultural Programmes:	
Marketing and Quality Control	200
Cooperation	12000
Total (I)	65561

1		2
II.	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	
	Special Programmes for Rural Development	
	(a) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)	11400
	(b) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)	2525
	(c) Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP)	215
	(d) Others: Share Capital to Regional Rural Development Bank	49
	Rural Employment	
	(a) National Programme like National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)	9130
	(b) Other Programmes - Employment Guarantee Schemes Land Reforms	44000
	Land Reforms	325
	Community Development and Panchayats	70
	Total (II)	67714
III.	SPECIAL AREA PROGRAMME (Ratnagiri)	49
IV.	IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL	
	(a) Major and Medium Irrigation	132000
	Minor Irrigation	25000
	Command Area Development	31991
	Flood Control Projects (including anti-sea erosion, etc.)	70
	Total (IV)	189061
V.	ENERGY	
	Power	304887

1		2
	Non-Conventional Sources of Energy	502
	Total (V)	305389
VI.	INDUSTRY AND MINERALS	
	Village and Small Scale Industries	6300
	Industries (other than Village and Small Industries)	29890
	Mining	310
	Total (VI)	36500
VII.	TRANSPORT	77519
VIII.	SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT	40[illegible]
IX.	GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES	1150
B.	SOCIAL SERVICES	
X.	Education, Art and Culture	32438
XI.	Health	
	Medical and Public Health	37400
	Total (XI)	37400
XII.	WATER SUPPLY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT	
	Water Supply and Sanitation	134500
	Housing (including Police Housing)	24427
	Urban Development (including State Capital Projects)	16000
XIII.	INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY	760
XIV.	WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES	9000
XV.	LABOUR AND LABOUR WELFARE	
	Labour and Labour Welfare	5932

1	2
XVI. SOCIAL WELFARE AND NUTRITION	
Social Security and Welfare	1200
Nutrition	5000
Total (B): (Social Services)	266657
C. GENERAL SERVICES	
Total (C)	40000
GRAND TOTAL:	1050000

Loan to Agriculture Sector in Maharashtra

4862. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of advances made by the nationalised banks that has gone to the agricultural sector in Maharashtra during the last two years; and

(b) the measures taken to give maximum help to the agriculturists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) As per the available information the total outstanding advances of the 28 public sector banks in respect of agriculture as a percentage of their total outstanding advances in the State of Maharashtra were 6.5% in December 1984 and 6.8% in December, 1985. However, if the outstanding advances of the metropolitan centers are excluded, the outstanding agricultural advances of the 28 public sector banks as a percentage of their total outstanding advances in the State of Mahrashtra were 44.61% in December 1984 and 45% in December 1985.

(b) Banks have been directed to meet credit requirements of the farmers fro increasing agricultural production by providing timely and adequate assistance. They have also been advised that their direct advances to agriculture and allied activities should reach at least 16% of their total credit by March, 1987. The direct agricultural advances by public sector banks were 16.2% to total outstanding advances as at the end of March 1987. Besides, in terms of guidelines issued by RBI in March, 1984, banks have been advised to give various concessions/relaxations in the rate of interest, security norms, margin money stipulations and also to adopt simplified lending procedures for the priority sector which includes agricultural sector also.

Felling of Old Trees

4863. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit the owners of private forests to cut old trees on the condition that for cutting one old

tree they have to replace it by planting five new saplings;

(b) if so, whether orders have been issued to that effect; and

(c) if not, why Government are not allowing to cut the old and worn out trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c). The regulation of cutting of trees standing on private lands is done by the State Governments.

Central Excise Collectorate in Bihar

4864. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up one more central excise collectorate in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the the time by which the proposed collectorate will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). No, Sir. A Collectorate generally comprises 6 to 9 Divisions. The existing Collectorate at Patna comprises 7 Divisions only. Presently, there is no justification for one more Central Excise Collectorate in Bihar.

[*English*]

Exploration of Zircon

4865. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the country where zircon is available;

(b) the steps taken to exploit this mineral on commercial basis; and

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a zirconium dioxide factory in the industrially backward Kanyakumari district where raw material zircon and other facilities are available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Zircon is found in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh in the beach sands and some inland deposits.

(b) Indian Rare Earth Plants at Chavaran (Kerala), Manavalakurichi (Tamil Nadu) and Chatrapur (Orissa) are producing zircon.

(c) Various locations in the country including Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu are being investigated for the setting up of a Zirconium Dioxide Plant.

Expansion of Indian Rare Earths Factory, Tamil Nadu

4866. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the Indian Rare Earths factory, Manavalakurichy of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government also propose to set up factories to manufature finished goods from the rare earths minerals available there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL-

OGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Inclusion of Special Pay for pensionary benefits

4867. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several representations have been received by the Government from employes requesting for inclusion of Special Pay, Personal Pay, etc for the purpose fo pensionary benefits; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take a favorable decision in this regard immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A few representations have been received in this behalf.

(b) The question of recokonable emoluments for purpose of retirement benefits was considered by the Fourth Central Pay Commission who recommended that only basic pay should be taken into account for this purpose. The recommendations for the Commission was accepted by the Government. There is no proposal to revise the decision.

Irregularities in Loans Disbursed by IDBI

4868. CHAUDHARY RAM PRAKASH:
SHRI R. S. MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that different industrial development corporations of various States do not adopt a partial attitude in granting and disbursing of loans which are refinanced by Industrial Development Bank of India;

(b) whether IDBI has hitherto ignored such complaints; and

(c) whether any action is proposed to be initiated by Government to give fresh directions to the IDBI, IFCI and other central refinancing authorities to take immediate action when such cases come to their notice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it has been examining the sanction and disbursement procedures of State Industrial Development Corporations (SIDCs) and has also been undertaking periodical performance evaluation studies of various SIDCs and making suggestions for improvements in their operations and procedures wherever necessary. IDBI also ensures at the time of sanctioning refinance that the proposals from SIDCs conform to the norms and parameters of the refinance scheme. IDBI has further reported that the complaints received by it are looked into and suitable remedial action taken where necessary.

Funds to Maharashtra for Irrigation

4869. SHRI R. M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have demanded more funds for irrigation facilities in their State Plan during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the required amount has since been sanctioned and if so, the details thereof alongwith the programmes of the State, District-wise to be implemented in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

Declaration of Accounts and Assets by Government Employees

4870. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Union Government employees declare their assets each year;

(b) whether any action has been taken so far on basis of the yearly statements of property of government employees; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) Under the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, all Central Government servants, other than Group D, on their first appointment are required to submit a return of their assets and liabilities giving particulars regarding immovable property owned, acquired or held by them either in their own name or in the name of any member of family or in the name of any other person; shares, debentures and cash including bank deposits held by them; other movable property similarly owned acquired or held by them and the debts and other liabilities incurred directly or indirectly by them. Government servants holding Group A and Group B posts are also required to submit an annual return regarding immovable property inherited, owned or acquired by them. Government servants are not required to submit any annual return in respect of movable property, including cash and bank accounts etc. However, any Government servant can be asked, at any time, to furnish, within a specified period, a full and complete statement of all movable and immovable property held or acquired by him or in the name of any member of his family.

(b) and (c). Property returns mentioned in reply to part (a) are required to be submitted, acrutinisd and maintained by the prescribed authorities at various levels in the respective administrative Ministries/Departments/Offices. Information in this regard is not centrally monitored by this Department.

Removal of Tobacco Barns

4871. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue instructions/orders for removal of isolated tobaco barns near the reserve forests areas, which use large quantity of illegal fire wood; and

(b) if so, the details of instructions/orders issued?

THE MINISTER OR STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). Government's attention has been drawn to the use of illicitly felled firewood by tobacco barns in one area. The state government have been advised to intensify their vigil in the matter and regulate consumption of firewood in the tobacco barns by making them fully accountable for the stocks maintained/ consumed by them.

Foreign Visits by Government Officials

4872. SHRI DAULTSINHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to study the possibility of restricting visits by Government officials on various trade and industry matters; and

(b) if so, steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Government of India have issued instructions from time to time to all its Ministries/Departments for careful scrutiny of their proposals for deputation abroad of their officers so that the number and the size of delegations could be restricted to the barest minimum consistant with the national needs. They have been advised to recommend only such cases of deputation abroad as are inescapable and absolutely essential in public interest.

In view of the severe drought and the consequent financial stringency, recently it has been decided to defer all foreign visits of officers for the time being and to review all those cases in which foreign visits have already been approved by the Government. In view of the existing instructions, there appears to be no need of issuing any fresh instructions for restricting foreign visits by Government officials on various trade and industry matters.

[*Translation*]

Afforestation programme in Bihar

4873. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large area is covered by thick forest in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the trees in the forests have been cut indiscriminately during the last three years and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the forest wealth of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. There are thick forests in some areas particularly in Chhotanagpur belt.

(b) Reports of illicit fellings in forest areas of Singhubhum District of Southern Bihar have come to notice.

(c) State Government has taken steps to counteract the same, important amongst which are the following;

(i) The offenders have been dealt with under the law.

(ii) Armed Police Force equipped with wireless sets is posted for vigilant patrol of the vulnerable areas.

[*English*]

Use of FERA for False Statements Regarding Foreign Assets

4874. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose o use FERA against those Indian Nationals who have made false statements regarding their foreign assets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). Acquisition of any immovable property situated outside India by person(s) resident in India without the specific permission of the Reserve Bank of India is violative of Section 25 of FERA, 73 and Section 48 of FERA prohibits the person (s) to furnish false information and declaration to any concerned authority which is also a contravention of FERA.

Whenever any information in respect of such violation of the provisions of FERA is received, suitable action is initiated by the Directorate of Enforcement.

National Institute for Orthopedically Handicapped

4875. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a regional centre of National Institute for Orthopedically Handicapped Calcutta, at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the likely date by which the centre will be established; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Unlike handicaps affecting hearing or vision, orthopaedic handicap do not require special training of teachers. The work of physical rehabilitation, through fitment centers, is carried out in different part of the country through other State and Central institutions, hence National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped does not have any proposal for establishing a Regional Centre.

National Institute for Visually Handicapped

4876. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra pradesh has requested the Union Government to establish a regional Centre of National Institute for Visually Handicapped to cater to the training needs of visually handicapped women in particular;

(b) whether the State Government has assured the land needed for the Centre free of cost; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has requested for the establishment at Hyderabad of a Regional Centre of National Institute of Visually

Handicapped, Dehradun.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has been decided to locate the Regional Centre of the Institute at Madras. A Teachers Training Centre for primary teachers of the Visually Handicapped has been established at Hyderabad by NIVH.

Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary

4877. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the details of progress made in the development of Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): Progress made in the development of Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary in Orissa includes over 60 kms of trench digging; 41 kms of electric fencing; 800 ha. of fruit tree plantation; 39 kms of road construction; construction of inspection paths, maintenance of roads, buildings and trenches; purchase and maintenance of vehicles and payment of compensation to displaced persons. According to information available, Rs. 121.81 lakh inclusive of Central assistance, have been spent on Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary in the last three years.

Implementation of Seeuy

4878. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRI P. R. KUMARMANGALAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made by an independent research/consultancy organisation to evaluate the implementation of the self-employment programme for the educated unemployed;

(b) if so, the percentage of cases in which the loan advanced to the beneficiaries have been utilised;

(c) the recovery position;

(d) the main problems and bottlenecks encountered in the implementation of the programme; and

(e) the steps taken to overcome these problems and bottlenecks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (e). The Central Government have requested the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to indentify independent reputed organisations to evaluate the Scheme for providing Self-Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY). The Government has also agreed to bear 50% of the cost of such study subject to a ceiling of Rs 1 lakh per State. The performance of this Scheme would be known only after the evaluation studies are finalised.

L.I.C. and G.I.C. Loans to States

4879. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have allocated Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation loans to different States;

(b) if so, the amount of LIC and GIC loans allocated to different States in 1987-88 financial year;

(c) the purpose for which LIC and GIC loans have been allocated; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANADHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d). Planning Commission have allocated an amount of Rs. 444.79 Crores of LIC/GIC loans during the financial year 1987-88 to the States. The purpose and details are as given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

Sectoral Break-up of the Allocation of LIC/GIC Loans During the Annual Plan 1987-88.

Sl. No.	State	State Govt. for Housing Schemes			State Electricity Board	State Road Transport Corpns	Water Supply & Sewerage	Grand Total
		LIC	GIC	Total	L.I.C.	L.I.C.	L.I.C.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.16	2.70	12.86	6.90	2.81	3 09	25.66
2.	Assam	0.85	0.20	1.05	3.50	-	1.45	6.00
3.	Bihar	11.46	3.10	14.56	-	-	-	14.56
4.	Gujarat	5.39	1.40	6.79	13.23	3.41	10.08	33.51
5.	Haryana	7.83	1.80	8.63	12.78	-	-	21.41
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.86	0.25	1.21	1.43	-	-	2.64
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.33	0.35	1.68	1.46	0.53	3.13	6.80
8.	Karnataka	5.06	1.35	6.41	16.64	2.93	2.81	28.79
9.	Kerala	7 03	2.00	9.03	8.34	2.93	6.60	26.90
10	Madhya Pradesh	3 54	0.90	4.44	8.10	5.15	9.78	27.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11.	Maharashtra	1.70	0.45	2.15	14.60	3.54	21.43	41.72
12.	Manipur	0.55	0.15	0.70	-	-	0.32	1.02
13.	Meghalaya	0.36	0.10	0.46	4.93	-	-	5.39
14.	Nagaland	1.63	0.45	2.08	-	-	-	2.08
15.	Orissa	3.02	0.80	3.82	8.88	3.85	2.12	18.67
16.	Punjab	3.15	0.80	3.95	8.13	2.64	3.38	18.10
17.	Rajasthan	3.26	0.60	3.86	16.21	-	2.77	22.84
18.	Sikkim	0.29	0.05	0.34	-	-	-	0.34
19.	Tamilnadu	8.26	2.20	10.46	11.10	3.51	16.48	41.55
20.	Tripura	2.28	0.35	2.63	-	-	-	2.63
21.	Uttar Pradesh	9.60	2.50	12.10	47.27	2.66	2.42	64.45
22.	West Bengal	9.36	2.50	11.86	11.55	-	8.85	32.26
		96.07	25.00		195.05	33.96	94.71	444.79

Private Money Lending Institutions

4880. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group report on the activities of private money lending institutions known as 'Blade Companies' has submitted by the Indian Banks Association to the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the working group to study the impact of private financial unincorporated bodies (PEUBS) constituted by the Indian Banks' Association has not yet submitted its report to the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Three Wheelers for Handicapped

4881. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of difficulties experienced by the physically handicapped persons in getting hand driven three wheelers; and

(b) if so, the yearly production of three wheelers, the price and method for making them available to the handicapped?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). Three wheelers are manufactured by the Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation, Kanpur, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Welfare, and a number of small scale manufacturing units in different parts of the country. Hand driven three wheelers are given on the basis of certain criteria which include certification that the applicant cannot use any other form of mobility aid, the disability being so server that he can only move in a three wheeler. The Ministry has a scheme of assistance for distribution of aids and appliances upto Rs. 3000/- in value to the disabled out of which in exceptional cases hand driven three wheelers can be given. If the handicapped person has an income less than Rs. 1500 he is given the three wheeler free of cost and if his income is between Rs. 1500/- and 3000/-, at 50% of the cost. The distribution is done through approved centers throughout the country which include a large number of voluntary organisations.

The yearly production of three wheelers produced by ALIMCO during the last three years is as follows:—

1985-86	185
1986-87	425
1987-88	215

(From April to July)

The present price of three wheelers supplied by ALIMCO is Rs. 2,900/- each F. O. R. destination plus Sales Tax. Any individual, voluntary organisation, state or Central Government Departments,institutions, private industries ALIMCO dealers can book orders for three wheelers. The demand on Alimco for this item is adequately met.

Information regarding the quantity of production of three wheelers by small scale manufacturing units and the price being

charged by them is not readily available.

SC/ST Employees in Mithila Chhetriya Gramin Vikas Bank

4882. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of directors and bank managers in the nationalised banks as on the 30 November, 1983;

(b) the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes amongst them, separately and what is their total strength;

(c) the total number of class I, II, III and IV employees working in Mithila Chhetriya Gramin Vikas Bank as on the 30 November, 1983; and

(d) the percentage and total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes amongst them and whether the reservation quota has not yet been filled up in the Mithila Chhetriya Gramin Vikas Bank and if so, the action taken by Government to fill up the quota in accordance with the reservation policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). The information readily available relating to the total number of non official directors and Officers in the 20 nationalised banks as on 31-12-1983 alongwith the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes amongst them is indicated below:–

	Total	*No. of SC and % to total*	*No. of ST and % to total*
i) Non official directors	156	12 (7.69%)	6 (3.85%)
ii) Officers	1,17,128	6930 (5.92%)	1888 (1.61%)

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Committee to replace Sales Tax by additional Excise duty

4883. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government have set up a nine member high level group to examine the question of replacing sales tax by additional excise duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) by when the recommendations of the group are expected to be received by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). No high level group consisting of 9 members has been set up to examine the question of replacing sales tax by additional excise duty. An Expert Committee was set up by Central Government in terms of a resolution adopted in the Chief Ministers' Conference on sales tax held on 15.2.1981, to study the financial implications of extension of the scheme of

additional excise duty in lieu of sales tax on vanaspati, drugs and medicines, cement, paper and paper board and petroleum products and the manner in which the financial interests of the States could be safeguarded. The recommendations of the Committee, headed by Shri Kamalpati Tripathi, were considered by another Chief Ministers' Conference held on 2.11.1983. In that Conference, some of the Chief Ministers indicated that they were no in a position to accept the recommendations. They expressed the view that replacement of sales tax by additional excise duty will effect the powers of the States and erode their revenue and resource position. The other States did not oppose the Scheme. Many of them indicated their acceptance of the recommendations with or without reservations. At the end of the Conference, a resolution was adopted to the effect that efforts should be continued to bring about consensus among State Governments on the issue. Efforts made so far have not resulted in arriving at a consensus.

[*Translation*]

Aid India Consortium Recommendation to World Bank

4884. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aid India Consortium has expressed their satisfaction over the rate of economic development of India by recommending more financial aid to India from World Bank, this 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the India Consortium Meeting held in Paris on June 22-23, 1987 the Members of the Consortium, including the World Bank, pledged aid assistance of the order of US $ 5.4 billion.

[*English*]

Research Project to study Deep Sea Fans of Bay of Bengal

4885. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the research project to study the deep sea fans of the Bay of Bengal;

(b) the quantum of money spent on the project so far;

(c) whether the project was helped in locating submarine oil and metal reserves; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) The project on the study of Deep Sea Fans of Bay of Bengal is a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional programme approved in 1986. Collection of geological and geophysical data has started.

(b) Rs. 50 lakhs have been released to the participating research groups.

(c) The results of the studies will improve the understanding of the geological characteristics of the area and may be helpful in work related to locating marine oil and metal reserves.

(d) Does not arise at this stage.

Transfer of Technology to Rural Areas

4886. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of benefits of work done in respect of transfer of technology to the rural area; and

(b) the future plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Transfer of technology to rural areas is covered under several programmes of Government departments and Central agencies such as Department of Science and Technology, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of Rural Development, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, etc. These programmes are aimed at:

improvement in productivity without displacing the human element;

reducing the drudgery in daily work through improved tools and gadgets;

improving the living conditions of rural people by introduction of improved techniques in housing, sanitation, water management and health practices;

providing new and better opportunities for income generation through training in non-traditional areas of economic activity, value addition to local products and introduction of new techniques for rural artisans;

harnessing, conserving and improving the local resources;

The above benefits are being achieved through more than 350 Science and Technology projects in rural areas. The National Research Development Corporation have so far set up 35 Rural Technology Demonstration-cum-training centers in different parts of the country.

(b) It is proposed to strengthen the existing programmes and sponsor new programmes relating to development, field trials and transfer of new technologies to rural areas.

Ecological Task Force

4887. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have set up ecological task forces in different regions;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the details of the work done by the Eco-task forces in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Two ecological task forces, one each in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are currently deployed on Mussoorie slopes and the left bank of Indira Gandhi canal respectively, to undertake afforestation, soil conservation, pasture development and mined area reclamation works.

(c) *Details of works undertaken are given in the Statement below.*

STATEMENT

I. *Ecological Task Force in Uttar Pradesh*

	TASKS	ACHIEVEMENT
1.	Plantation (Nos) (including shrubs and creepers)	8,20,617
2.	Pasture Development (ha)	86
3.	Fencing (meters)	12,385
4.	Construction of check (Nos)	482
5.	Construction of Crates (Nos)	465
6.	Construction of retaining walls (Nos)	96
7.	Collection of boulders/stones for Conservation (tons)	7,173
8.	Pits in mined area (Nos)	5508

II. *Ecological Task Force in Rajasthan*

	TASKS	ACHIEVEMENT
1.	Plantation (Nos)	36,13,856
2.	Fencing (meters)	1,69,980
3.	Pasture development (ha)	3,426
4.	Mulching (meters)	1,765
5.	Construction of tree Protection huts (Nos)	2,133

Shortage of Currency in Banks

4888. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks in the northern region are facing shortage of currency to run their day-to-day services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have taken all necessary steps to ensure adequate supply of currency to all banks in the Northern Region and that these banks are not facing shortage of currency to run their day-to-day operations.

Syndicate Bank

4889. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Syndicate Bank has been facing some problems with the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India is the central monetary and regulatory authority for all commercial banks in the country and it takes appropriate advisory, regulatory and punitive measures, as and when necessary, with a view to ensure that banks are run on sound financial lines and in consonance with the policy of Govt. and RBI. The question of any commercial bank having problem with the central bank of the country does not arise.

Environmental Protection

4890. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the solution to the problem of poverty, unemployment and hunger lie in protecting and preserving the environment;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir. Economic Development is necessary for alleviating poverty, unemployment and hunger but such development, which is based on the natural resources of the country, will be sustainable in the long term only if it does not lead to degradation of the environment of the country.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Actions taken by the Government for preserving the environment are as under:

(i) All the States had been requested to have a separate Department of Environment to look after the protection of environment. 23 States have so far set up Departments of Environment.

(ii) The States were advised to set up broad-based Environment Protection Councils under the Chairmanship of the Governor to promote the cooperation of all concerned in the protection of environment. Five States have so far set up such Councils and seven more have agreed to do so shortly.

(iii) The Department assesses the impact of every development project on environment before its clearance. Questionnaires and guidelines have been developed to help the project authorities in preparing their own assessments.

(iv) A National Wastelands Development Board has been established to formulate, coordinate and catalyse programmes for afforestation of wastelands in the country.

(v) Compensatory afforestation is one of the most important conditions stipulated by the Govern-

ment in approving proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forest uses.

(vi) Any proposal for diversion of forest land for non-forest use has to be accompanied by a cost-benefit analysis in terms of ecological losses and economic and social gains.

(vii) The use of forest land for raising plantations by private industries for raw materials either on lease of in joint sector with State Government/State Forest Development Corporations has been prohibited.

(viii) Steps have been taken to survey and conserve the flora and fauna of the country and identify endangered species.

(ix) A National Wildlife Action Plan is under implementation.

(x) The Environment (Protection) Act is brought into force from 19th November, 1986. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 are being implemented by the Central and State Boards for pollution control.

(xi) The Central Ganga Authority has been created to oversee the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan drawn up for cleaning the polluted stretches of the River Ganga.

(xii) Minimal National Standards for effluents have been evolved in respect of eleven industries. Standards for eleven industries have been notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. More standards are under preparation.

(xiii) A network of 170 monitoring stations for water quality has been set up.

(xiv) Emission limits for twelve air polluting industries have been evolved.

(xv) A network of 43 monitoring stations for ambient air quality has been set up.

(xiv) Limits for ambient air quality have been prescribed for different areas.

(xvii) 1386 prosecutions have been launched by Central/State Pollution Control Boards, out of which 349 cases have been decided and the rest are pending in various courts. Fortyeight industries have been issued notices under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(xviii) Two Eco-development task forces of ex-servicemen have been deployed for eco-restoration through afforestation and soil conservation.

(xix) Promotion of research on all subjects related to environment and building up of research and development facilities in the country is a major activity of the Department.

(xx) A National environmental Awareness Campaign is conducted every year.

[*Translation*]

Suspension of State Government Employees for taking Dowry

4891. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to advise the State Governments to frame rules by which an employee against whom an FIR has been lodged for demanding dowry or for polygamy, may be suspended and/or his pension withheld;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) to (c). Since "State Public Services" is a subject included in List II—State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, framing of rules to regulate the conditions of service of State Government Servants, including their conduct, disciplinary matters, etc., is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. It is, therefore, for the State Governments to frame appropriate rules for regulating the matter raised in part (a) in respect of their Government servants. So far as Central Government servants are concerned, the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 contain specific provisions prohibiting Government servants from giving or demanding dowry and contracting plural marriages. Suitable disciplinary action can be taken against them for violation of these provisions. Instructions have also been issued to all Ministries/Departments on 22.6.1987, that as soon as a Central Government servant is arrested in connection with the registration of a dowry death case under Section 304-B of the Indian Penal Code, he should be placed under suspension. Even if he is not arrested, he shall be placed under suspension immediately on submission of a police report to the Magistrate, if the report *prima-facie* indicates that he was involved in a case of dowry death. Copies of these instructions have been forwarded to all State Governments advising them to consider issuing similar orders in respect of their employees.

Cattle Insurance Scheme

4892. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) details in respect of the success achieved in the implementation of cattle insurance scheme during the last three years in the country;

(b) the role played by United Insurance Company Limited to make this scheme a success;

(c) whether this scheme has totally failed in desert areas of Rajasthan where cows, oxen and bulls are of tharparkar, rathi, kankreje and nagori breed;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to make the said scheme a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) The number of cattle insured during the last 3 years in the country is as under:-

Year	No of cattle covered (In lakhs)
1	2
1984	142.60

1	2
1985	160.79
1986	189.60

(b) All the four subsidiaries of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) including 'United India' are making all possible efforts to develop cattle insurance business in the country.

(c) and (d). Due to an outbreak of rinderpest in some parts of Rajasthan, the Companies were accepting proposals in respect of vaccinated animals only, in consultation with the State Animal Husbandry Deptt. The epidemic is now under control and the normalcy has been restored. There has, however, been no discrimination towards any breed of cattle for insurance and all breeds are covered.

(e) The general insurance industry has simplified the procedure for insurance of cattle and have also made various improvements in the Scheme. the subsidiaries of GIC are even issuing long term policies to synchronise with the loan period with discount in premium The Scheme is under constant review of GIC for making it more useful to the weaker section of the Society.

[*English*]

Social Forestry Scheme

4893. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets set under the social forestry scheme in Rajasthan during the Sixth Five Year Plan period had been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the districts in Rajasthan covered under the scheme during Sixth Plan period;

(d) the targets set for the Seventh Five Year Plan period in Rajasthan; and

(e) the details of central assistance granted to Rajasthan for the purpose during the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z R ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All districts in the State were covered under the scheme.

(d) Targets for afforestation are being set on yearly basis, keeping in view the availability of State and Central budgetary allocations and achievements in the earlier years. The target set for the first three years of the Seventh Plan are as under:

Year	*Area afforested in hectares*	*Seedlings Distribution (No. in lakhs)*
1985-86	41,000	820
1986-87	55,000	1100
1987-88	75,000	1500

(e) Central assistance granted to Rajasthan for the first three years of the Seventh Plan period under all the schemes is as given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Years	*Central Assistance Granted*
1985-86	1195.99
1986-87	2304.17
1987-88	2076.75 (Allocated)

Afforestation Programme

4894. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of forests being added or reduced annually in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana;

(b) the specific programme being implemented in this regard; and

(c) the success of the desert development programme in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) (i) As per National Remote Sensing Agency mapping during 1972-75 and 1980-82, the percentage reduction of forest area in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana has been 47.12, 46.53 and 47.02 representing a reduction of 5,32,200 ha, 4,40,200 ha and 35,600 ha respectively.

(ii) No survey has been undertaken to assess the percentage of forests being added or reduced annually in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana.

(iii) During the last three years, progress of afforestation in these States is given below:

State	*Afforestation in hectares*			
	1984-85	*1985-86*	*1986-87*	*Total of three years*
Rajasthan	41578	47900	67050	1,56,528
Gujarat	145170	124850	113550	3,83,570
Haryana	48375	46850	37080	1,32,305

(b) Apart from State Sector Schemes of afforestation, a Centrally sponsored scheme namely, "Rural Fuelwood Plantation and Afforestation of Eco-Sensitive Non-Himalayan Areas" is being implemented. In addition, Afforestation Schemes are taken up under the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP).

(c) Achievements under forestry and pasture in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana under Desert Development Programme are given below:

(In hectares)

State	*VI Plan*	*1985-86*	*1986-87*
Rajasthan	42163	13503	8792
Gujarat	11623	2043	2087
Haryana	11362	3014	1707

Smuggling of Heroin to Pakistan in Districts of Rajasthan

4895. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of goods especially heroin and charas is continuing on a large scale in districts of Jaisalmer and Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner and Ganganagar of Rajasthan bordering Pakistan;

(b) if so, details of goods seized in these border districts in Rajasthan during the period April, 1985 to June, 1987; and

(c) steps taken to curb smuggling activities there and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reports received indicate that the area continues to be vulnerable to smuggling of heroin and charas, besides other contraband goods.

More than 1760 kgs. of heroin and 2740 kgs. of charas have been seized from April, 1985 to June, 1987 in these border districts of Rajasthan.

(c) Government have initiated various aggressive counter-measures against drug-trafficking which include strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery, adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, increased co-operation between various drug-law enforcement agencies, bilateral co-operation, etc. As a result, large quantities of drugs have been seized by enforcement authorities specially of drugs have been in Rajasthan Sector of Indo-Pak border.

Kit Culture

4896. SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to end the 'kit culture'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A close scrutiny is made of the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) to ensure that in-depth manufacture is only allowed. Except for a very small quantity required for the purpose of training, Semi-Knocked Down (SKD) kits are not proposed to be allowed. Further, the import-export policy has been modified by transferring the entry relating to import of kits/sub assemblies from Appendix-3A to Appendix-2B i.e.

restricted list.

Counselling Centres for De-Addiction

4897. SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to start counselling centres for de-addiction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). Seven Counselling Centres for Drug Addicts in Delhi have already been set up by the voluntary organisations with assistance from the Government. These centres are being rub by four Delhi based voluntary organisations. More such centers are being contemplated in other parts of the country also.

Resources Generation by Public Sector

4898. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the target for resource generation by public sector enterprises in the first two years of the plan and what is the achievement; and

(b) whether Government are thinking to reduce food and fertiliser subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A Statement giving the required information is given below.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

STATEMENT

Resources raised by the public sector enterprises during the first two years of the Seventh Plan.

(Rs. crores)

	Annual Plan Estimates	*Latest Estimates*
Centre	17,172	15,906
States	294@	(-) 59
Total	17466	15847

@Does not include targets for additional resource mobilisation in respect of State Electricity Boards and Road Transport Corporations since these form part of the composite additional resource mobilisation targets for the States.

[*Translation*]

Environment Clearance of Projects

4899. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from Uttar Pradesh during the last three years for environmental clearance;

(b) the number of proposals received from hill areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the number of projects from hill areas of Uttar Pradesh is comparatively low; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Thirty three proposals have been received from Uttar Pradesh during the last three years for environmental clearance.

(b) Nine proposals out of these were from the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Loans and Grant to Uttar Pradesh

4900. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have allotted less amount of money as grants and loans to Uttar Pradesh during the last five years in comparison to other States keeping in view the population of the State;

(b) the details of the amount of loans and grants given to this State during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the amount proposed to be given to this State as grants and loans separately during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Central assistance to States for their Plans is allocated under the formula known as 'Modified Gadgil Formula' according to which a major portion (i.e. 60%) of amount, allocable to Non-special category States, is distributed on population basis. Therefore, the question for allocating less amount to Uttar Pradesh during last five years in view of the population of the State does not arise.

(b) and (c). Central assistance to Uttar Pradesh for State Plan schemes (including for externally aided projects and hill areas development) released during last five years and allocated for the current financial year is indicated below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Loan	Grant
1	2	3
1982-83	299.46	205.23
1983-84	346.25	236.14
1984-85	386.99	275.21
1985-86	443.61	304.96
1986-87	457.16	322.26
1987-88 (allocated)	619.03	400.66

Appointment of SC/ST in Central Bank of India

4901. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have not been appointed in the Central Bank of India as per the quota reserved for them; and

(b) the number of the posts on which persons belonging to the aforesaid categories have been appointed, out of the posts reserved for them, during the last three years and the steps being taken to fill up the remaining posts which are lying vacant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Information reported by the Central Bank of India, giving the details of the number of posts filled by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the years 1984, 1985 and 1986 is given in the Statement below.

The Bank has reported that it is taking necessary steps for filling the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by conducting pre-recruitment and pre-promotion training programmes; and through Special Recruitment Tests exclusively for Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes, to be conducted by the concerned Banking Service Recruitment Boards etc.

STATEMENT

(*Data Provisional*)

Year	*Direct Recruitment*						*Promotions from certain cadre*	
	Officers		Clerks		Sub-Staff		To Jngs-I Officers Cadre	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
1984	17	3	295	161	107	29	214	50
1985	14	2	237	158	162	43	223	54
1986	36	26	198	58	133	37	143	36
TOTAL	67	31	730	377	402	109	580	140

[*English*]

Profitability of Banks

4902. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reduction in lending rates at the maximum levels and other recent credit policy measures like the hike in Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio have seriously affected the profitability of the banks; and

(b) if so, to what extent the banks profitability has been hit by the credit policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India has reported that lowering of lending rates in respect of certain segments and the raising of cash reserve ratio and statutory liquidity ratio is a part of an integrated package of changes effected in the light of the current and emerging developments warranting modifications in the monetary and credit policies. In the considered view of the Reserve Bank of India, the changes brought about recently is not likely to have an adverse impact on the overall profitability of the banks.

High Level Delegation of Electronics to China

4903. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level delegation of the Ministry of Electronics visited China in April;

(b) if so, the main purpose of visit;

(c) whether any agreement in regard to electronics was signed with the Chinese Government; and

(d) if so, details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The visit of Indian delegation to China was under the aegis of Indo-China Bilateral Exchange Programme in Science & Technology. The main purpose of the visit was to study the Chinese Electronics and Computer Industry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Environmental Clearance

4904. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the road construction projects of Madhya Pradesh pending his Ministry's clearance;

(b) whether the non-clearance of these projects have created a great hardship to the tribal and backward population of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the likely date when the projects will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) One proposal to divert forest land for the construction of Katghora-Ambikapur road is pending clearance in this Ministry.

(b) and (c). The delay in taking a decision on the proposal is due to non-receipt of essential details from the State Government. Hence it is not possible to specify the date by which a decision can be taken.

[*English*]

Legislation Under Article 309

4905. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be

pleased to state:

(a) whether no legislation has so far been brought before the Parliament under Article 309 of the Constitution of India for regulating the recruitment, and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of any State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and when Government proposes to bring the legislation under Article 309; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) No comprehensive legislation has been enacted so far. However, in some cases like All India Services, enactments have been made.

(b) and (c). At present, there is no proposal to bring a comprehensive legislation under Article 309. It has been considered more appropriate to issue rules and regulations under the powers conferred on the President under proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution mainly for the following reasons:

(i) There are many Ministries like Ministry of Railways which employ a very large number of employees holding a great variety of posts. These Ministries operate a large number of recruitment rules and rules relating to services under their control laying down the principles of promotion etc. applicable to the various cadres under their administrative control. It would be impracticable task to codify all these different rules into a comprehensive legislation covering all the Central Government employees serving in different cadres of various services.

(ii) The existing system also involves thorough scrutiny by various agencies like the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Law, Ministry of Finance, C & AG, UPSC. After the rules are framed, these are also subject to scrutiny by the Committee on Sub-ordinate Legislation.

(iii) The existing system of framing rules has got flexibility.

Denudation of Forests

4906. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite various measures taken by Government, there is large scale deforestation in the country;

(b) if so, the annual percentage of degradation of various types of land in the country stating the percentage by which the degradation of forest land has risen during the last three years;

(c) major impediments in containing the deforestation; and

(d) what measures are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). According to the studies of satellite imagery by the National Remote Sensing Agency, the average annual rate of depletion of forest cover during the period 1972-75 to 1980-82 was approximately 1.3 million hectares. The

rate of deforestation on account of official diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes has come down since the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. No studies have been carried out to asses the increase in degradation of forest lands during the last three years.

(c) Increasing biotic pressure on forest resources and diversion of forest land to non-forest uses are major impediments in containing deforestation.

(d) The following measures have been taken by the Government to check deforestation:-

1. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments:-

   i) to avoid clear felling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restroration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

   ii) to consider banning of felling in the hills above 1000 metres altitude, at least for some years.

   iii) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

   iv) to set apart 4% of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

2. Development of infrastructure and enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forest.

3. Enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to check diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes.

4. Development of alternative sources of energy to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

5. Substitution of wood by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers and building construction.

6. Liberalised import policy for forest products.

Ganga Purification Plan

4907. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a committee to review the working of Ganga Purification Programme, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

It may be mentioned that the overall progress of the programme is being monitored by the Central Ganga Authority chaired by the Prime Minister himself. Chief Ministers of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal, the Union Minister for Environment and other Union Ministers concerned are among the members of the Authority. There is a Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Environment which includes Secretaries of Central Government Ministries and Chief Secretaries concerned which reviews the progress of work regularly. A Monitoring Committee under the Chairman-

ship of Member (Science), Planning Commission has also been constituted. Furthermore, the State Governments have constituted State and Local level committees for coordination of the schemes and monitoring progress. In the circumstances, the setting up of another committee to review the working of the Ganga Action Plan is not considered necessary.

NRI Investments

4908. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a fall in investment by Non-Resident Indians in India during the last 3 years;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefore; and

(c) the figures indicating investments by NRI in India from 1984-85 to 1986-87, year-wise?

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) Investments made by Non-Resident Indians/Persons of Indian Origin under various Schemes during the last three years were as follows:-

(*Rupees in Crores*)

		As on 31.3.85	As on 31.3.86	As on 31.3.87
1.	Direct Investment (Proposals Approved)	241.87	541.37	1022.24
2.	Portfolio Investment (Actual purchase of Shares and Debentures)	46.87	56.13	59.03
3.	Bank Deposits (Outstanding Balances in NRE/FCNR Accounts)	3818.57	5649.64	7847.31

Amount Distributed Through Credit Camps

4909. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount distributed to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people through credit camps till April, 1987, and

(b) whether any supervision is made with the cooperation of the States to see that the amount is utilised for the purpose for which it is sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). The present data reporting system does not yield separate information in respect of

loans given in the credit camps since no central monitoring of credit camps is considered to be either feasible or necessary. Banks undertake post appraisal of all loans including those sanctioned. disbursed in credit camps. Reserve Bank of India has reported that as at the end of March, 1987, Public Sector Banks have outstanding advances of Rs. 1696 crores against 66.74 lakhs borrowal accounts in respect of SC/ST borrowers in priority sectors.

[*Translation*]

Loss to State Bank of Indore Due to Guarantee Given by Its Officers

4910. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firms for whom Connaught Place, New Delhi Branch of the State Bank of Indore had given guarantee causing thereby a loss of lakhs of rupees to the bank and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the officers responsible for this; and

(c) the action taken by the bank against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). The State Bank of Indore has reported that its Connaught Place, New Delhi branch had issued guarantees favouring 11 firms/companies during the period 1.7.1986 to 30.6.1987. Two guarantees issued in favour of J & K Government were invoked. The firm on whose behalf these guarantees were issued have filed a petition in the J & K High Court. The matter is sub-Judice.

[*English*]

Repayment of Loans Disbursed Through Credit Camps

4911. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether and also to what extent the repayments have fallen due in respect of loans disbursed through credit camps from the inception of such camps, year-wise and extent to which such repayments have been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): The present data reporting system of banks does not yield the information in the manner asked for, since no central monitoring of credit camps is considered to be either feasible or necessary.

Substitution of Wood

4912. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether monsoon and climate of the country is adversely affected due to indiscriminate cutting of trees;

(b) whether Government propose to restrict use of timber for construction of buildings, railways etc., by substitution of iron or steel;

(c) the extent of forests that can be saved annually by this process if it is implemented; and

(d) the approximate extra expenditure that would be required to purchase steel or iron in place of timber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR-

ESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) There is no clear scientific evidence to aver that the monsoon and the climate of the country are being adversely affected due to indiscriminate cutting of trees.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The extent of forests that can be saved and the extra expenditure required to purchase steel or iron in place of timber, will *inter alia* depend upon the pace of wood substitution efforts, utilisation pattern of timber, availability of steel and other substitutes material, including imported timber and the acceptability of wood-substitutes by the users.

Afforestation Programme

4913. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the forest is vanishing at much higher rate than afforestation is done;

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop illegal felling;

(c) whether forest corporations are partly responsible for depletion of forests; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to instruct forest corporations to stop further feelling of trees to conserve the forest wealth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) According to studies of satellite imagery by the National Remote Sensing Agency, the average annual rate of depletion of forest cover during the period 1972-75 to 1980-82 was approximately 1.3 million hectares, whereas the rate of afforestation during the year 1985-86 and 1986-87 has been 1.51 million hectares and 1.76 million hectares respectively. It cannot, therefore, be surmised that forest are vanishing at a much higher rate than brought under afforestation.

(b) To curb the tendency for illicit fellings, guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/UTs to:

i) Check illicit felling of trees and removal of forest produce,

ii) Strictly enforce the provisions of the Indian Forest Act.

iii) Provide deterent punishment to the offenders.

iv) Exercise control on saw and veneer mills along the periphery of forests.

v) Set up well organised system of depots to meet requirement of fuelwood and fodder for the population living near the forests through government agencies/ Corporations/Co-operatives.

In addition the Central Government have introduced a centrally sponsored scheme for development of infrastructure for protection of forests from biotic interference and thereby prevent illegal exploitation of forests.

(c) No, Sir. The Forest Development Corporations are engaged in raising of forest plantations and/trade of timber and minor forest produce according to the management plans prepared on silvicultural principles.

(d) The following guidelines have been issued to the State/UT Governments to restrict felling of the trees in order to further

conserve forest wealth:-

i) to avoid clear felling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restroration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

ii) to consider banning of fellings in the hills above 100 metres, at least for some years.

iii) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

iv) to set apart 4% of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, natural parks, biosphere reserves etc.

The Forest Development Corporations would also be governed by these and no separate instructions are proposed to be issued.

Special Central Assistance for Primitive Tribes in Orissa

4914. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Special Central Assistance allocated for the development of primitive tribes in Orissa during Seventh Plan so far;

(b) the various schemes introduced for the upliftment of those primitive tribes;

(c) whether the review has been made on the implementation of welfare schemes introduced for the primitive tribes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The amount of SCA released to Orissa for development of primitive tribes during the first two years of 7th Plan is Rs. 130.90 lakhs and the tentative allocation for 1987-88 is Rs. 76.06 lakhs.

(b) The major schemes taken up for the development of primitive tribes included enforcement of protective measures relating to alienation of land, business of money-lending, excise, credit and marketing and developmental programmes such as provision of drinking water, educational facilities, horticulture, soil conservation, development of hill slopes, land reclamation, supply of animals like bullocks, goats, supply of bee-boxes, implements and tools, training in crafts and development of communication.

(c) and (d). The review of the tribal development programmes including those for primitive tribes is made in the annual Tribal Sub-Plan meeting was held in the Ministry with the State officials. A meeting held in the Ministry with the State representatives in June, 1987 to review developmental programmes for primitive tribal groups, during which following measures were suggested. Appropriate steps for motivating and attracting personnel to work in primitive tribal group areas should be taken. At the State level, the programmes for primitive tribal groups should be reviewed on regular basis at frequent intervals. The award of Finance Commission for compensatory allowance, staff quarters and development of villages should be first utilised in the primitive tribe areas. The project reports for each group should be updated and an annual action plan be prepared.

Funds for Orissa by Central Ministries

4915. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Ministries which have allocated funds for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Orissa during the sub-plan period 1987-88; the details thereof; and

(b) the details of funds allocated by these Ministries for the above year to other States, State-wise-details?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from various Ministries/Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Micro Projects in Orissa

4916. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of micro projects introduced in Orissa during the Seventh Plan;

(b) the tribes for whom such micro-projects have been introduced;

(c) the number of different tribes assisted, economically under the Seventh Plan so far; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). Two micro projects (i) for the Kutia Kondhs in Kalahandi district and (ii) for Hill Kharias and Mankirdias in Mayurbhanj district have been introduced in Orissa during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d). By the end of March 1986, 6,662 families belonging to different primitive tribes were assisted under individual beneficiary oriented schemes in the micro projects in Orissa. The target for Seventh Plan is to assist 9,625 families in the micro projects.

Margin Money Schemes of Scheduled Caste Development Corporation

4917. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that State Bank of India in Orissa is not participating in providing loans with margin money schemes of Scheduled Caste Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the recovery position of margin money schemes in different Scheduled Caste Development Corporation in the State/Union Territory; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the present situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). State Bank of India has reported that they have instructed their local Head Office in Orissa to participate in the margin money loan scheme of Orissa Scheduled Caste Development Corporation (OSCDS) in the Western and Southern Districts of the State.

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India has reported that margin money scheme of SCDCs. is not being monitored by them, as such, the recovery position of such loans is

not available. However, Ministry of Welfare have formulated detailed guidelines regarding the type of assistance to be provided by SCDCs.

Deaths Due to Drug Addiction

4919. DR. (SMT.) PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made in respect of the number of deaths occurred due to drug addiction and the number of families rendered destitute;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not whether Government proposes to make any assessment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No such assessment regarding number of deaths etc., has been made.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No such proposal for a survey of deaths etc., is under consideration at present.

[*Translation*]

Loans to Small Scale Units

4920. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units in small scale sector granted loans by banks by the end of 1986, indicating the amount of loan granted to each of these units;

(b) the amount of loan given to such small industrial units which have become sick and are not in a position to repay these loans; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to realise the loan from these units and the assistance being given to restart these sick units and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). As per the report of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there were 18,12,580 borrowing units in SSI sector enjoying a total bank credit amounting to Rs. 8321.04 crores as at the end of June, 1986. Out of these, 1,28,687 units with an outstanding bank credit of Rs. 1184.22 crores have been identified as 'sick' by banks. The RBI have issued guidelines to banks, from time to time, concerning various aspects of industrial sickness in the small scale sector. Banks conduct viability studies in respect of sick units in their portfolio and place potentially viable sick units under nursing programme by evolving suitable rehabilitation packages for them. The banks also continously monitor the borrowal accounts with a view to ensure recovery of their dues. In the case of units found non-viable, the banks may also take recourse to legal action for recovery of their dues. RBI has reported that 2656 sick SSI units were put under nursing programme by the banks as at the end of June, 1986.

[*English*]

Black Money Generated in Weekly Bazaars in Delhi

4921. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the income-tax evasion due to the unaccounted business carried on in the weekly bazaars held in various locations

in Delhi;

(b) if so, details thereof and the extend of tax evasions detected;

(c) action taken against those found guilty; and

(d) if no estimate has been made, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). Government is fully committed to combat tax evasion. Actions like, survey and search and seizure in appropriate cases are taken by the Department to detect tax evasion and also to serve as a deterrent to others. However, the effort of the Department should be commensurate with the results expected. The weekly bazaars in Delhi cater to the weaker sections of society and the volume of business transacted in such bazaars is not very high. Keeping this in mind, no sweeping enquiries have been carried out on the weekly bazaars in Delhi. However, whenever specific information is received by the Income-tax Department, appropriate action under Direct Taxes Acts is taken.

Cheap Foodgrains to Tribals of Non-Tribal Areas

4922. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all facilities except cheap foodgrains are available to tribals, staying in non-tribal areas;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide them with cheap/subsidised foodgrains; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to extend the cheap/subsidised foodgrains supply to tribals outside ITDP areas since it would not be possible to ensure that the benefit goes largely to tribals.

Working Group to Review Lead Bank Scheme

4923. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3967 on 28 November, 1986 regarding concept of 'lead bank for a district' and state:

(a) whether the working group set up in March, 1985 to review some aspects of the working of the lead bank scheme has since submitted its report and made some recommendations;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the working group and action taken by the Government on them; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which a decision is likely to be taken on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) No, Sir.

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

Issue of Bonus Shares

4924. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make it mandatory for companies to issue

bonus shares as soon as they become eligible under the bonus issue guidelines; 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.

(b) Does not arise.

I.M.F. Borrowings

4925. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 48 on 29th July, 1987 regarding borrowings from IMF and state:

(a) whether the rupee equivalent of the amounts repayable to the IMF and to the IMF Trust Fund is likely to increase further by the time the repayments are completed;

(b) if so, the estimated total amounts in rupees to be paid as principal and as interest by the time the repayment is completed; and

(c) whether it is proposed to make further borrowings from the IMF and the Trust Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). The repayments to IMF of the borrowings under EFF and Trust Fund are to be made in the form of SDRs or other foreign currencies specified by the IMF at the exchange rate in force at the time of actual repayments. As the rupee - SDR parity rate is determined by the IMF every year on 30th April, it is not possible to forecast at this stage the rupee equivalent of our repayment obligation to IMF in the future.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Purchase of Shares by Public Sector Financial Institutions

4926. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Financial Institutions had been advised by Government to buy the entire or a large part of the new issues made by companies; and

(b) if so, details of the companies whose issues had been subscribed to by the financial institutions during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Accepting the recommendation of the High Powered Committee on Stock Exchanges, Government had, some time back advised the Financial and Investment Institutions to consider taking up, at their discretion, equity issues of upto Rs. 1 crore so that smaller companies may not have to go to the market for their issues.

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

Foreign Visits of Lawyers

4927. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have details of income and expenditure of the top lawyers of the country who went abroad during 1978-79, 1985 and 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of lawyers who spent

more than rupees two lakhs on their foreign visits during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Assessments of those lawyers who fall in high income bracket, are completed only after scrutiny, during which the assessing officers do look into such expenditure.

(c) It will be difficult to obtain information regarding lawyers who spent more than Rs. 2 lakhs on their foreign visits since their cases are scattered all over the country. Since such assessments are completed only after scrutiny, the efforts involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with the results expected.

Complaints of Corruption received against Income Tax Authorities

4928. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of complaints of corruption received by Government and the Central Board of Direct Taxes against (i) Income-tax Officers; (ii) Assistant Commissioners; (iii) Commissioners and Directors of Income-tax Department during 1985, 1986 and upto 31st July, 1987;

(b) of them how many have been investigated and the results of the investigations;

(c) how many cases are pending investigation and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have identified the corruption prone areas in the Income-tax Department, and the action taken to revamp administrative machinery in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The number of complaints received is as under:

	1985	1986	1987(upto 31st July, 1987)
Income-tax Officers	693	698	304
Assistant Commissioners	175	192	125
Commissioners of Income tax/Directors of Inspection	108	113	70
	976	1003	499

Grand Total: 2478

(b) Out of the 2478 complaints received 737 were taken up for investigation and the rest were filed as they were either not verifiable or were anonymous/pseudonymous. Out of 737 complaints taken up for investigation, in 176 complaints investigation has been completed. After investigation 147 complaints were filed. Departmental Proceedings were initiated in the cases of 16 officers (15 ITOs and one Commissioner). Seven officers were retired under FR 56 (j) (one Commissioner, one Assistant Commis-

sioner and five ITOs), and six officers took retirement under F.R. 56(k) (three Commissioners and three ITOs) anticipating action as a result of these investigations.

(c) 561 complaints were pending as investigation in these cases is still in progress.

(d) In most of the posts of Income-tax Department public dealings are involved. It is, therefore, not possible to classify areas which are corruption prone and which are not. It has, however, always been the efforts of the Department to identify the corrupt elements amongst officers and staff on a systematic basis. Agreed lists of officers of doubtful integrity are prepared in consultation with the C.B.I. Also the supervisory authorities in the Department are expected to identify the corrupt elements from amongst their subordinates and to take follow-up action in their cases. Administrative machinery has been revamped, *inter alia*, by laying down guidelines for transfer of Officers and systematically weeding out the corrupt and the ineffective elements by effecting their premature retirement. Preventive vigilance set-up has been created in each Commissioner's charge. Law is proposed to be amended so as to minimise contact with the public by accepting all returns of income without calling the tax payer.

T.V. Sets

4929. KUMARI D.K. THARADEVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of colour television sets, black & white Television sets, video recorders and radio sets in use in India as on date; and

(b) the expected figures by the year 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC, ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Presently a total number of about 3 million Colour TV sets, 9.5 million Black & White TV sets, 1 million VCRs and 62 million radio sets are estimated to be in use.

(b) As the ownership of the various consumer electronic items would depend upon factors like growth in population, per capita income, trends in unit prices of the products, progress in rural electrification programme, expansion programmes of All India Radio and Doordarshan, it is difficult to make any projections for the year 2000.

Transfer of Central Schemes to States

4930. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to transfer some Central Schemes to the States;

(b) if so, the names of the Central Schemes proposed to be transferred to the States;

(c) whether Union Government have received any representation from any State Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the views expressed by the State Governments in their representations; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI

SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). The question of transferring some Centrally sponsored schemes to the States is *inter alia* under consideration of a Committee which was set up by the National Development Council at its meeting held on 8th and 9th November, 1985. The report of the NDC Committee is expected to be brought up before the National Development Council at its next meeting for taking an overall view of various issues pertaining to this matter.

(c) to (e). Eleven Chief Ministers are member of the NDC Committee and in the various meetings of the Committee, their views were presented.

Persons benefited under various Anti-Poverty Programmes

4931. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state the number of people benefited during 1985-86 and 1986-87 and likely to be benefited during 1987-88 in Eastern Uttar Pradesh under various anti-poverty programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): There are three major anti-poverty Programmes, viz., the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). Monitoring of these programmes by the Central Government is done on Statewise basis only. However, the number of households benefited during 1985-86 and 1986-87 and likely to be benefited during 1987-88 under the IRDP and the quantum of employment generated (1985-86 and 1986-87) and likely to be generated (1987-88) under the NREP and the RLEGP in Uttar Pradesh is as under:-

Sector	Unit	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88 (Target)
IRDP	Households assisted (lakh number)	5.81	6.66	7.66
NREP	Employment generated (lakh mandays)	501.90	465.23	480.00
RLEGP	-do- (Comandays)	468.25	527.61	443.48

Replies to Letters from Members of Parliament

4932. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received from Members of Parliament which have been pending in the Ministry of Personnel for period (i) upto 3 months; (ii) 3.6 months; (iii) 6-9 months; (iv) 9-12 months; and (v) more than one year;

(b) by when these letters are expected to be replied; and

(c) the reasons for delay, if any, in answering the letters and steps taken to ensure immediate attention to letters of Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) 162 letters received from Members of Parliament are pending in the Ministry. Their break-up is as follows:-

(i)	upto 3 months	94
(ii)	3-6 months	46
(iii)	6-9 months	11
(iv)	9-12 months	6
(v)	more than one year	5

(b) and (c). Letters received from Members of Parliament are acknowledged immediately and are attended to as quickly as possible. In some cases delay occurs due to non-receipt of information from the concerned Ministries/Departments, State Governments and Government agencies. All these are monitored regularly, and appropriate steps taken for their expeditious disposal.

Free Travel facilities for Blinds

4933. SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether handicapped persons are afforded a number of facilities and particularly free travel facilities in railways;

(b) if so, whether "blinds" are also included in the list of handicapped persons;

(c) whether blinds will also be provided with a free travel facility in railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. The handicapped persons are given a number of facilities by way of scholarships/stipends, reservation in Group C & D jobs, relaxation in upper age limit and medical standards to enter the job, supply of aids and appliances either free of cost or at subsidised rates etc. Railways do not allow free travel facility to any category of disabled. However, travel at concessional rate is admissible to blind, orthopaedically handicapped, mentally retarded and deaf and dumb persons.

Loses in Heavy Water Plants

4934. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy water plants in the country have suffered heavy losses during the last three years;

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

(c) whether a high powered committee has been constituted to find out tne causes; and

(d) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the Committee and the time by which the committee is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOP-

MENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Except for the Heavy Water Plant, Talcher, all other Heavy Water Plants have performed quite satisfactorily. Heavy Water Plant Talcher is facing severe external constraints like supply of synthesis gas and steam from the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Handicapped of Sikkim Working in Government Offices

4935. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5250 on 1 April, 1987 regarding employment to handicapped in Sikkim and state the district-wise number of handicapped persons in rural areas of Sikkim working in Central Government offices in Sikkim as on 31.7.87?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Examination Centre at Gangtok for UPSC Examinations

4936. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain proposals to set up an examination centre at Gangtok for examinations to be conducted by UPSC are under consideration;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Central team was to inspect infrastructural facilities for the proposed Centre at Gangtok;

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

(e) by which time the Centre at Gangtok will start functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. An officer of the Union Public Service Commission would be visiting Gangtok shortly to make assessment regarding availability of various infrastructural facilities at Gangtok for the conduct of Union Public Service Commission Examinations. No exact date by which the Centre at Gangtok would start functioning can be indicated at this stage.

Rider Mechanism at Stock Exchanges

4937. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evolved a 'rider mechanism' at stock exchanges for keeping share prices in control;

(b) whether certain suggestions in this regard have been made by the high level market circles;

(c) if so, whether Government have examined the suggestions made in this regard; and

(d) if so, steps Government propose to take to implement the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.

GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Government are aware of the matter as appearing in a section of the Press. As per the Press Report, the arrangement, *inter alia*, envisages the monitoring of prices of volatile shares through surveillance units at Stock Exchanges. Action, if any, in the matter vests with the Stock Exchange authorities who implement the Bye-laws and Regulations of Stock Exchanges, including these relating to trading in securities.

Import of Components for Manufacture of Colour T.V.

4938. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the raw materials and components imported for the manufacture of colour Television sets in the country; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent for the purpose during 1985-86 and 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) The major raw material/components being imported for manufacture of Colour TV sets are Colour TV Picture Tube, Deflection Components, Tuner and Integrated Circuits.

(b) Foreign Exchange spent for the purpose during 1985-86 and 1986-87 is estimated to be $ 80.5 million and $ 117.0 million respectively.

Export of Electronic Goods

4939. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were the targets for export of electronic goods in 1985 - 86 and 1986 - 87;

(b) whether the targets were achieved;

(c) whether Indian electronic goods are not competitive in the international market; and

(d) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Seventh Plan Working Group on Electronic Industry had suggested export targets of Rs. 280 crores for 1985-86 and Rs. 411 crores for 1986-87.

(b) No Sir. The actual figures are Rs. 170 crores for 1985-86 and Rs. 267 crores for 1986-87.

(c) and (d). In general electronic goods manufactured indigenously were not internationally competitive due to higher costs of inputs. However, in case of computer software Indian companies are able to compete in the international market. Further the liberalised policies adopted in the recent months are calculated to promote growth of electronics at near international prices.

Target for Production of Electronics in Seventh Plan

4940. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the target for electronics production in the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether a mid-term review of the targets for the plan period has been done;

(c) if so, details of achievements during the period;

(d) whether it has been decided to scale down the production target per annum during the Plan period; and

(e) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) A production target of Rs. 10860 crores has been fixed for the terminal year (1989-90) of the Plan.

(b) and (c) Details of the electronics production targets and actual achievements are given in the statement below.

(d) There has been no discision to scale down the target.

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Seventh Plan Targets and Actual Performance

Sl. No.	Sector	1984-85 Actual	1985-86 Target	1985-86 Actual	1986-87 Target	1986-87 Actual
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Consumer Electronics	665	730	1100	900	1350
2.	Communication and Broadcasting	355	680	415	1000	580
3.	Aerospace & Defence	170	375	220	415	235
4.	Control Instruments & Industrial Electronics (including Office Eqpt)	355	600	410	780	580
5.	Computers	95	200	180	290	310

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Components	320	480	440	670	550
	Sub-Total:	1960	3036	2765	4055	3605
7.	Software for Export	25	-	30	-	45
8.	Export Processing Zone.	96	-	85	-	150
	Total:	2081	3036	2880	4055	3800

Credit Camps held in Tamil Nadu

4941. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries in credit camp functions held in Tamil Nadu, district-wise, during 1986-87;

(b) whether some of the officers in nationalised banks are not cooperating with the credit camp functions; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against those officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) The present data reporting system of banks does not yield separate information regarding number of credit camps, amount disbursed and number of beneficiaries in various parts of the country. No central monitoring of credit camps is considered to be either feasible or necessary. Bank officers generally involve themselves in the organising of credit camps as a part of overall measures taken by banks to bring about accelerated credit assistance to weaker sections.

Female Babies Abandoned

4942. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many newly born babies mostly female babies are abandoned by mothers in the hospitals and nearby and a few of these babies die in absence of adequate arrangements;

(b) whether any study has been made in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No such instance has come to notice.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In addition to arrangements by State Governments, assistance to voluntary organisations is provided by the Central Government on a matching grant basis through the State Governments for running homes for children in need of care and protection.

Forest Land Lost

4943. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total extent of forest land in the country that has been lost during the last three years due to major river valley projects;

(b) the total area of forest land that was lost by submergence and deforestation for the construction of the Idukki Dam over the Periyar river in Kerala;

(c) whether any survey/study was made by the Ministry to ascertain the effect of the above deforestation for the Idukki Dam project; and

(d) if so, the details of findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) The total extent of the forest land permitted to be diverted for major river valley project in the country during the last three years (1984, 1985, 1986), as approved by this Ministry, was 8906 ha.

(b) 4800 ha. of forest land was submerged in Idukki reservoir. The extent of deforestation due to construction of the Idukki dam has not been quantified.

(c) A study on the long term environmental and ecological impacts of Idukki project has been made.

(d) Major findings are:-

The eco-system of Idukki is most fragile, normal vegetation cover in the area is fast dwindling, degradation of vegetation has been hastened due to increased biotic interference, sediment carrying capacity of the river has decreased, resulting in reduction of river width and formation of water pools, drastic reduction in forest cover especially evergreen forests, soil erosion increased, degradation of evergreen forests and wildlife is highly disturbed.

Eucalyptus Plantation

4944. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land brought under eucalyptus plantation;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study to determine the effect of eucalyptus plantation on the water table, soil and other plantation;

(c) the outcome of the study; and

(d) whether Government intends to continue eucalyptus plantation in new areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) (a) Data on area of land brought under plantation of different species is not maintained.

(b) Research on various aspects of plantations of eucalyptus species, including its effect on water table and soil, has been conducted in some of the Research Organisations.

(c) Definite conclusions have not been arrived at regarding effect of eucalyptus plantations on the water-table and soil.

(d) The choice of species in future plantations will depend on suitability of site conditions and the wishes of the local people.

Increase in rent of premises taken on rent by Punjab National Bank

4945. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Members of Parliament have written to the Punjab National Bank for the increase in rent of the premises taken on rent in Delhi/New Delhi;

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

(c) whether in some cases the rents of the premises have not been increased and the owners have been requesting for increase in the rents in consultation with the Valuation Officer of the Income Tax Department; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) Punjab National Bank has reported to have received letters from some Hon'ble Members of Parliament for increasing the rent of the Bank's branch premises at Panchsheel Park, New Delhi, or to vacate the premises.

(c) According to Punjab National Bank, the owner of the Panchsheel Park premises has represented that the rent should be revised in consultation with the Directorate of Estates.

(d) Public Sector Banks take decisions in regard to leasing of premises in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India in this regard and also in consonance with their rights and responsibilities as tenants in terms of the local statutes.

Release of premises taken on rent by RBI

4946. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of the Reserve Bank of India to release leased premises of which it is not a statutory tenant on the expiry of the lease period of requested by the owners;

(b) if so, the total number of requests received by the bank in Bombay alone during the last two years and steps taken by the bank to release such flats to the owners under the prevalent policy; and

(c) whether in some of the cases there has been inordinate delay in releasing the flats to its owners and if so, the reasons thereof and steps being taken to hand over the flats to the owners under the policy set down in (a) above?

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

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that as per available records 43 requests were received by them in Bombay alone during the last two years (July 1985 - June 1987) from private/Employee landlords for release of their flats of which RBI is not a statutory tenant. Out of these 43 requests, 32 flats were released, 8 requests were rejected and 3 requests are still pending.

(c) According to RBI, there has not been any inordinate delay in releasing the flats.

[*Translation*]

Hospital at Sagar from Bidi Workers Welfare Fund

4947. SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal approved for opening a hospital in Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) with funds drawn from the Bidi Workers Welfare Fund;

(b) the estimated cost of the hospital and name of the place in Sagar city where this hospital will be constructed; and

(c) the time by which the hospital is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No proposal for opening a hospital in Sagar (M.P.) with funds drawn from Bidi Workers Welfare Fund has been approved.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Production of Solar Photovoltaic Cells

4948. SHRI MULLAPPOALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total production and total sales of solar photovoltaic cells produced by Central Electronics Limited (CEL) during 1986-87; and

(b) the reasons for the improved production during 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) During 1986-87, the total value of Solar Photovoltaics produced by Central Electronics Limited (CEL) amount to Rs. 972 lakhs, registering a 123% increase over the production of Rs. 436 lakhs for the year 1985-86. Sales of Solar Photovoltaics netted a total of Rs. 903 lakhs for the year 1986-87, constituting an increase of 354% with respect to the sales of Rs. 199 lakhs for the year 1985-86. The number of Photovoltaic Systems sold during 1986-87, totalling to 3600, represented an increase of 140% when compared to the 1500 systems sold in 1985-86.

(b) The major reasons for the vastly improved production and sales during 1986-87 are:

(i) Good demand for SPV systems, both due to vigorous marketing efforts on existing product lines and promotion of products for new applications, resulting in a good order book.

(ii) Improvements in productivity stemming from higher use of semi-automatic process equipment, improved work methods, better planning and review mechanisms, spreading of an industrial work-culture and active involvement of all employees.

(iii) Initiation of procurement action sufficiently early and in anticipation of the order book, with follow-up to ensure timely availability of raw materials.

(iv) Better on-site power availability, despite the unsatisfactory nature of grid electric power supply, due to the commissioning of a 860 KVA diesel electric generator.

Deputation of Officers of Central Secretariat Service to Department of Electronics

4949. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Electronics is outside the sphere of the Central Secretariat Services and the UPSC;

(b) if so, whether posts of Under Secretary, Deputy Director, Joint Director, Deputy Secretary, Director, etc. in that Department are being manned by newly empanelled officers and other officers of CSS and from other Departments on deputation basis; and

(c) the reasons therefor and details of the deputationists who have been working in the Department for periods of more than three years in contravention of the orders of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). (i) One post of Director is held by an officer of Central Secretariat Services (CSS) since 1983. This officer was initially posted to Department of Electronics as Under Secretary in 1972 and was appointed on deputation within the Department of Electronics as Joint Director in 1976. He was promoted as Deputy Secretary in 1979 and as Director in 1983. He has been within the Department of Electronics throughout this length of 15 years of service;

(ii) One post of Deputy Secretary is held by an officer of CSS since 1986;

(iii) One post of Deputy Secretary is held by an officer belonging to Indian Inspection Service under the Central Staffing scheme since 1987. This officer was intially posted to Department as Under Secretary in 1984 and was promoted to the rank of Deputy Secretary in 1987;

(iv) One post of Joint Director (Public Enterprises) is held by a CSS officer on deputation basis since 1984.

(v) One post of Under Secretary is held by an officer of CSS since 1984.

(vi) Two posts of Under Secretary and five posts of Deputy Director are held by officers from within the cadre of the Department of Electronics.

The officers mentioned at (i) to (v) above have been posted under the Central Staffing Scheme by the Department of personnel. Therefore it is presumed that the question of contravention of the instructions of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension does not arise.

Central Staffing Scheme

4950. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 550 on 29.7.1987 and to state the broad outlines of Central Staffing Scheme and the details as to how it is permuted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The Senior Staffing Scheme provides for systematic arrangement for manning senior administrative posts at the Centre, of and above the rank of Under Secretary in the Central secretariat and attached offices and certain other field posts. The posts under the Scheme are normally held by the officers of All India/Organised Group 'A' Central Services on tenure deputation basis. The tenure varies form 3 to 5 years, depending upon the level of the posts. Generally, there is no fixed tenure for the posts of Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Appointments to the posts at the level of Joint Secretary/Director/Deputy Secretary under the Scheme are made on the recommendations of the Civil Services Board. Detailed instructions have also ben laid down with regard to the procedure to be followed by the Civil Services Board for recommending panels for the posts.

Declaration of Hindi Officers Examination Results

4951. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether UPSC has not declared the results of the examination held for the posts of Hindi Officers as far back as July, 1969;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the Government propose to declare the results?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A written test was held by the Union Public Service Commission on July 13, 1969 to screen the candidates for the posts of Hindi Supervisors and Hindi Officers or equivalent posts in different Ministries/Departments. Some of the applicants who were refused admission filed a Writ Petition in Delhi High Court. The judgement was delivered on 11th February, 1970 wherein the UPSC was directed to entertain the applications of the petitioners for the said examination. In August, 1970 the Government filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the judgement of Delhi High Court. The Supreme Court vide their judgement delivered in March, 1984 held that by sheer passage of time, the appeals had become infructuous. consequent upon the judgement of the Supreme Court and in view of the fact that the recruitment rules in respect of posts of Hindi Officers/Hindi Supervisors had undergone substantial modifications, it was decided by the UPSC to treat this case as closed.

Consumption of Fire-Wood for Cremation

4952. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the daily requirement of fir-wood in the country for cremation;

(b) the schemes for reduction of consumption of fire-wood for cremation;

(c) whether the National Wasteland and Development Board or Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is giving any subsidy to the State Governments or local self-organisations for electric or improved crematoria to save heavy consumption of fire-wood; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to consider giving such subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) The Advisory Board on Energy (ABE) have estimated the annual requirement of firewood in the country for cremation to be around 20 lakh tonnes and accordingly the daily requirement works out as 5500 tonnes, approximately.

(b) A scheme in the Central Sector has been prepared to introduce fuelwood efficient crematoria in urban areas. Construction of 29 electric crematoria has been provided under the Ganga Action Plan on a full grant basis.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

Purchase of Modi Xerox Machines

4953. SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Modi Xerox machines worth about Rs. 40 lakh were purchased by Department of Electronics;

(b) whether these were purchased in the month of March 1978 to avoid lapse surrender of funds and without proper administrative approval,

(c) whether these were really required and other alternative were not available to avoid wasteful expenditure; and

(d) the percentage utilisation of the machines since installation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN). (a) Nine (9) numbers of Modi Xerox machines at a cost of Rs. 8.87 lakhs were purchased by the Department of Electronics.

(b) Purchase order for 8 machines was placed in the month of March, 1987 and purchase order for one machine was placed in the month of April, 1987 with proper Administrative approval.

(c) Yes, Sir. These machines are used for photocopying work in different Divisions, who need them.

(d) Does not arise as these are used for making photocopies of important papers relating to the work of a particular division which has to maintain exclusively and confidentiality.

Schemes for Welfare of Children

4954. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for the welfare of children in need of care and protection;

(b) if so, how many centres are being run under this scheme and by whom; and

(c) when these centres were sanctioned and how much money has been released so far to each centre?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Under the Scheme for the Welfare of Children in need of Care and Protection, destitute children's homes are run by voluntary organisations, who receive grants from the Government The grants are released to the voluntary organisations through State Governments Since revision of the scheme in 1984, the amount of money

released by the Central Government for Destitute Children Home during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 is as under:-

1984-85	Rs. 1,69,99,465/-
1985-86	Rs. 1,84,27,552/-
1986-87	Rs. 2,49,89,552/-

Holidays for Government Employees

4955. KUMARI D.K. THARA DEVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio between the pay of highest paid government employee and the per capita national income;

(b) how many days a government employee is required to work in calendar year; and

(c) the total number of paid and unpaid holidays for them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI B.S. ENGTI): (a) The highest pay for a Govt. employee (excluding constitutional; appointees) is Rs. 9000/- per month.

Based on Central Statistical Organisation's quick estimatedes/National Accounts statistics, the per-capita national income for the year 1985-86, was Rs. 2595.6 at current prices, and Rs. 797.7 at constant 1970-71 prices.

As the latest per-capita national income figures are not available, it is not possible to indicate the ratio in relation to highest paid Govt. employee.

(b) Number of working days for a Central Govt. employee depend upon the organisation in which he is working, namely, industrial, operational *or* administrative officers etc.

In the administrative offices, there are 245 working days in a calendar year, excluding weekly closed holidays on 52 Sundays and 16 festival holidays.

(c) Under the Central Govt. administrative offices there are 16 holidays. These include festival and other occasions, including 3 national holidays, *viz.* Republic Day, Independence Day and Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.

There are no unpaid holidays.

Recovery of bank Loans

4956. KUMARI D.K. THARA DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount and percentage of recovery of bank loans from priority sector, large sector and small sector in the last financial year; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to increase recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Recovery position is available for Direct Agricultural Advances. The provisional data in respect of Direct Agricultural advances of Public Sector Banks is available for year ended June 1986 and is set out below:-

(Amount in Rs.crores)

Demand	3795
Recovery	2134
Percentage of recovery to demand	56.2

(b) With a view to improving performance, the Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to the banks for taking effective measures like strengthening of the organisational structure, adopting of schematic appraisal systems, post lending supervision and launching of recovery drives with the help of State Governments. Banks have also been advised to create separate Recovery Cell' for a cluster of nearby branches for continuous and effective supervision. Recovery position has also to be reviewed periodically by the Board of Directors of the banks.

Computer System at Design Centres

4957. DR. SANKTA PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5949 on the 8 April, 1987 regarding Installation of Computer System at Design Centres and state:

(a) the number of persons benefited by Bangalore Centre's Computer System;

(b) the foreign exchange investment in the software at each of the 4 Centres; and

(d) the details of the private and public sector organisations which have availed of the facilities at each of these Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Bangalore Centre Computer system is in process of installation and acceptance. The system is yet to be opened for usage to the external users.

(b) Foreign exchange investment in the software at each of the four centres (in equivalent Indian Rupees)

Bangalore	-	4.7 lakh
Kanpur	-	11.3 lakh
Bombay	-	11.3 lakh
Jadavpur	-	11.3 lakh

(c) The break up of private and public sector organisations which availed the facilities (training, usage etc.) (approx.)

	Private sector	Public Sector Including Govt. & Ed. Inst)
Kanpur	60%	40%
Bangalore	33%	67%
Jadavpur	62%	38%
Bombay	50%	50%

Demonstration by Handicapped Persons at Nirvachan sadan

4958. DR. D.N. REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether visually handicapped persons of the National Federation of the blind staged a demonstration at the Nirvachan sadan to protest against the non-implementation of reservation order in 'C' category jobs; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b). A delegation of some Blind persons recently met senior officers in the Department of Personnel & Training to present the problems being

faced by them in the matter of employment under the control of Government.

Instructions exist for providing reservation to the physically handicapped persons (including the blind) in posts/services falling under Group C and Group D in the Government. Instructions also exist for considering cases of the blind with utmost sympathy. all Ministries/ Departments have been advised to impress upon their respective appointing authorities to ensure employment of the blind against vacancies reserved for them in services under the Government. Government Departments have also been advised to clearly bring out the aspect of the reservation for the physically handicapped in advertisements notifying vacancies. In a meeting held on 24.8.87 with all Ministries/Departments it was impressed that vacancies reserved for physically handicapped particularly for the blind should be filled up at the earliest.

Average Rainfall in the Country

4959. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) the average rainfall in the country for the last four years and upto August 15 of current year, state-wise; and

(b) whether there was deficient rainfall during the above period, if so, the extent of deficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARYANAN): (a) The country is divided into 35 meteorological sub-divisions. The annual rainfall in each sub-division during past 4 years (1983-86) and during 1987 upto 12.8.87 is given in the statement below. The statistical data for the rainfall in the country is maintained meteorological sub-division wise and not on the basis of states. The data are also computed on weekly basis and hence the information is given upto 12th August, 1987.

(b) For the whole country the average annual rainfall during past 4 years and variations from the normal are as under:

Year	Average rainfall (mm)	Departure from normal (%)
1983	1310	+12
1984	1120	-04
1985	1150	-01
1986	1060	-09

STATEMENT

ANNUAL RAINFALL (mm)

Year		1983	1984	1985	1986	1.1.87 to 12.8.87
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2778	2510	2366	2143	869

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3581	3732	2969	2186	2016
3.	Assam and Meghalaya	2378	2340	2392	1661	1865
4.	Naga, Mizo, Mani and Tripura	1877	1888	1603	1683	866
5.	SHWB and Sikkim	2982	2883	2542	2425	2202
6.	Gangetic W. Bengal	1600	1602	1241	1745	802
7.	Orissa	1506	1238	1581	1524	597
8.	Bihar Plateau	1306	1557	1268	1164	636
9.	Bihar Plains	1064	1456	1430	1013	870
10.	East U.P	1041	917	1184	934	348
11.	Plains of West U.P.	1176	743	978	758	269
12.	Hills of West U.P.	1566	1231	2169	1356	565
13.	Haryana, Cha. & Delhi	1052	526	645	510	215
14.	Punjab	740	722	742	653	280
15.	Himachal Pradesh	1461	1013	1432	1521	714
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	1250	1029	1284	1369	757
17.	West Rajasthan	473	318	208	202	122
18.	East Rajasthan	777	492	516	593	185
19.	West M.P.	1250	854	1068	1045	398
20.	East M.P.	1464	1087	1236	1207	481
21.	Gujarat region	1069	921	861	631	340
22.	Saurashtra and Kutch	877	493	331	318	74
23.	Konkan and Goa	3519	2479	2997	1894	1673

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Madhya Maharashtra	709	968	971	916	423
25.	Marathwada	1213	559	632	563	457
26.	Vidarbha	1278	741	918	1115	461
27.	Coastal A.P.	1173	747	1062	1124	339
28.	Telangana	1475	606	748	908	518
29.	Rayalaseema	838	487	590	620	265
30.	Tamil Nadu	1078	1159	1163	820	202
31.	Coastal Karnataka	3978	3140	2938	2913	1723
32.	North Interior Karnataka	935	597	618	676	412
33.	South Interior Karnataka	755	1143	966	1235	445
34.	Kerala	2200	2678	2737	2495	1178
35.	Lakshadweep	1332	1410	1166	1354	526

New Drug to Combat Malaria

4960. SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow has come out with new drug to combat Malaria; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Cities

4961. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI:
SHRI U.H. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation regarding upgradation of Rajkot, Nasik, Vijayawada and Meerut cities on the basis of costlines;

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

(c) the names of cities upgraded during

the last three years and the cities likely to be upgraded in the near future?

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

(b) The cities of Rajkot, Nasik, Vijayawada and Meerut were upgraded for payment of Compensatory (City) Allowance at B-2 rates by special orders issued in August, 1979 on the basis of costlines. Subsequently, on the basis of population figure of 1981 Census also these cities qualified for classification as B-2 cities for CCA purposes. The Fourth Pay Commission have not recommended grant of CCA on the criterion of abnormal expensiveness. Accordingly, classification of these four cities as B-2 class cities for CCA purpose on the basis of their population according to 1981 Census figures will continue.

(b) None of the cities has been upgraded for the purpose of CCA on the basis of costlines during the last three years. No proposal is under consideration for upgradation of cities on this basis in the near future.

Agency for Foreign Exchange Facilities

4962. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Exim Bank of India has set up a new agency to provide foreign exchange clearance facility;

(b) if so, whether this agency will give heavy rebate on customs duty to software exporters for selling goods in foreign countries and if so, the rate of such rebate and details regarding profit likely to be earned thereby, year-wise;

(c) the details of export being made by this agency and its capital invested therein; and

(d) the names of the cities and places in foreign countries where this agency has its branches indicating the names and addresses thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). No new agency has been set up by the Exim Bank to provide foreign exchange clearance facility. Exim Bank of India has itself been designated as an agency for facilitating speedy clearance and for meeting foreign exchange requirements of soft-ware exporters towards import of hard-ware and/or soft-ware of computer/computer based systems under the policy of computer soft-ware export, soft-ware development and training announced by Government of India. The scheme envisages that while the customs duty of 60 per cent of ad valorem is payable on the imports under the scheme, in case of proposals scruitinised by the Exim Bank and where the Exim Bank undertakes the financial and technical analysis as well as monitoring of the progress of exports, the customs duty rebate of 50 per cent will be provided.

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

Upgradation of Ores

4963. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mines, Metallurgy and Habitat (MMAH) project has undertaken programme for the upgradation of ores;

(b) if so, in how many mines such upgradation and development programme has been undertaken by MMAH; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The programme for upgradation of development of ores is being undertaken at two mines viz. (i) South Kaliapani Chromite mines (Orissa Mining Corporation) and (ii) Lambidhar Limestone Mines, Dehradun (U.P. State Mining Development Corporation).

The R & D activities at South Kaliapani Chromite Mines relate to upgradation studies on low grade chromite ores and utilisation of reject over burden material for brick making and those at Lambidhar Limestone Mines, Dehradun relate to studies on mineralogical characterisation on limestones fines.

Workman Director in New Bank of India

4964. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chairman of the New Bank of India has made verifications of unions to recommend the name of a Union leader for the post of Workman Director; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Verification of unions for the purpose of determining representative majority union in a nationalised bank is done by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) under the Nationalised Bank (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme, 1970/1980. Thereafter the Workman Director is selected from out of a panel of 3 names recommended by the concerned union.

Loan for Setting up Industries in Andhra Pradesh

4964-A CHAUDHARY RAM PRAKASH:
DR. T. KALPANA DEVI:
SHRI T. BALA GOUD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private parties who have applied for loans to set up industries in Andhra Pradesh in 1986-87;

(b) the names of the recipients and the amount granted to each party; and

(c) whether any progress reports have been submitted in connection with the setting up of industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) have reported that as per information available with them there were 91 companies who had applied for loans from all-India financial institutions viz. IDBI, Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) for setting up industries in Andhra Pradesh during 1986-87 (April - March). Out of these, 36 parties had been sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 541.45 crores. The companies availing of assistance are expected to submit quarterly progress reports regarding setting up of industries. As far as details of loans to individual parties are concerned, the information relat-

ing to or to the affairs of individual constituents of financial institutions cannot be divulged in accordance with the statutes governing financial institutions and as per the practices and usages customary amongst the bankers.

Refund of Excise Duty on Electricity to Maharashtra

4964-B SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have refunded to Government of Maharashtra the excise duty recovered through Maharashtra State Electricity Board;

(b) whether Government of Maharashtra was also entitled to get refund of the excise duty on electricity recovered through Tatas and Tarapur Atomic Reactor Plant; and

(c) the reason for withholding the refund of excise duties recovered through Tatas and Tarapur Atomic Reactor Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). In accordance with the provisions of the Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980, the net proceeds of the Union duties of excise on electricity (other than in Union Territories) were required to be distributed among the States as per the percentage shares prescribed in the Act. Accordingly, a total amount of Rs. 131.57 crores was paid to the Government of Maharashtra during the period 1979-80 to 1984-85. The amount distributed to Maharashtra was based on the percentage share of that State as prescribed in the Act and is not linked to the collections made through any particular power plant. In view of this, no amount was withheld on account of the duty collected in Maharashtra.

Excise Duty on Generation of Electricity

4964-C SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of excise duty levied on generation of electricity by Union Government;

(b) whether the State Governments have demanded refund of excise duty recovered on generation of electricity by Union Government in view of their investment being in the development of power projects;

(c) whether Union Government have agreed to this refund; 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). By the Finance Act of 1978, an excise duty of 2 Paise per KWH was levied with effect from 1.3.1978 on electricity generated. In accordance with the provisions of the Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Act, 1962, as in force at that time, an amount equivalent to 20% of the net proceeds of this duty became automatically payable to the States from 1978-79 along with their share of the net proceeds of excise duties on other commodities. However, the states represented that the levy should be withdrawn altogether or alternatively the entire net proceeds should be passed on to them. After careful consideration, Government of India decided in 1978 that the entire net proceeds of the union duties of excise on electricity would be transferred to the states with effect from 1.4.1979.

12.00 hrs.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I told you that I will listen to you after the PM's statement.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Annual Report of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for 1983-84 and Memorandum of the Action Taken on the Recommendations Contained in the Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): I beg to lay on the Table

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the Year 1983-84.

(2) A copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) of the Action taken on the recommendations contained in the Report [Placed in the Library *See* No. LT-4830/87]

Notifications under Income Tax Act 1961 and Customs Act 1962. Annual Report of National Insurance Company for 1986 and a statement *re*-review on the working of National Insurance Co. Ltd. for 1986 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy of the Income-tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1987 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 781(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 1987 under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT 4831/87]

(2) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 709 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification Nos. 42/78-Customs dated the 1st March, 1978, 29/79- Customs dated the 10th February, 1979 and 181/86-Customs dated the 1st March, 1986 so as to confer concessional rate of duty on specified goods for use in leather industry under section 159 of the Customs, Act, 1962. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4832/87]

(3) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 707 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum providing for credit of money for use in payment of excise duty when specified hydrogenated oils are used in the manufacture of soap in superession of Notification No. 40/87 Central Excises dated the 1st March, 1987 issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944 [Placed in Library. *See* No LT 4833/87]

(4) A copy of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction

(Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Services of Chairman and Other Members) Amendment Rules, 1987 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R 652 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 1987 under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. [Placed in Library. *See* No LT 4834/87]

(5) A copy of the Export-Import Bank of India General Regulations, 1982 (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 39 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4835/87]

(6) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:

(i) The United Bank of India (Officers') Service Regulations, 1979 [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4836/87]

(ii) The Syndicate Bank (Officer's) Service Regulations, 1979 [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4837/87]

(iii) The UCO Bank (Officers') Service Regulations, 1979 (Revised upto 30th June, 1987) [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4838/87]

(iv) The Central Bank of India (Officers') Service Regulations, 1979 (including amendments/modifications adopted upto June, 1987).[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4839/87]

(v) The Union Bank of India (Officers') Service Regulations, 1979 (with amendments upto the 30th April, 1986). [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4840/87]

(vi) The Punjab National Bank (Officers') Service Regulations, 1979. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT/4841/87]

(7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the National Insurance Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year ended the 31st December, 1986.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Insurance Company Limited, Calcutta for the year ended the 31st December, 1986 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4842/87]

(b) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Bombay, for the year ended the 31st December, 1986.

(ii) Annual Report of the New India Assurance Company Lim-

ited, Bombay, for the year ended the 31st December 1986 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4843/87]

(c) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year ended the 31st December, 1986.

(ii) Annual Report of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year ended the 31st December, 1986 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4844/87]

(d) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Bombay, for the year ended the 31st December, 1986.

(ii) Annual Report of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Bombay, for the year ended the 31st December 1986 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4845/87]

(e) (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Madras, for the year ended the 31st December, 1986.

(ii) Annual Report of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Madras, for the year ended the 31st December, 1986 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4846/87]

(8) A copy of the Report of the Fourth Central Pay Commission-Part-III (Hindi and English versions) relating to salaries and allowances of the Officers and employees of the Supreme Court of India. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4847/87]

Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for 1985-86 and a Statement Showing Reasons for Delay in Laying These Papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): I beg to lay on the Table

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86 together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A statement (Hindi and

English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for the year 1985-86. [Placed in Library. *See* No LT 4848/87]

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.[Placed in Library. *See* No LT 4848/87]

Negotiations under All India Services Act 1951

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India services Act, 1951:-

(1) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Sixth Amendment Rules 1987 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 614 in Gazette of India dated the 15th August, 1987.

(2) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fourth Amendment Rules, 1987 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 615 in Gazette of India dated the 15th August, 1987.

(3) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Fourth Amendment Rules, 1987 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 618 in Gazette of India dated the 15th August, 1987.

(4) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 1987 public shed in Notification No. G.S.R. 619 in Gazette of India dated the 15th August, 1987. [Placed in Library. *See* No LT 4849/87]

Statements Showing the Action taken by the Government on Various Assurances, Promises and Undertakings Given by Ministers During various Sessions of Eighth Lok Sabha

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I beg to lay on the Table the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, Promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Eighth Lok Sabha:-

(1) Statement No. XVII-Second Session, 1985. [Placed in Library. *See* No LT 4850/87]

(2) Statement No. XIII- Fourth Session, 1985. [Placed in Library. *See* No LT 4851/87]

(3) Statement No. X-Fifth Session, 1986. [Placed in Library. *See* No LT 4852/87]

(4) Statement No. VII- Sixth Session, 1986. [Placed in Library. *See* No LT 4853/87]

(5) Statement No. V-Seventh Session, 1986. [Placed in Library. *See* No LT 4854/87]

(6) Statement No. IV- Eighth Session, 1987. [Placed in Library. *See* No LT 4855/87]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 24th August, 1987, agreed without any amendment to the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Continuance Bill, 1987, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th August, 1987."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha chat the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 24th August, 1987, agreed without any amendment to the Cine-Workers Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1987, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th May, 1987."

(iii) " I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Wednesday, the 12th August, adopted the following motion in regard to the Joint Committee of the Houses on Bofors' Contract:-

"That this House concurs in the recommendations of the Lok Sabha that a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 members, 20 from Lok Sabha and 10 members of the Rajya Sabha be constituted to enquire into the issues arising from the report of the Swedish National Audit Bureau relating to the Bofors' Contract to supply 155 mm Mowitzer guns to India, made in the motion adopted by the Lok Sabha on the 6th August, 1987. and communicated to this House on the 7th August, 1987 and resolves that this House do join in the said Committee and proved to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, 10 members from among the members of this, House to serve on the said Committee."

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Joint Committee:-

1. Shri Aladi Aruna Alias V. Arunachalam
2. Shri Darbara Singh
3. Shri H. Hanumanthappa
4. Shri Mirza Irshadbaig
5. Shrimati Kailashpati
6. Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan
7. Shri Thangabaalu
8. Shri Thomas Kuthiravattom
9. Shri B.V. Abdulla Koya
10. Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT *RE.* ALLOCATION OF A MINE SITE TO INDIA IN THE CENTRAL INDIAN OCEAN BY THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): I rise to inform this House of an important development during the 40th anniversary celebrations of our Independence. On August 17, 1987 we have secured for our country a unique position. Our application for registration and allocation of a mine site in the Central Indian Ocean was unanimously accepted by the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority -PREPCOM- a body of the United Nations.

Hon'ble Members will recall that the Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea accorded India, Pioneer Status along with three other countries in deep seabed exploration in recognition of their achievements in seabed surveys, research and development. India is the only developing country to be so recognised. This was an important landmark.

The decision of the PREPCOM, to register India's claim first and earlier than that of the other countries and allocate an area 150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand) square kilometers for further exploration and development is yet another landmark. This decision entitles us to explore and develop the resources of the deep seabed, which contain rich deposits of polymetallic nodules and which are a source of important minerals like copper, cobalt, nickel and manganese. However, commercial exploitation of these resources will take place only in future, after we have developed or acquired adequate technology and after the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea comes into force.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Preparatory commission has determined that similar claims of other States, viz. France, Japan and USSR would be registered towards the end of this year. This will pave the way for universal participation of developed and developing countries in he new legal regime for ocean space.

The registration of our claim for a deep seabed mine site indeed provides concrete indication of indigenous scientific capabilities and achievements. It is yet another step forward in our quest for self-reliance.

I am sure this House will agree to place on record our appreciation for the excellent work done by our scientists and engineers who have taken up the challenging task to explore new horizons of science to unravel the mysteries of the ocean.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given an adjournment notice. Today hundreds of Peerless Insurance employees under the banner of All India Peerless Employees Association have assembled here in Delhi holding dharna. They are demanding nationalisation of Peerless company to safeguard the interests of two crore certificate holders and thousands of employees.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a matter for an adjournment motion. You can bring it in any other form.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The Finance Minister, Mr. Tiwari, is here. He can make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your adjournment motion is not accepted. That is my ruling.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why is the Government not nationalising Peerless company?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Mr. Acharia. You have already mentioned what you wanted. That is enough.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why does he not make a statement?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat Not like this. If you want to make any point each one of you can raise your hand. I will give my ruling whether I allow or not. If all of you are standing and shouting I cannot hear. I am sorry.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbub Nagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Govrnment through you to the agitation that has been caused in the minds of the people of India by the decision of the Government of India to import two types of sophisticated telephone systems-car telephone system card telephone systems. The car telephone system costs Rs. 35 crores while the card telephone system costs Rs. 100 crores. People of the country are greatly disturbed and it is a drain on our foreign exchange.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your adjournment motion is also not accepted. It is not an urgent matter.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: People of the country are deeply disturbed and there is a need for the Government of India to react to this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is enough. Now Shrimati geeta Mukherjee...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: What is the reaction of the Government?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, thousands of women are demonstrating and courting arrest against price rise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are going to discuss price rise today under Rule 193.

SHRIMATI GEETA KUKHERJEE: Thousands of women belonging to National Federation of Indian Women, All India Janvadi Mahila Samiti and Dakshita Mahila Samiti have addressed a memorandum to the Prime Minsiter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that we are discussing it today.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: I want to give that to the Prime Minister through you and I want to lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. No. Not like that.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: (Rajapur): Thousands of housewives have come including my wife also.

SHRITHAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): Sir, not only Peerless but there are other private money lending institutions like Aditya financiers and others...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: About Peerless I have already told. This you give in writing I will see.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call everyone.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker] ·

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapur): Very good, Sir.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Repeatedly we have been trying to raise the issue of teachers' strike here...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yesterday it was raised and the Speaker has already told...

SHRI SURESH KURUP: What is the use of discussing it in the House if the Government is not paying any attention to the demands raised in the House?

Now you are in the chair. You can use your position. You can direct the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot direct the Government.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): After the winding up of the Mineral Development Board, what will be the fate of the people who are working there for the last 10, 15 or 20 years? I have given a Calling Attention.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY ((Katwa): Some days back I gave an adjournment motion regarding the offer given to foreign multi-national companies to construct gas-based power project at Kawas.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not received your adjournment motion.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker said that it will be taken up under Rule 184. But now I find it would not be taken up. I have given a Calling Attention also. It is a very serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: They are scuttling the lowest offer given by our Public sector company.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Are you giving any comment?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will go through your letter. I have not received till now. I have not seen.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: It is a very serious matter.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You can allow Calling Attention.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You can allow Calling Attention.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see. Immediately I cannot say.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You can allow tomorrow or day after tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot promise now. I will see.

MR. SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker said that it will be taken up under Rule 184. Now I find it will not be taken up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: What about Calling Attention?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor): Sir, may I draw the attention of the House and the Government of India that after the Kalahandi starvation deaths a few months back, more starvation deaths have

taken place in the home district of Deputy Minister (Welfare) in Orissa where 400 people have lost their lives due to starvation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see. Please sit down.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: We cannot ignore the values of human lives. I want the Government of India should take immediate steps.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Vluberia): College and University teachers are on strike for more than three weeks. The Government is doing nothing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told Shri Kurup.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): You should ask the Human Resources Development Minister to meet the college teachers.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki): I am only pleading for justice. I request the Hon'ble Home Minister through you, Sir, to order an inquiry by CBI over the murder of a constituent of mine, one Rashid, in Karnataka. It is alleged that ** is involved in the murder. It has been reported in the press.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will not go on record. It is a matter for the State Government.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, I want the Home Minister to conduct a CBI inquiry. Otherwise will not get justice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a State subject. You can write to them.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a State subject. I cannot allow.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, my constituent Rashid has been murdered. His father has sent me a telegram.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can write to the State Minister.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Hon'ble Buta Singh is here.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): The recent decision of the United States to increase its military presence in the Indian Ocean is a matter of serious concern for all of us. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to make a statement about that and about the initiative taken by India in convening a conference of the littoral States in the Indian Ocean. Sir, this is a very important matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give in writing. I will see.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): A very serious situation has taken place in north Bihar. Large scale voilence has broken out. People are looting Government food godowns.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a matter for the State Government. Please write to the State Minister. He will look into it.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum): A very serious situation has arisen in West Bengal regarding the allotment of freehold rights to the refugees. Sir, it has been the declared policy of the Central Government that the refugees who came after 1971 voilence, will be allotted freehold rights. Now, the State Government has been given certain powers to make these allocations among the refugees. A clear policy has been declared by the Central Government. My grievance is that the State Government is making discrimination.

** Not recorded.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want?

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW: We want a statement from the Home Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Give in writing and I will see.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW: It is a serious matter. The Home Minister is here. The refugees are not getting freehold rights.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): In the Mangolpuri, Sultanpuri Jhuggi-jhonpri colony, the poor people are getting only 16 lakh litres of water as against their requirement of 60 lakh litres. This quantity of water is absolutely insufficient. The population of the poor people has increased mainifold there. They have got their houses constructed there. We want that they should get sufficient water.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want? Do you want to discuss this matter? Already, we have discussed the drought situation. That is all. Please take your seat.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Krishnagiri): On a point of order. Madam Geeta Mukherjee is wearing a badge. This is not allowed.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): That is not allowed inside the Parliament. We want your ruling.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Already a ruling is there..... (*Interruptions*)

12.17 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[*English*]

Forty-First Report

SHRIMATI USHA RANI TOMAR (Aligarh): I beg to present the Forty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.17 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

[*English*]

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN (Alleppey): I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of:

i) Second Report of Committee on Public Undertakings (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Ninety-First Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

ii) Seventh Report of Committee on Public Undertakings (Eighth Lok Sabha on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Eighty-Ninth Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Durgapur Steel Plant.

12.18 hrs.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

[*English*]

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV (Khargone) I beg to lay on the Table (English and Hindi versions) of the statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of Railway Convention Committee (1985) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Railway Convention Committee (1980) on Cost of Operation of Railways (Cost of Materials).

12.18 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[*English*]

CH. RAM PRAKASH (Ambala): I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held on the 13th August, 1987.

12.19 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (FIFTY-EIGHTH AMENDMENT) BILL*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

S. BUTA SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): On behalf of Shri H. R. Bhardwaj, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950".

The motion was adopted

S. BUTA SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

12.20 hrs.

EXPENDITURE TAX BILL*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy of a tax on expenditure incurred in certain

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* Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 26-8-1987.

[Sh. Narayan Datt Tiwari]

hotels.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy of a tax on expenditure incurred in certain hotels".

The motion was adopted

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I introduce the Bill.

22.20 1/2 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL *

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88".

The motion was adopted

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: I introduce† the Bill.

I beg to move†:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88 be taken into consideration".

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88 be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No we will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

There are no amendments to Clause 2 and 3. I put both the clauses together to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

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* Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 26-8-1987.

† Introduced/moved with the recomendation of the President.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

12.22 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

(i) Need to take measure to check poliution of rivers.

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with a view to check water pollution, it is essential to keep all the rivers, rivulets, reservoirs clean. This becomes all the more important due to the failure of rains and drought conditions. For checking pollution, the drains of dirty water should not be connected with rivers in the village and cities. Throwing of dead bodies, dead animals etc. should be prohibited Besides this, diverting of dirty water containing oil and chemicals into rivers should be made a crime. it would be better if stringent laws are made to check water pollution and implement them strictly. Unless attention is paid in this direction on a priority basis, the lives of all living beings including human beings, animals and birds and acquatic animals will become miserable. This is not only a national problem, but an international problem as well. I would like to suggest that the dirty water of the drains in cities and the polluted water of the factories should not be diverted to the rivers and reservoirs, but it should be stored in the tanks specially built for the purpose and utilised for other purposes. This step will check water pollution and dirty water will be utilised for other purposes as well.

(ii) Need to provide kerosene and edible oil to Madhya Pradesh Government.

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN (Bhopal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, every Government has a duty to provide drinking water, employment and essential goods to the people without difficulty and in time. For this, it is necessary to make wheat, rice edible oils, kerosene oil, sugar and controlled cloth available to the states in sufficient quantity. At present, the poor living in rural areas also need wheat, rice, edible oils, kerosene oil and cheaper cloth.

Madhya Pradesh is not being supplied edible oils, kerosine oils, cheaper cloth in sufficient quantity according to its requirement.

The state needs at leave 8000 metric tonnes of edible oils and 35000 metric tonnes of kerosene oil per month. The Central Government should, therefore provide the State edible oils and kerosene oil in sufficient quantity.

(iii) Need for bifurcating the existing big districts into smaller ones for better administration.

SHRI GANGA RAM (Firozabad): Sir, it is a well established principle of administrative philosophy that at the district level the administrative units should be smaller so that effective control is ensured on the law and order situation and the development of the concerned area takes places speedily

[Sh. Ganga Ram]

and intensively thereby removing the backwardness of the area. Sir, the successful implementation of the plans and the schemes for various development can only be possible when taking in view the geographical situation and the density of the population, the administrative unit is smaller as far as possible just as this principle is applicable on the reorganisation of the big States resulting in their forming of smaller states separately by dividing them. With this in view, the Central Government had formed smaller States. According to this principle the administrative units of the states should be reorganised into smaller units. The district units in the different states of the country should be reorganised into smaller units. Thus it would be disirable to bifurcate Agra district into two separate districts of Firozabad and Agra. From the point of view of administrative convenience. Intensive agitation is also going on in Firozabad for this purpose. For solving the problem the Government is requested to provide financial help to the Uttar Pradesh Government.

[*English*]

(iv) Need to exercise influence to bring an end to Iran-Iraq War.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): The recent violent incidents in the holy City of Mecca, during the Haj pilgrimage of 1987, is a cause of anguish and worry for millions of Muslims of India in particular and for crores of other peace-loving people in general.

India has been a most sincere friend of Arab and Muslim countries from times immemorial. Whether it had been the issue of restoration of Khilafat in Turkey or the issue of Palestine, or the Anglo-French Israel aggression on Suez Canal, out leaders have always stood by their Arab and Muslim friends, when on some occasions even countries like Pakistan have opposed the Arab cause. While one has full sympathy with the people killed during these incidents, one is compelled to recognise the absolute right of the Government of Saudi Arabia to administer control and make the necessary arrangements during Haj for all the pilgrims without any distinction of country or nationality. One cannot but agree that no political demonstration or procession should be organised or allowed to take place during such holy occasion which is one of the greatest obligations of Islam.

These incidents might add fuel to the fire in respect of Iran-Iraq War and may escalate to a larger area which can endanger the world peace and adversely affect the trade, commerce, and employment and other interests of millions of India.

The presence of super powers and American declaration to establish a naval base in the Arabian Gulf is also a matter of constant worry.

The Government of India should use its good offices to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq war so that a cordial and friendly atmosphere is created and such incidents as happened in Mecca do not recur.

[*Translation*]

(v) Need to implement the multi-purpose project to channelise the water of Pindar river into Saryu, Gomti and Ramganga.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a long standing demand for formulating a multi-purpose project to channelise a part of the water of Pindar river into Saryu, Gomti and Ramganga rivers. This project will go a long way in meeting the electricity requirements and also the drinking water and irrigation

requirements of Almora and Nanital districts of the state.

A survey of the project was conducted in the recent past. A follow up action on the survey report is yet to begin. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Planning and the Minister of Water Resources to take up the construction of the project at the earliest.

[*English*]

(vi) Need to ban poaching in Chilka lake to protect wild life there.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): The current dry spell in North India is driving scores of birds eastwards and unprecedented influx of migratory birds to the Chilka Sanctuary in Orissa in anticipated during the winter. The birds came from Ladakh, Mangolian Steppes, Caspian Lake in West Russian, Baikal Lake (Eastern Russian) North Pole and North Asian Regions to Chilka. This year on account of a number of lakes and lagoons in the country getting dried up, the birds coming from different regions f the world will congregate in Chilka which spreads over 1100 sq. kms. and 45 km midway island of Nalabana. Now, it has been ascertained that 3052 people are engaged in bird poaching in Chilka Lake. So, it is urged upon the Union Government to take appropriate steps to ban the poaching of birds so as to protect the wild life in Chilka Lake.

(vii) Need to start a direct train between Visakhapatnam and Tirupati.

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada): Pilgrimage to Tirupati, the abode of Lord Venkateswara, is more scared to Hindus all over India, particularly, for the residents of South India namely, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, etc. To meet the needs of North coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh an Express Train by name of Tirumala Express was introduced after several representations were made. This train starts from Kakinada at 2.00 A.M. and reaches Tirupathi the next day. This train is most convenient for the pilgrims of East and West Godavari districts which are densely populated. This train is just meeting the requirements of these two districts. But the North coastal districts namely Viskhapatnam, Srikakulam and Vizianagram and greatly in need of direct train from Visakhapatnam to Tirupati. In Visakhapatnam there is every facility to introduce a new train direct to Tirupati, as it is the Headquarters of South Eastern Railway.

The people of these three northern coastal districts are requesting time and again for a direct train from Visakhapatnam to Tirupati. At present there is one trian from Puri to Tirupati, which is not at all serving the needs of these districts and is inadequate to meet the ever increasing passenger traffic. I therefore, request the Railway Minister to accede to the request of these people and introduce the train at the earliest.

(viii) Need to improve the functioning of Brahmaputra Board and also to take decision on Master Plan of the Brahmaputra.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (Jorhat): The Brahmaputra Board was constituted by the Government of India in December, 1981 and it started functioning from February, 1982. Among the principal objectives of its constitution was that the Board will undertake scientific and analytical study of the mighty river together with its tributaries and prepare a Master Plan for controlling the recurring floods that cause wide-spread damage to the region, mainly Assam. The Board was also to undertake measure for execution of the Plan.

[Sh. Parag Chaliha]

Tremendous enthusiasm and sense of seriousness was evinced in the Board's functioning at the initial stages; but gradually, the situation has become otherwise. Although the Master Plan of the Brahmaputra was submitted to the Government of India on 31.12.86 after a good deal of prior consultations with all related quarters and Government agencies, no tangible action has so far been taken in respect of the Master Plan. The recent devastation caused by as many as three waves of unprecedented floods, is a sad pointer to the inaction in this regard.

The indifference of the authorities becomes evident by the fact that the Board remains without a Chairman since 1.1.87 and it has for long been functioning with virtually stop-gap arrangements. Repeated representations have in no way improved matters.

In view of the enormity and urgency of the problem, it is urged upon the Ministry of Water Resources to take early effective steps towards taking a decision on the Master Plan and activise the Board so as to implement without further delay the recommendations thereof.

12.33 hrs.

NATIONAL DAIRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL — *Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 16-further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri G. S. Dhillon on the 25th August, 1987, namely:—

> "That the Bill to declare the institution known as the National Dairy Development Board in the State of Gujarat to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and for the vesting in that body corporate of the undertakings of the Indian Dairy Corporation with a view to provide for the administration and the carrying on of the functions to be performed by the body corporate more effectively throughout the country and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Now, Shri Narayan Choubey.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Sir, I rise to welcome this Bill. It is a welcome step. I hope that all the recommendations of the Jha Committee in this regard will be implemented in true letter and spirit. This is my first submission.

My second submission is that it is a good thing that this National Dairy Development Board has done its job well and for that it has been singled out as an institution of national importance. But I simply fail to understand why, only this Board has been singled out from this. There are other Boards also, such as Tea Board, Coffee Board, Oilseeds Board and even the National Biotechnology Board. They also serve the national well. They have not been singled out and given the status of an institution of national importance.

I would like to enjoin upon the Government to ponder whether this will create certain adverse reaction amongst other Boards of importance or not. This is my submission.

My third submission is that, as yet, this White Revolution has increased our production of milk, no doubt. I am an old man, and so I can understand what has happened after independence. There has been development; no doubt about it. Even then, as yet, we have no proper data regarding our milk production. Sometimes somebody claims something, and others claim something else. The Thirtieth Round of National

Sample Survey of 1976 claims that out milk production has gone up to the tune of 20 million tonnes, whereas the Agriculture Ministry says it is 25 million tonnes. Even the Jha Committee on whose recommendations Government is going to act now, has expressed in most polite but clear terms its doubts about the estimates of production.

Everyone of the review teams of the EEC consisting of very important experts clearly says that milk production in India appears to be off the mark. So, I want to know whether Government will consider these things or not.

With all our Operations Flood, still there is a huge shortage of milk production in our country. Our *per capita* consumption is far too less than the requirement, and that too lop-sided because - you know it, because you come from Tamil Nadu and the South, Sir - crores of our poor children and their mothers have never tested milk in their lives, even once or twice. In States like Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and the north-eastern region, even today, despite many Operations Flood i.e. I and II, there is an acute shortage of milk. This should be understood when we are going to pass such a Bill. We must now bring this position to the notice of the Government. Even in cities like Calcutta and Delhi directly looked after by NDDB and IDC, these two cities consume more imported milk than the milk products from these bodies; and this is still continuing.

As was stated yesterday, I also voice the same feelings, viz. that there are some very powerful cooperatives which get all the help from bodies like NDDB and IDC, but they do not supply milk to cities and towns. Rather, they produce a certain special milk, *elaichi* milk, cocoa milk etc. which are consumed only by the elite and the rich, and not by the poor. They are supported by NDDB and IDC.

I would like to ask the Government: after the new Corporation comes into being, what steps will Government take to see that these things are controlled?

NDDB has done a very good job. No doubt; and for that reasons, we also support that its headquarters should remain where it is, viz. at Anand. But I must criticize NDDB and say that it is exporting cattle feed. Why? It has even given a handbill in 1985-86 to the European countries that India is surplus in cattle feed. Is it so? Our cattle are not getting proper feed. They are dying, and now we are exporting cattle feed outside India. I do not think this is correct. Our Government should look into this.

It is also importing certain surplus cattle from Europe. Sometimes it imports, without looking into our own best breed. I think we should stop importing surplus cattle from Europe.

We should see that our own best breed is developed; and we should find ways and means for that purpose.

I hope this new Corporation will take up this proposal also. Despite the Jha Committee's recommendations, many posts are still lying vacant. They require to be filled for the development of this Board. The post of the Additional Animal Husbandry Commissioner has been lying vacant since 1978; the post of the Joint Commissioner has been lying vacant for the last two years. The Jha Committee's recommendations need to be implemented in this regard also.

There is a report of the staff unrest in these two bodies. There has been no proper machinery, to see that the grievances of the staffs are met. We should be kind to the cattle which produce milk. But we should also see to the grievances of the staff who work for their development because without proper grievances of the staff being met; the

[Sh. Narayan Choubey]

staff cannot work properly with the result that our Corporation will suffer. I would like to enjoin upon the Ministry to see that the new Corporation must have a new mechanism to tackle the problems of the staff. There should be a regular increment for this. Recruitment on adhoc basis-whom do you like-was continuing for which there have been many staff grievances which should be put to an end; rather we hope that the UPSC should be given this charge to make regular recruitment in a proper manner.

I am pained to state that there has been some violation of financial norms also in the NDDB and this has to be avoided. Actually, the Annual Report of IDC (1985-86) says that the NDDB has failed to make available all the accounts for audit. It is a clear violation of Section 209 of the Companies Act. It appears that this situation has been going on since 1971. So, with all praise for the activities, this thing should also be looked into. Our country is still in need of much more milk. I have already told you that there are many people who have not tasted this milk. Our slum dwellers not only in the villages but also in the cities do not taste milk. In such a situation, this diversification of the NDDB - fruits, vegetables, oil, etc. - I don't think it is needed. With these points I support this Bill. I hope the government will look into those problems which I have stated and take proper remedial measures in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. members for covering many points and making constructive suggestions. I took special pleasure in handling this Bill. I have done it mainly because of my emotional and sentimental attachment to NDDB and IDC and more particularly to Anand Dairy in Gujarat. For the last 25 years, I have all the time been admired of their success story. Their success is in no way less than the success in any other country. I have been visiting this Dairy from time to time even when I was a Member of Parliament or not, whether I was the Speaker or a Minister. So, when I handle this Bill, I greatly look forward and have been looking to the great people of Gujarat and I can say, partly of Maharashtra, who have shown and developed a real cooperative spirit behind this great enterprise. I some times wonder why others have lagged behind. What are the reasons? Why not so much in Haryana and Punjab? I can say that in other States the tradition is not so well developed. I was just thinking about it, why is it that there is difference between Punjab and Haryana and Gujarat? One of the reasons is the Gujaratis developed cow milk and the Punjabis have been buffalo milk drinking people.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: The difference is that of cow and buffalo.

[*English*]

DR. G. S. DHILLON: Buffalo milk as is normally understood makes the people a little more agressive. And where there is cooperation agressiveness is the least one.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): These observations will go on record. He says, the difference between Gujarat and Punjab is the difference between the cow and the buffalo.

DR G. S. DHILLON: There is a difference between the bulls also. But I really admire because when I go back to Punjab I see what those farmers are busy with-Shri Ramoowalia you are a witness to it - and what enterprises the Gujaratis and the Maharashtrians are busy with. We must learn something from them. When I say that, I sincerely say that, the future of India depends

on the cooperative movement, and the cooperative movement in some parts of the country has been a great success and in some parts of the country it has not been. Why? We need going to some sort of a research about it. But what are the main reasons for it? When I visited Anand last time I could easily see that this movement is not only contained to the campus of Anand, but it has gone to the people, and People much more connected with the cooperative societies. It has done a lot for the small farmers, marginal farmers, Scheduled Castes which I admire so much. No cooperative movement can succeed when it goes into the hands of the vested interests and that is the reason and we must see to it that it does not go into hands of the vested interests.

Mr. Raghuma Reddy came out with certain suggestions. Prof. Ranga said that he should have met me earlier and given those suggestions to me. He did meet me earlier. He asked, "Is your Bill coming?". I said, "Yes". He said that he would speak later on this Bill. But the arguments he advanced in his main speech he kept hidden from me. It was only when he spoke that I came to know his views! Otherwise, I would have got enough time to look into some suggestions made by him or others. But it was too late when he spoke.

As far as the Board is concerned, —you see — the very basis of NDDB is the cooperative movement. You can say that anything which springs from the movement which is based on cooperative societies and federations is not cooperative itself. You should accept this. And, as we go into the history of the past, the tradition of the past, we find the NDDB and IDC are central bodies, promoting Corporation. Now, in the Public Undertakings Committee, in 1976 or 1977, it was recommended that NDDB should merge with IDC. Then another Agriculture Commission came and said 'no'. Then, Jha Committee came in 1984. That is why, it got delayed. This question went on in various forums. The Jha Committee recommended that IDC which came latter into existance than the NDDB, should merge with the senior body. After all, when you love a person and you have embrace, you see them, they join together as one. Whom to credit for a warmer embrace and whom to give less credit for a less warmer embrace. When they embrace together, it is considered as a merger. I do not talk in terms of human beings only.

The opinion of the House about the merger is almost unanimous. All have supported it. Nobody has spoken against the merger.

Now about the representatives of the Cooperatives, we have two of them coming from the federations. They may keep sending new representative every year and thus keep up their latest and up-to-date representation on this body, and so about the executive those who rise in this is purely on their experience of working in the cooperatives. That was the reason why we kept their representatives also.

About the experts or Chairman, there was not difference of opinion. Anyway our representation of this section or that section of the society-when the whole structure is based right from the bottom to the top on the cooperative movement, societies into field cooperatives, federations and very few into advanced body-NDDB, it does not mean any more or less cooperatives. But I do feel the basic problem before us is that the man must have an intensive knowledge of the working of the movement. He must be a true representative of the small farmers and marginal farmers and less favoured sections of the society. I think that is enough.

About the headquarters, I have seen and I have worked in various movements and other construction works. It has been my

[Dr. G.S. Dhillon]

experience that whenever something after very hard work is ready-when leaders like Prof. Madhu Dandavate had built up something, then the final benefit is hijacked by others. I have seen very often the builders of the ideas and movements, buildings and constructions, sometimes are hijacked, and Prof. Madhu Dandavate and his other people or leaderships are left behind-I hope it does not happen to him.

In Punjab, I had built up the assembly building and when my turn came to sit there, I was shifted to Delhi. Here in the Parliament Annexe, right from the financial sanction to the last stages, when I thought of sitting in the Annexe, I was removed to the building opposite. It did happen now. Do not think like that in Anand, where everything is ready-beautiful complex with vast areas, beautiful meeting places, guest houses, students rooms and training rooms. Mr. Raghuma Reddy is thinking of hijacking it in overnight to Madras, Hyderabad or some other place.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: To Hyderabad.

DR. G. S. DHILLON: You have hijacked almost 60 per cent of our Institutes and Directorates already to Hyderabad. So much so that they are there but you have run short of water there. Now it is a problem for us and for you also.

About the problem when these are merged, how will the staff of these two institutions fare in their adjustment, it will be our best effort that the staff is taken wholly. But we will have to, after the merger, make some marginal or complete alterations sometimes because of the nature of the post or sometimes nature of the work or some other factor in restructions. But we will look into it without much dislocation. If per chance we have some sort of redundancy, because is such matters always you either run short of you have a redundancy, it will be our best effort that the surplus or redundent staff should be compensated. If per chance they are not adjusted, we have provided for compensation which will be more favourable than anywhere in such cases.

Yesterday, my friend, from Andhra Pradesh, Shri Jaipal Reddy, raised certain points regarding a certain society in the Netherlands. I hope, no party will mind it. We have been informed that the campaign "EEC milk out of India", by the Indian Committee of the Netherlands is being carried out by a private voluntary organisation in the Netherlands. It is run by an extreme left-wing Marxist group whose views on India are broadly that India is run by "monopoly capital" and that Dutch aid to India benefits only Dutch and Indian capitalists and not the farmers. The report on functioning of Anand Dairy and NDDB or IDC are normally laid on the Table and their work was discussed. You are a witness to Operation Flood I, II and III. They are before you. The studies by this group are biased. The campaign is totally malicious and their arguments that India is becoming dependent on imported milk powder, that EEC milk is encouraging bottle feeding in India, that crossbreading and imports of animal feed stuffs by the EEC from India are harmful, are not based on facts and are not enable. Operation Flood was not for profit. The income they get from it was ploughed back into the dairy and other expansion took place. Actually the whole of the expansion of dairy system in India is out of ploughing back the resources that you earn. The Government would look into the activities of this committee. I am happy to inform the House that the EEC has agreed to continue assistance to Operation Flood in spite of this India committee in the Netherlands. And this year 12,000 tonnes of milk powder and 4000 tonnes of butter oil has been committed. At a time when we are facing such a drought situation, this is most welcome. the Government would also look into the allegations

made by the hon. Member against a former ICAR employee-Mr. Dudhani or whatever name you have mentioned.

13.00 hrs.

Shri Jaipal Reddy raised a question about Hindustan Lever. When it came to our notice, we called for the explanation and their statement. In their letter dated July 2, 1987 they have written to our Ministry.

> "This is with reference to your letter to our Chairman, Dr. Ganguly, enclosing copy of a campaign manifesto entitled "EEC Milk out of India" issued by the India Committee of Netherlands. We are somewhat surprised to receive this communication since we have never heard of the organisation referred to in your letter. Needless to confirm, therefore, that the so-called advertisement is spurious
>
> We have checked up with out associates in the Netherlands and have been informed that the ICN is an organisation which publishes papers containing inaccurate and misleading information. This is borne out also in the publication referred to by you, in which factually incorrect information has been included, also about our company.
>
> We do not advertise outside India except under normal rules for exports. Animal Feeds have not been exported for several years and therefore the question of advertising it does not arise. What seems to have a regular rural wall painting used for sales in India.

I have seen that copy myself. This is what they used in India on their wall paper and they anti India people copied it.

> "We are completely in the dark as to when and how they have done it and to what purpose.
>
> It is obvious, therefore, that the organisation has tried to spread disinformation and they have probably given a totally incorrect impression of our involvement." "We, therefore, formally take this opportunity to disassociate ourselves completely from any knowledge of, or association with the matter referred to us, and would, kindly urge you to inform all concerned in the Government of our very strong feelings in being dragged into this unseemly affair. Needless to say, we are very proud of the enormous development that the Diary movement has achieved in this country and the potential that it holds. We are also greatful to you for your kindness in bringing to our attention this matter and for seeking our views.

These papers I was able to get to-day since the discussion was postponed to to-day Then there were many other points raised.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad): Do you accept the letter of Hindustan Lever at its face value or does the Government propose to enquire into the advertisement made? Was it that given by the Hindustan Lever.

DR. G. S. DHILLON: Certainly we have been following this matter that came up and I think, I have no reason to disbelieve the organisations (Hindustan Lever) whose name was dragged into that.

SHRI .S JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): Did Hindustan Lever deny the connection altogether. I would welcome the denial. But as has been pointed out by the hon. Member that you should not take the

[Sh. S. Jaipal Reddy]

denial at its face value. I think we should further enquire into the matter because Hindustan Lever as a company has its own net work of vested interest in this area. Therefore, there is reason to suspect the existence of some connection.

DR. G. S. DHILLON: I will look into it.

Some point was referred to about the health of the cattle, about other activities which may also be extending to fruits and vegetables. Of course, through NDDB we are trying to have this done and also to develop their activities in the field of vegetables and fruits. Of course, you might have seen it in South Avenue. At least, when I saw it, I found the quality of good, supplied by them was of high quality. I think, it is in the very heart of the MPs colony where they live, and they must be a witness as to how effective and beautiful their activities are.

About the health of the cattle, in Operation Flood, III out of the funds of Rs. 681 crores about Rs. 103 crores have been allocated for the improvement, health, care and well-being of the animals in various farms.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: What about the State involvement, the involvement of State Dairy Development Corporation or State Department in the Constitution of the Board?

DR. G. S. DHILLON: That is what the members suggested-what about the re-adjustment of various other social and cooperative centres and establishments. I can assure you that we will look into it. If need be, we will come with some amendment. We will look into it. It is not the question of Federation's representatives. You were talking about different centres, different establishments and cooperatives linked up with it. We may have to go with the cooperative societies so that there may be regular streamlining and adjustment. I am really very glad that such complimentary, good word have been said about Dr. Kurien. Dr. Kurien is not only the Chairman of this NDDB but he is having an internationl reputation. One of our scientists, Dr. Swaminathan who has got wide international recognition along with him were honoured by many national and international organisations. If you read the history or the formation of this organisation, Anand, I think, you will be spell-bound. Once I had a chance to go in the company of my good old friend, Shri H. M. Patel, many years back. He and myself went to Anand and after seeing everything there-Mr. Patel might be remembering-I said, I bow to those who had developed this, those who are looking after this organisation. I never knew that one day, I will be the Minister of Agriculture, dealing with them officially. I am not forgetting the whole connection social or administrative with founders.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: I will certainly visit that institution.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: We all praised that organisation. I travelled with him to Bombay from Anand. For full two hours, we were spell-bound. I forgot that I was travelling. It was a success story of the old Gujarat cooperative unions which used to supply milk to others like Bombay etc. At one time Shri Morarji Desai was also very much involved and then many others also. This is a non-political and completely social type of set up which is a model to the rest of India and I can safely say it, to the world also.

There are a number of other points.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: What about the violation of financial normal and also staff grievances?

DR. G. S. DHILLON: When the new Board comes in, I think they will again go

through the financial norms and, of course, when it comes to me and if the report comes to me to change the Act, I shall certainly be there to lay it before you and will be very happy to do so.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: What about the staff problems?

DR. G. S. DHILLON: I have already mentioned that. Of course, there are queries about expenditure, procedure, auditing, management and working and so many things. They are quite non-controversial. We have taken care of them.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Kindly assure that there will be no retrenchment at least of two companies.

DR. G. S. DHILLON: We will try to avoid it but we cannot commit on this. But if there is a redundancy, they will be in a better position as regards compensation etc... (*Interruptions*). Why don't you believe me? We will try to see that there is no such redundancy. But if at all we cannot help it, we shall do better than any other organisation. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA: Let the Government give directions.

DR. G. S. DHILLON: Without knowing as to what they do and what they put before us, without knowing the procedure, why we should unnecessarily assure you?

Mr. Pant you have put amendment for every section. I would request you simply to take one or two amendments and then withdraw the others.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to declare the institution known as the National Dairy Development Board in the State of Gujarat to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and for the vesting in that body corporate of the undertakings of the Indian Dairy Corporation with a view to provide for the administration and the carrying on of the functions to be performed by the body corporate more effectively throughout the country and for matters connected into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

SHRI D. B. PATIL: Sir, I beg to move: (Declaration of National Dairy Development Board as an institution of natural importance)

Page 2, line 11, —

for "national" substitute "special" (1)

Page 2, line 12, —

for "national" substitute "special" (2)

I want to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. It is proposed to declare NDB as of national importance. I want to find out whether by declaring any institution as of national importance, does not make any difference? I do not have any information even though I tried to find out about it in our library. I would like to have some information. What difference it makes by declaring it of national importance.

DR. G. S. DHILLON: We will incorporate it into a body Corporate because of the work they have done, the recognition they have got inside and outside the country. Of course, why we have declared it as of national importance is because it is really of national importance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri D. B. Patil to the vote of the House.

Amendments No 1 and 2 were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since there is not amendment in Clause 3 to 7, I will now put Clauses 2 to 7 vote.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

CLAUSE 8

Management of National Dairy Development Board and Composition of its Board of Directors.

SHRI D B. PATIL: I beg to move:

Page 5, line 49,—

add at the end —

"Having special expertise in dairying"

Page 6, line 1, —

for 'two' *substitute* 'five'

Page 6, line 2, —

add at the end —

"elected by Chairman of the State Cooperative Dairy Federation'

Page 6, line 10, —

omit " (c)",

Page 6, lines 14 and 15—

after "dairying" *insert* —

"and two or more specialities, namely,"

Sir, in my amendment No. 3, I have proposed to make it certain that the Chairman who is appointed must have some special expertise in Dairying. In many cases, there are so many examples that even a persons who has no specialised knowledge in the said field, he has been appointed as Chairman. So, I have moved an amendment to the effect that the Chairman and other directions should have special expertise in Agriculture I hope my amendment would be accepted.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: The provision has come from the Government. They have done it, because they could not avoid it. It should be our thinking that there is the least prosecne of the official element. That is why we have confined it to nly one just for the sake of link. Of course, when the Government were to move, we would send somebody who knows something of Agriculture, Cooperatives and who have some experience. Certainly, we will have to act with some responsibility.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendments moved by Shri D.B. Patil to the vote of the House.

Amendment Nos 3 to 8 were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

CLAUSE 9

(Terms of Office and Condition of Service, etc. of Ahairman and Directors)

SHRI D.B. PATIL: I beg to move:

Page 6, line 43,-

for "nominated" *substitute* "elected"

Page 6, lines 44 and 45,-

for such period not exceeding one year at a time as the Central Government may determine"

substitute "three years" (10)

Page 6, line 47,-

for "such period as the Central Government may determine" *substitute* "not exceeding three years" (11)

Page 7, line-4, -

after "Chairman," *insert*—

"elected under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 8" (12)

Sir, it is proposed to have a Board. In the Board, there is no elected elemen: at all. All of the Members are to be nominated by the Government and even the memebrs of the State Federations are to be nominated and they are only two. I have suggested that instead of being 2, they should be 5. They shoudl be elected from among the Chairmen of the Federations and the Chairmn of the Federations shoudl be entitled to elect those Directors. Further, the period that has been prescribed is only one year. I have suggested that the terms should be fixed for three years.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: When they come from the federations, right from the bottom, they come through elections. They represent by their own election. After all, the Federation is the last elected body. The Chairman is elected, I should speak in that term. To give them all longer tenure means the federations will never be in a position to rotate amongest themeselves and tak the due share. About increasing it to 5, I am not in a position to accept that because we have tried to keep it as a compact body. That is the minimum that can be accepted on that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put all the amendments moved by Shri D.B. Patil to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 9 to 12 were put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I am going to include Clause 10-15 with this because there are no amendments in those Clauses.

The questions is:

"That Clauses 9 to 15 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was asopted.

Clauses9 to 15 were added to the Bill.

CLAUSE 16

Powers and Functions of National Dairy Development Board

SHRI D.B. PATIL: Sir, I bet to move:

Page 9, line 32 -

add at the end—

"Which shall cover each and every village including its hamlets in the country." (13)

Page 9,-

after line 32, insert—

"(iv) to arrange supply of —

(A) Sterilised or standardised or recombined or toned or doubl toned milk,

(B) milk powders,

(C) weaning foods with milk and instant milk foods to weaker secions of the society in the country at such reasonable rates which may be within their reach;" (14)

Page 10,—

after line 4, *insert*—

"(E) to find out ways and means, to ensure that dried milch cattle and cattle used for agricultural and other operations when such cattle cease to be used for agricultural and other operations because of old age, do not become a burder on the owner of such cattle or on the society;" (15)

Page 10, —

after line 39, *insert* —

"Provided that milk and milk products shall not be exported unless and until every citizen of India gets minimum quantum of milk and milk products required for proper nourishment as may be prescribed under the rules." (16)

Page 11, line 46,—

after "organisation" *insert*—

"mainly concerned with agriculture or rural development" (17)

Clause 16 defines the powers and functions of the NDDB. All the functions are good and praiseworthy, but I have proposed an addition. Clause 16, sub-clause (2) (f) (iii) reads:

"to build up a national milk grid;"

And it stops there. I have proposed that the proposed national grid should necessarily cover each and every village in the country. There is a criticism against Operation Flood that it is strongly and mainly urban-oriented; the flow of milk from rural areas to urban centres has resulted in less consumption or none at al in the villages. The Jha Committee has refuted this criticism and has observed that Operation Flood does not extract any milk undr duress or under compulsion. But it is common experience that whatever milk is available is sent to the collection centre; no milk is kept even for children. It is true, as has been said by the Jha Committee, that there is no duress or compulsion. But what about the compulsion of poverty? Because of poverty, whatever milk is available in the house is being sold-for want of money.

Then it is our common experience that milch cattle, after they become dry, become a burden on the owners. In the National Sample Survey it has been o;bserved that nearly 51 per cent of cows and 42 per cent of buffaloes are dry, and when they become dry, they are a burden on the owners themselves as well as on the economy of this

country. Therefore, I have suggested that ways and means shoul be found to see that the dry cattle are not a burden on the owners.

Then it has been provided that milk and milk products should be exported to avoid waste and also to serve public interest. Here in our country the consumption of milk is the lowest in the whole world. We are talking of export of milk to other countries to avoid waste. If it is accepted that there is a waste, then we have necessarily to accept that milk consumption is sufficient in our country which is not true. That is why, I have suggested this provision.

The per capita consumption in our counry, as I have said, is vey low. The per capita consumption is supposed to be rising, but it does not give the real picture, and it is also misleading. The 30th National Sample Survey which was conducted in Karnataka State reveals that so far as landless households are concerned, the consumption of milk is zero. According to the survey, the average milk consumption is 72 millilitres. That means, even though in a household of a landless persons, not a single drop of milk iis consumed, still he is upposed to be consuming 72 millilitres of milk because of the average per capita consumption....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): You have quoted the Karnataka figures. They are Gundu Rao's figures; they are old ones.

SHRI. D.B. PATIL: I am referring to the 30th National Sample Survey. What Shri Dandavate says may be true.

With these words, I request that the amendments that I have proposed be accepted.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Frankly speaking, I could not follow the logic behind this. Mr. Patil must be talking in terms of 50:50 for milk yielding and dry cows in every village. I leave it to Mr. Patil to work out any definite plan, finances and all that. I don't think, without examining this, my Department and myself have considered this. It is not only not feasible but it is completely unthinkable. Because you go to any village, but for our attention that we are giving for this NDDB and IDC, this major operation would not have been possible. Every farmert is expected to be responsible. He is expected to look after not just his family but has to look towards the commercial side of the production also. He should not think only about the waste in production and forget about his own income. I do not accept it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put all the amendments moved by Shri D.B. Patil to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos . 13 to 17 were put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no amendment given notice of to Clause 17. I shall put Clauses 16 and 17 together to the vote of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

That Clauses 16 and 17 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted

Clauses 16 and 17 were added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now Clause

CLAUSE 18

Provisions Relating to Officers and Other Employees of Society and of Dissolved Company

SHRI D.B. PATIL: I beg to move:

Page 12, -

after line 16, *insert*—

"Provided that the terms and conditions of service shall not be adversely altered without the consent of the person concerned." (18)

I have no observation to make.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put all the amendments moved by Shri D.B. Patil to the vote of the House.

Amendment No 18 was put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no amendment given notice of to Clause 19. I shall put Clauses 18 and 19 together to the vote of the House.

The question is:

That Clauses18 and 19 stand part of the Bill

The motion was adopted

Clause 18 and 19 were added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now Clause 20.

CLAUSE 20

(Schemes Regarding Compensation to Redundant Employees etc.)

SHRI D.B. PATIL: I beg to move:

Page 13,—

for clause 20, substitute—

"20. The officers or other employees declared as redundant in pursuance of section 19, shall be absorbed in the revised set-up on first priority basis and if any person is found to be redundant for the post in the revised set up, then he shall be given an opportunity to achieve such required expertise and hereafter such officer or employee shall be absorbed in the revised set-up on first priority basis. (19)

Just now, after the reply by the Hon. Minister, Members from both sides urged upon the Hon. Minister not to retrench any employee of the NDDB. He says, "he cannot assure it." If he cannot assur it, I suggest that if anybody is retrenched and if there is a chance of having further recruitment and in that recruitment, the employees who have been retrenched should be given top priority. This shoudl be taken into consideration.

DR. G.S.DHILLON: Sir, th eonly clause where amendment should have been given was Clause 19. I am thankful you did not move any amendment on Clause 19. Clause 20 is very much inter-linked to Clause 19. If Clause 19 is passed without any controversy, what was the need for amendment in Clause 20?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put all the amendments moved by Shri D.B. Patil to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 19 was put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are no amendments given notice to Clauses 21 to 34. I shall put Clauses 20 to 34 together to the vote of the House.

The question is:

That clauses 20 to 34 stant part of the Bill.

The motion was adotpted

Clauses 20 to 34 were added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now Clause 35.

CLAUSE 35

(Obligation as to Fidelity and Scenery)

SHRI D.B. PATIL: I beg to move.

Page 17,—

after line 17, *insert*—

"Provided that any information relating to misappropriation of funds of the National Dairy Development Board shall not be covered under this sub-section." (20)

Page 17, line 20,—

omit "and secrecy" (21)

In this Clause, it has been provided about some secrecy. I don't know what type of deals are going to be carried out by NDDB where secrecy is necessary. Therefore, I propse that there should not be any provision of secrecy.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: He is not speaking against fidelity and secrecy. I don't think that misappropriation is a subject of fidelity and secrecy. Do you think so?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now I shall put Amendment Nos. 20 and 21 to the vote of the House.

Amendments No 20 and 21 were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 35 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 35 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now Clause 36 Mr D.B. Patil, are you moving the amendment?

SHRI D.B. PATIL: No Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is :

"That Clauses 36 to 43 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 36 to 43 were added to the Bill.

CLAUSE 44

(Exemption from Tax on Income)

SHRI D.B. PATIL: I beg to move:

Page 19, -

after line 9, *insert* —

"Provided taht fifty per cent of the profits on the National Dairy Development Board shall be utilised by way of subsidy for supplying milk to children from the families which are beolwo the poverty line'. (23)

Sir, Clause 44 provides that the income, profits or gains of NDDB should be ex-

[Sh. D.B. Patil]

empted from income tax or any other tax. I don't entirely agree with this suggestion. In so far as exemption from income tax is concerned, it may be all right. But I fail to understand the reason behind giving exemption from other taxes. Even though NDDB is of national importance, it is expected to pay the regular taxes.

Therefore, I have suggested that whatever profits are there, 50% of them shoudl be utilised by way of subsidies for supplying milk for children from families which are below the poverty line. Profits are made out by NDDB by buying milk from the producers and selling the milk and the milk products to the consumer. That means they will be exploiting from either side. They are exempted from all kinds of taxes and after getting exempted from all the taxes they are going to make some profits. I propose that out of that profit, 50% should be spent on the children who are below the poverty line. Here, there is no finncial burden on the Governments itself. So, I think that the Governement will accept this amendment.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: It is a good idea that we look after the interest of the poor people. There is no rule or bar against the poor people. The basic idea is that, as you know, the NDDB also looks after the backward class, the marginal and other landless laburs and all that. They are looked after at every stage.

Even at the distribution stage also, I don't think that there is any bar against them. That is, of course, when we enter into some type of agreements or contracts abroad, they are unable to understand this type of an idea. So, better not restrict it to any section; but I wuld welcome it if it is distributed to the majority section of the poor people.

SHRI D.B. PATIL: Why not to the poorest of the poor?

SHRI G.S. DHILLON: The interest of the poor cannot be looked after just by legal provisions. It is our social duty to look after them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now I shall put the Amendment No. 23 moved by Shri D.B. Patil to the vote of the House.

Amendment No 23 was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clauses 44 and 45 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 44 and 45 were added to the Bill.

CLAUSE 46

(Powers to Make Schemes and Regulations Regarding Service Matters)

SHRI D.B. PATIL: I beg to move:

Page 19, lines 15 and 16,—

for "retrospectively from any date not earlier than the appointed day"

substitute

"for the purpose of carrying the functions of the National Dairy Development Board." (24)

Sir, so far as the Schedule is concerned, it is regarding the declaration of fidelity and secrecy and I have nothing much to say about it. I have no objection so far as fidelity is concerned. But I am opposed to the provi-

sion of secrecy. I fail to understand what type of secrecy is likely to be about the dealings of NDDB.

So far as the incriminating acts are concerned, why should one not disclose the information regarding incriminating acts?

Furthermore, in the Schedule it is provided that any information relating to the business of any person having any dealing with NDDB, shoudl not be disclosed. Why this binding should be there? If somethign is going wrong with othe company or business to whom NDDB is dealing, thee should not be any binding. Then wherever incriminating act is being committed in the dealings of NDDB, nobody should be debarred to disclose the information.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Sir, what is the retrospective background of those erstwhile NDDB and IDC? Sir, they are losing their past and entering into a new organisation, a new board. The working body has no retrospect. Let the Board be formed and then we will look to the future course of action. For the time being we have not faced this problem.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I put amendment No. 24 to Clause 46 moved by Shri D.B. Patil to the vote of the House.

Amendment no 24 was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"The Clause 46 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 46 was added to the Bill

Clauses 47 to 50 were added to the Bill

THE SCHEDULE

SHRI D.B. PATIL: I beg to move:

Page 20, line 38,-

omit "and secrecy" (25)

Page 21, line 7, -

after "dealing" *insert* " except incriminating acts." (26)

Page 21, lines 11 and 12, -

Omit "or the business of any person having any dealing with the National Dairy Development Board." (27)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I put amemdment nos. 25, 26 and 27 to the Schedule moved by Shri D.B. Patil to the vote of the House.

Amdndments Nos. 25 to 27 were put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is :

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

The Schedule was added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I bet to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

13.38 hrs.

DISCUSSION *RE:* CONTINUING PRICE RISE IN THE COUNTRY

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): It would have been better if the hon. Minister of Civil Supplies was present here.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Today we are having a discussion on price rise. Women are the irst sufferers of this price rise who have to make the budget of the house. They make budget of one year or a month. They found that prices of many items have increased considerably in a month or so after the budget which they prepared for the recent month, for their houses.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

The rising prices have imabalanced their budget greatly. As a result, there is a great resentment in the cunry against this price rise. The price of Vanaspati has increased by Rs. 50 on a tin. This price has increased in just 25 days. In Delhi onion is selling at Rs. 7 Kgs. at one place and at another place it is selling at Rs. 8 and at some other place it is being sold at Rs. 8.50 Kg. Similarly, the price of tomatoes, pulse, pulse, mustard oil and soap are all increasing. Today, the postion is that the whole country is feeling concerned about it. Our some of the sisters staged a dharna outside the Parliament House against this price rise and led a protest march. They had some kitchen items used for cooking meals etc in their hands. They were drawing the attention of the Government towards their difficulties. It is very unfortunate and I condemn it that the Governmen adopted a different attitude. Those sisters led the protest march in front of the Parliament House so that the representatives of the people may consider the problem which the country is facing. Women joined the Anti-price rise Joint Women Front irrespective of their party affiliations. Shrimati Promilla Dandavate, Shrimati Saifuddin and Shrimati Sukharde were leading those agitating women... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): All of them are not our sisters... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Dandavateji has rightly said, but we will have to address them like this ...(*Interruptions*)....

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Please repeat what Dandavateji has said.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: You may read from the record tomorrow. Those sisters, who are agitating against the price rise irrespective of the party affiliation were all arrested. We have just got the information that they are being sent to jail. They have not done anything anti-national. They were simply expressing the hardships of the people due to price rise. It is said that we have given instructions. .... (*Interruptions*) ...

KUMARI MAMATA BANNERJEE (Jadavpur): It is a very important issue. Kindly call Shri Bhagatji in the House.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: The hon. Finance Minister can only say about the overall economy, but there are a number of such items about which reply can only be given by the Minister of Civil Supplies.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: On the day when the session started, the hon. Minister of Food had given a statement in the House that the Government had issued instructions to all the States to keep a check on price rise. I do not know as to what is happening in Hyderabad, Madras, Kochin or Bombay. But in Delhi, inspite of the instructions, the prices have increased by 22 per cent. People of the country are not interested in instructions. It is not sufficient to issue instructions, but the people of the country want that these instructions be followed and there shoudl be some concrete results. If you see the survey report conducted by the press and journals, you will find as to what extent these instructions are followed and what are their results. According to their survey report, the situation is very grim. A newspaper has witten in an editorial that at present people go to market with purse and a basket to buy things but if this situation continues like this a day will come when people will go to market with money in the basket and bring things in the purse.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: You have exaggerated too much ....

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: I am not saying this. I am quoting what has appeared in the newspapers. If the hon. Minister assures that the Government will not allow this thing to continue than it is all right. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the way the prices are increasing. Festival season is approaching and the prices may rise even furthr in those days. Prices tend to rise during festivals. The prices are rising high in such a way that the people have reduced the consumption of red chillies when they use to consumed more earlier and its price has increased by 100 per cent. In sweets, even an ordinary ladoos are selling not less than Rs. 30 to Rs. 32 kilo. Vegetables have now become luxury. A Paper has written!

[*English*]

> "There has been no let up in the high cost of vegetables. Tomatoes have gone upto Rs. 20/- a kg. from Rs. 16/- in the last one week. potatoes are selling at Rs. 4/- and onions at Rs. 7/- per k.g."

[*Translation*]

The shopkeeper has put up sticker of price of Rs. 4 or Rs. 4.50 on the item which was being sold earlier at Rs. 3. As regards ghee, if the MPs go to the canteen in the Parliament House to purchase ghee, they are asked to get their names registered and they would get ghee after two to three days. In my view the reason is that speculative hoarding is increasing, because the tendency of making profit is increasing. In the coming days, the people will require our help. The need of the hour is that the Govrnment shoudl tighten their control over prices. Some days back the Food Minister had warned the traders to behave, but it seems that inspite of this warning the prices are going on increasing. Four days back, I had heard the hon. Fodd Ministr giving warning in a telecast. The Government is sleeping and it shoudl wake up. Measures should be taken to save the consumers from the free traders. I think from today onwards you will come heavily on the petty shopkeepers. Only some days are left for the conclusion of the session. Discussion has started on this subject also. The Government will arrest petty shopkeepers if prices of vegetable ghee are increased. But the every one knows that big companies produce vege-

[Sh. Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

table ghee. Earlier, the price of a tin of vegetable ghee was Rs. 205 which has now gone up to Rs. 220. Its profit will go to all the companies. The petty shopkeepers will not get anything from it. Therefore, I want that you should set right the Public Distribution System on the one hand and on the other it should be seen that the small shopkepers are not unnecessarily harassed and not made the targets of your fury.

Nobody in the country can remain unaffected from teh chalenges that the country is facing at present, but the Government must consult the Opposition members before taking any step. The prices of various commodities have gone up so much during the past two months that demonstrations are held daily in one part of the country or the other. Although, directions have been issued by the Food Minister, but we have never been consulted on so important matter. We do appreciate that consultations are held with us on all major issues, but we were not consulted on this important issue.

A few days back, a statement was issued by the Food Minister stating that they had sufficient stocks of foodgrains. In this House as well as in Rajya Sabha, it was claimed that our godowns were full of foodgrains. I agree that your godowns are full of foodgrains, but on the other hand, the farmers of Punjab were forced to sell their water-soaked wheat due to utimely rains at Rs. 120-125 per quintal. In spite of all this, the price of wheat in the market is increasing continuously. If your godowns are full, why sub standard flour and rice are being issued from the fair price shops. I want that you should pay attention to it also. Sometime ago, you had said that there was shortage of oils in the country and as such we were going to import edible oils. But when this oil reached India at a cheap price, Government started making ghee from that oil as a result of which its price started going up. It was like an insult to consumers' infury. Now it is for the Government to see why the people who were supplied imported edible oil at a cheap price increased its price. I would like to tell you what direction we are heading towards:

[*English*]

> "From Desi Ghee we came down to using refined oils and now to Palmole in.
>
> *Dhals* have also become dearer. What will be the health of such a nation? What will our future generation do?"

[*Translation*]

I would like to tell you about Delhi. In some markets of Delhi, such as, Khan Market, Gol Market, loose ghee is sold cheaper whereas packed ghee costs more, but the problem is that ther is a lot of adulteration in loose ghee. When a common man purchases that ghee, he falls sick and he has to pay to the doctor twice or thrice the saving he did in purchasing loose ghee. Therefore, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that whereas the price of edible oil on 10th July, 1987 was Rs. 161, it has increased to Rs. 195.55 today. I do not want to pass on the entire blame to the Government. The Government has to take action. Apart from that, a big problem like drought is before us. The supplies of imported oil, perhaps, reach cities first. But our main resentment is that why did not the Government think it proper to consult us on so important an issue. The prices increase with every statement issued by the Minister. I would like to draw your attention to a news report which says that the Government has spoiled the very structure of the use of vegetable oils. The Government must give its clarification. The price of mustard oil in wholesale market was Rs. 23 per kg. which has now gone up

to Rs. 26 per kg. The price of cotton seed oil has increased to Rs. 24 per kg. and that of soyabean oil Rs. 28 from Rs. 24 per kg. The price of oils which are used in soap, such as *mahua* oil has also gone up. Similarly, the price of rice bean oil has also increased. Thus, the prices of all types of oils ar showing upward trend. Vegetable oil is being used in making soap in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Punjab. Why is it being used in the manufacture of soap? If such reports are correct, the Government shoud check its use. Therefore, my submission is that the Government has not taken any action. When the prices started rising, we remained inactive. The prices are rising steeply, whether they are wholesale prices or consumer prices.

[*English*]

The official wholesale price index for all commodities in 1970-71 was 100 and now it has touched a new high of 402.7.

[*Translation*]

Therefore, in this connection, I would like to submit to the Government and to the Finance Minister since he is present in House that

[*English*]

It is a recognition by the Government that there is a problem of inflation in this country.

[*Translation*]

Here I would like to quote what the Chief Minister of West Bengal said while addressing the Begal Chamber of Commece and Industry:

[*English*]

The Centre has put the economy in disarray.

[*Translation*]

The policies which we have framed in regard to the economy are not correct. Therefore, we should review our policies so that inflation could be checked.

Other thing which I want to tell the hon. Finance Minister is that our annual rate of inflation in 1987-88 would be 15 per cent. Therefore, I would requrest him to pay his attention to it. If the present trend of price rise continues and if we are not able to check it, we shall have a large deficit budget next year which will disturb many areas including production and industrialisation.

One more thing I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Food Minister, Shri H.K.L. Bhagat. A large quantity of foodgrains is lying in godowns in Punjab. Wheat and rice of 1984 and 1985 are lying in godowns. I have been raising this issue in the House time and again, but these foodgrains are not being lifted from there. The Central Government pays Rs. 20 crores annually as demurrage. Therefore, I would request you to lift those stocks from there. You have informed me through a letter that the movement of the foodgrains is being acelerated, but this is not a fact. The foodgrains are lying in godowns and the prices are rising. Kindly give it top priority to ensure that the wheat and rice that have been lying in Punjab for the last three-four years is moved from there.

Thirdly, I would like to submit that agricultural production would fall considerable due to drought. As a result thereof, agricultural income too will fall, because market arrivals will go down leading to price rise. Therefore, on the one hand, you have to control the prices and on the other something will have to be done to set right the dronidling economy.

The major function of the *M.R.T.P.C.* is

[Sh. Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

to assist and guide theGovenment in controlling prices. I am subject to correction by the hon. Minister if I am wrong. M.R.T.P.C. has almost ceased functioning. Therefore, M.R.T.P.C. should be activated. Arrangements for easy availability of commodities should be made during fivestival season. The people say that last year's Deewali was the costliest of the past 20 years. I would request the hon. Minister that he should see to it that the price during the coming Deewali festival are kept low so that the people could feel that the Government has taken some action and the prices have gone down. I would suggest that the Government shoudl draw up a long term plan in respect of edible oils and oilseeds. Such a long term plan is essential for the states of Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh so as to give incentive and encouragement to the farmers of these States. If it is done, ghee, soap and other goods will become cheaper. It has been seen that once the price of ghee goes up, the prices of sweet-meat and other eatables are also affected.

The Government can go for timely import of items whih are in short supply. I think the whole House will support the Government in this regard. It will be better if these items are imported early.

[*English*]

Vigilance Committees to control and regulate distribution and check of hoarding should be formed.

[*Translation*]

A need was left for such vigilance committees. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai too had suggested the setting up of such committees in the wake of such crisis. I have no intention of making seathing attack on the Government. I want to awaken the Government at this difficult hour and that is our duty too. I would request both the hon. Ministers that they should formulate some concrete programmes to control price rise with the consent of this and in consultation with the economists. It would help a lot if you involve the consumers associations and voluntary organisation in ths endeavour.

14.00 hrs.

With these words, I conclude and express my thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT (Arrah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the price situation is causing concern. This is the least that can be said because on this matter the whole House is agreed. It has been the effort of the Government as was evident from the last few budgets and the budget debates in the House that the strategy was to contain the price rise, and keep it within a reasonable limit. Although the budgetary or the other expenditure was mounting, in order to fulfil the land development the development desires, the anti-inflationary financing and the various other measures so as to increase the production resulted in containing the price rise within a reasonable limit.

But this drought, an unprecedented drought came-some say it is one in one hundred years the intensity and the extent of it-almost three-fourths of the country is involved in this. And similarly in the north East portion, Bihar, Bengal, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, in all these areas there are also unprecedented floods. Never such a flood visited this area in the last fifty years. This serious drought situation and the floods will result in a very heavy fall in our agricultural production. It will also likely to dislocate our energy production, which affect both the

agriculture and industrial production. This has naturally put a presere on the price. It is a matter of great concern.

So far as the Government is concerned, the Prime Minister on a momentous and historic occasion, from the Red Fort he pledge that he has spared nothing to fight the drought situation. The Government is not only conscious of the seriousness of the situation, but also is determined to gird up its loins. The Government is taking all the measures. Cabinet Committee has been formed and they are trying to tackle this on a war footing.

Let us now analyse the price situation. If you see the last three years Wholesale Price Index, the index was coming down. In 1983-84, the Wholesale Price Index rose at 9.5 per cent. In 1984-85, it came down to 7.1 per cent. In 1985-86, it came down to 5.6 per cent. In 1986-87, it was expected that it will be the same figure of six per cent. It is always debated by the economists and others that the Wholesale Price Index is not always the correct index so far as the real inflation is concerned. The Labour Statistics provides Consumer Price Index. If you go by that, the calculation is that the increase is nine per cent. If you analyse further the components of the rise, you will notice that the situation is even more disturbing because it is the items of essential commodities, which go to mass consumption. They are rising fast and that will inevitably mean a heavy burden on the poorer section or even the middle class section. The Government is monitoring the price rise from week to week. I have the list of the prices for the week sending 25.7.87 and the previous week. If you see, the over all rise is only 0.6 per cent. If you see the other items like foodgrains, in one week, it is one per cent. If you see the pulses, the rise is 2.4 per cent. In furits and vegetables the rise is .8 per cent. In non-food items the rise is 2.1 per cent. Oilseed is a very important item. The hon. Member, who preceded me, spoke about it. There is a rise in that also. Therefore, you see that there is a general rise. Thee is not a single item in which there is a fall in prices.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bounbey South Central): The rupee value has fallan.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: Yes, the value of the rupee has fallen to 14 paise. Obviously the drought and the prospects of a dwindling crop have affected the price rise. The most important point is that it has affected the poor man. Actually, everybody is affected, the middle class, the poor class and the people who are living in rural areas where the supply may not be that much regular, particularly in the flood affected areas. The Prime Minister came only yesterday after having an aerial view of some of the drought affected areas. I am told that people there are without food for 13 days. The situation is really grim. This is the position at the moment.

We should not ignore the economic factors taht are operating in the economy. If there had been a situation where there was no rise in prices and prices were steady and this rise has come now only, then probably people can bear it and governmental measures are able to tackle it. But if you take the last decade, the money supply i.e. M1 has risen by 13 per cent and the production is 4 per cent. M-P or 13-4 is 9. That means, inflation rate is 9 per cent. If the situation had been somewhat more promising i.e. the money supply would have been less-instead of 13, it would have been 8 per cent and production 4 per cent, then the rate of inflation would have been 4 per cent. Some people may accept it some may not accept it. But this is the general theory that the money supply and the demand factor in the present situation is more important and is playing a greater role in determining the prices. The pressure of the prices is because of the money supply. You know the money suply in relation to production. The quantum of

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goods and the quantity of money have a bearing on the prices. The pressure will be more if you see the fall in production of certain agricultural commodities due to drought conditions. This is the present situation. Then I come to the deficit in the Central Budget. During 1987-88 the Budget deficit has been forecast as Rs. 5688 crores. That is there Rs. 5688 crores. The Prime Minister promised that he will not allow it to rise. It should not go higher than that. A special Expenditure Committee of the Cabinet has been formed right after the Budget so as to keep Budgetary deficit to this figure. But see what was the deficit in the previous years. In 1986-87 it was Rs. 8285 crores. The budgetary deficit was much less. But it has gone up. If you compare and see the total expenditure of the Budget-Rs. 95,000 crores or it was 35% of the gross domestic product as against Rs. 83498 crores i.e. 34% in 1985-86. You have a situation in which a very rise in expenditure, large deficit and then the sudden prospect of fall in production-is bound to put pressure on the prices. The formula I gave is the resultant in equation. It is going to be high. This is the force of demand factor and we have to control it. We must apply. This is a long term measure.

I come to the urgent measures that are required. Some of them have been recounted here. When the house is on fire, it is our duty to first put out the fire. And there the Government is conscious of that and we are trying to do everything in that process. More suggestions are coming. They are welcome to the Government. But the point is, in the background of the basic situation in the economy, when the inflationary spiral is built into the economy, inless you do something, it is impossible to totally negative this short term measure or the supply measure-the supply measure we call productive measure. On the supply side it is impossible to fully negative the situation of spiral. Therefore, I am not one of those who believe you cut down the expenditure, cut down the plan there, because that will end up in the situation of stagnation. In the stagnant economy and rise in price, we should not fall into that trap of cut by a stroke, cutting down the development projects and bringing down the level of expenditure without any rhyme and reason. We have to go into it scientifically. What can be postponed should be postponedm, but it should be made more cost effective. The point is that we must eliminate waste. The point in this matter is that we have to make every rupee more cost effective. Rupee value is falling. It has already become 14 paise. But every rupee we are spending, it must be made more cost effective. Cost benefit ratio should be there and waste should be totally eliminated. It is a very big tall order for the Government. But the Government has to face it. They have to face it and whatever is redundant expenditure, that has to be postponed, because otherwise it will be counter productive.

(*Interruptions*)

Another reason for the price rise or the rise in inflation is what is called the system of administered prices. Mainly the public sector items like steel, cement, energy, transport, etc., are responsible for 1/3rd of the rise in prices. It has been calculated so. I am happy that the Government has risen to the situation. They have set up two committees for going into the administered prices, one for the public sector items, industrial products and another for the agricultural produce prices. Let us understand what should be our approach in this. I am dealing with some of the long-term aspects, without which short-term measures will not do. It has been complained that in the past, in order to meet the losses in the public sector, quite often, prices have been jacked up and losses made up. This has made these products costly and has introduced the phenomenon which is very well-known in our country, what is called, cost-push inflation. The prices of

the products which are being raised happen to be inter-mediate goods which go into the production of finished goods, there is a general rise of all the products and this leads to a phenomenone of cost push inflation. Our economy is already suffering from demand inflation as a result of the rise in money supply and all this. Our economy is also suffering from the cost push inflation. I know the Government have taken and are taking certain steps. This particular committee is charged with the duty to bring down price, i.e. how to make production of these items more economic and things are produced more effeciently so that it reduces the cost of production and makes goods more competitive and one does not have to recourse to administered prices, just to cover up losses in the public sector.

Similarly, the agricultural price is a very important item. It is a vry vital thing becuase it concerns the vast rural sector which is the progressive sector and most productive sector. Our approach should be to provide incentives to the farmers and to the producers. Two aspects are very important. One is, the agriculturist, the farmer must be given enough incentive by way of assuring reasonable prices to his produce, so as to make it worthwhile to produce. Secondly, the cropping pattern should be scientific. Now, the commodities produced by the farmers have become more competitive. If they make profit in one crop, they go to that crop. If they incur loss in that particular crop, then they switch over to some other crop. Therefore, the prices of agricultural commodities should be such that it provides for the desired cropping pattern. For example, it has been said that we must give more emphasis on the production of oilseeds and pulses. Apart from the package of giving other incentives, pricing of these commodities is also very important. Therefore, as a long-term measure, we must provide these things also. Ultimately, it is the supply side which is very important. At present, the demand propelled inflation or cost-push inflation is stronger. But ultimately, it is the production that would give the answer. In the last Five Year Plan, in the SeventhPlan, we reached 5% growth and we maintain that 5% growth now. We have come from a lower growth to 5% growth. If we increase our rate of growth to 6% at the macro level, it would be better. At the micro level, there is a lot of pressure on the essential commodities today. If we are able to raise production in oil seeds, edible oil, the pulses and fibres and other commodities, it will be the real answer to maintaining the prices at a level that is desired or at a level that is fair.

With this I come to immediate questions. It is necessary that the Government, having accepted to tackle the present situation on a war footing, they must do more to achieve the desired results because the situation is very difficult. I am happy that the Food Minister took a decision that he will increase the area of the public distribution system. PDS should be enhanced and strengthened more particularly in the rural areas. It is rural areas which supply more because there is irregular supply and the whole area is not covered. He has announced—If I am not right let him correct me —that 6,000 more PDS Units will be opened.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): 6,000 were added. Now we have written to the State Governments and asked them to add more. Any number they want more, according to a certain criterion, we can do that. They had got units in the sense that we are prepared to increase wherever considered necessary.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: You have at the moment 3,37,000 outlets. More additions, mainly in the rural areas, should be there. (*Interruptions*). They cover foodgrains. Earlier a decision was taken that other esential

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commodities should also be covered in the public distribution system like kerosene, drugs, fuel and others. This is necessary because if you want to cater to the needs, the effect of the drought is not only felt this year but it will last for another year, at least for two years and we are going to face it. Therefore, in this period we should evolve a lasting system. It should not be that for these two years you evolve a system of public distribution and just wind them up in the later years. This country must have a system of public distribution on a lasting basis covering all the 14 to 15 essential items. They wer categorised to meet the requirements of the weaker sections, the poorer sections and even the middle and the urban and rural poor and the vast majority of the people.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I would like to make a clarification. During the last two yeras, we have added 19,000 new shops.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: It is all right that the number of shops have increased, but all the commodities are available there or not?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: The commodities must be supplied, otherwise, what would be the use.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

The Government has taken a very important decision in matters of the Consumers Protection Act. and Consumer Councils. The idea is to have it not only at the Central level but also at the district level and at the State level as well. This is very important because the consumers are helpless. It is said that in other countries, the consumers may be the kings but not in this country. The consumers are at the receiving end and, therefore, this Council needs to be properly strengthened. The complaints received by them should be disposed of speedily to give real protection to the consumers.

The most important thing is, a situation like this-and this is the last point I am making-creates the climate for the unscrupulous elements and anti-social elements to indulge in profiteering- because of the commodities being scarce. It happens in foodgrains and also drugs. There are spurious drugs. The prices charged are also enormous. There is hoarding and then there is profiteering. This has to be curbed. The Government should review their administrative set-up. The Minister of Food should get in touch with all his counterparts in the States and make them aware of enforcing strong anti-hoarding measures, strong anti-profiteering measures, about implementing all these Acts. The powers they have should be exercised. At one time there used to be the practice that the prices of goods, the essential goods in particular, were marked and the prices had to be displayed in the shops. I do not know whether this practice is there. All these things should be enforced. The administration should be made more efficient. This is very important. Administrative efficiency and incorruptibility is the key to the successful implementation of this. Since this affects everybody, it is necessary for the whole Parliament, for everybody- it should be our common effort-to fight out hoarding, to fight out profiteering and to check the anti-social activities in this country.

14.33 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

SHRI H.M. PATEL (Sabarkantha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was very heartened by the remarks which Shri Bhagat made towards the end. In the early part it seemed to me that there was an attempt to run away from the

problem, but towards the end, I think, he realised that the situation was indeed serious, as Mr. Ramoowalia has said. We are reallyfaced with a serious situation. The Finance Minister- that is why I am saying that there is this tendency on the part of the Government to run away from the problem- has said, "There is no diffeculty at all; there is undoubtedly drought, but we shall overcome it because we have large stocks of foodgrains" as if the only thing that matters is the foodgrains. It is forgotten that there are other essential commodities also like oilseeds, sugar, pulses, vegetables, kerosene, etc., and there is shortage of so many of these essential commodities. The prices are rising in respect of all these commodities. So far as foodgrains are concerned, you have the stocks; it is good; it means that there will be no starvation deaths. But so far as the other commodities are concerned unless the matter is taken very seriously, we will be in difficulties. I refer to the Finance Minister's statement made in Bombay a few days ago when he has said, 'We have the situation well under control.'

I do not know what exactly is meant by the situation "well under control"? Prices are rising. It has risen very steeply during the first three months of the current financial year prices have risen extraordinarily steep. I think, I can give you certain fiures. In March, the All India Consumer Price Index was 686, in April, 691, in May 703 and in June 715. And it will go on rising still further. The Finance Minister as well as the Govt. keep on repeating and I think, Mr. Bhagat also that the wholesale price index is the one that we have got. What they refer to wholesale price index is of no significance so far as consumers are concerned in a situation like this. It is only the consumer price index which matters. The wholesale price index include commodities like cotton, jute and it influences the situation very considerably. That is why, it appears, as if, inflationary pressure is of a negligible order. But, in fact, it is a consumer price index which you should see. The consumer price index during the last decade has been rising at the rate of 9.3%. This has hit the people very hard. You may say that the varous compensations were given like dearness allowance etc., which are being given. It means some adjustment in so far as consumer is concerned. But how many people in the total population of this country receive these dearness allowances and other financial benefits which result in some compensation. You take the rural labour.

I think, some time back, there was reference here in this House that the minimum wage which is offered to the rural worker is Rs. 10 in some States and Rs. 15 or Rs. 16 in others.

AN HON. MEMBER: In Maharashtra, it is only Rs. 6.

SHRI H.M. PATEL: If it is of that order, just consider, how far that sum would go to keep the family going? What is the adjustment with the price rise? Inflationary pressure is of a very very significant nature and that is completely ignored. If you remenber, in the last Budget presented, the Economic Survey, for some reason, the Government has been under-playing this inflationary aspect of the whole situation. It says and I quote from the last year's Economic Survey:

> "Based on the present trend, it is likely that 1986-87 will end with an inflation rate of around 6.5% according to the wholesale price index."

you see, emphasis is on the wholesale price index. This is considerably below the average annual price increase of 8% over the last decade and suggest that the overall price situation in the economy is within control. I am afraid, this tendency must have to be given up if the situation is to be improved. I think, it is necessary that the Government

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realise that there is hard core of inflation under the present price situation. It is not merely a question of supply and demand but very many other things. It must also not be forgotten that when there is a situation where you see clearly that there will be shortages, price will rise for very many other reasons. There will be speculative hoarding, there will be an attempt for increasing the profit margin by traders. There is one fact. Also, the ordinary citizen, whoever can afford it, will also buy a larger quantity than he would normally buy. Therefore, these are the two types of pressures which will accentuate the shortages even more.

Merely to say that there should be a strong administrative action against hoarders, against profiteers and so on, is not enough. I hope that the Government will decide to take strong action in this direction. But I also am apprehensive of the success in this direction. The administrative machinery is extremely poor. That it is poor is clearly seen from the food adulteration and adulteration of other things that are taking place.

What is being done? You look at it today. There is any amount of adulteration in all kinds of commodities. What action has been taken by the Government, how successful have they been in this regard? We must be careful about the situation which we are going to face in future. There will be an attempted adulteration in food stuffs, foodgrains and other commodities. I think that it is a good thing to see that all of us, irrespective of party considerations, are seriously concerned about the problem of price rise which has already taken place and which will greatly accentuate in the weeks to come. It is necessary, therefore, that the Government takes this problem very seriously and does not think that it is something which it will be able to contain without much difficulty. The problem is of great seriousness and I think they must apply their minds so as to evolve a policy, a plan of action rather that even a policy, to see that whatever we have is so utilised that the poorest person suffers the least.

As it is, those who have other resources will somehow manage. It is the middle class, the lower middle-class, the salaried class and the people in the rural areas who will suffer very seriously during the period of droughts and floods that we have been passing through and we still have to pass through for some time more. During all this period I think we must gear up our administrative machinery. You seek the cooperation of voluntary agencies to the maximum extent possible and try to see that the price rise is contained.

For instance what has happened in the city of Delhi? It must also be remembered, I really have mentioned this, that price rise is caused by very many other factors also. We are faced with the teachers salaries problem, i.e., the University and College teachers. So far as the school teachers' are concerned, their salaries were raised recently under the 4th Pay Commission. What was the consequence? The privately run schools had also to raise their fees because of the increase in salaries that had to be paid to teachers. Inevitably that leads to further inflation. So this indirect type of inflation is having snow-balling effect. Although there may be a fair and legitimate demand yet its consequences in so far as inflation is concerned will be of a very serious nature. So, I think, in this case it is not just the economic consideration alone which will increase prices, namely, shortages will increase the prices but it is also the inflationary pressures which will also result in the price rise being accentuated.

I do not wish to take more time of the House on this issue. Since all are agreed that there is a serious problem of price rise of essential commodities and it is something

which will casue great hardship to the large mass of people it becomes our duty to see that everything possible is done and in that we can only assure the Government that all cooperation will be offered by the Opposition parties. It is not a party matter. It is a matter which affects the entire population and what I would urge upon the Government is that they discuss matters with the Opposition and all concerned and formulate both a long-term and a short-term plan of action. With these remarks I conclude.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, with your permission I want to inform the House with great chagrin that thousands of women who were demonstrating against the price rise have been lathi-charged. Several of them have been seriously injured. Eight bus loads of them have courted arrest and taken to the police station. I was there. What were their demands? Their demands were to streamline the public distribution system. They were wanting statutory vigilance committees to be attached to public distribution system with women organisations representatives. They are wanting black-money holders to be eliminated from the economy. Like that they gave a series of suggestions to the Government. Instead they have been faced with lathi-charge.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Sir, You call for the Home Minister. Let the Home Minister come. Women have been lathicharged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Home Minister should come and he should apologise as to why women were lathi-charged.

AN HON. MEMBER: The demonstration was very peaceful.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am really very sorry to know from the Hon'ble Member Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee that women, who have come for demonstrating against the price rise, have been lathi-charged. I am sorry to know that. I do not know the circumstances under which in has happened and why it has happened.

I will bring it to the notice of the Home Minister to take action which he considers necessary and also keep the House informed.

Now, Sir, I must say I had the privilege of hearing very enlightened speeches.... (*Interruptions*).. from three Hon'ble Members-Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Shri B.R. Bhagat and Shri H.M. Patel-during discussion on price rise.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Without hearing us.....(*Interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is intervening.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Now three Members have spoken before me. I must appreciate the spirit with which they have raised the points. I also feel enlightened by them.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): What are you going to do?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Will you listen to me?

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Sir, discussion is not going to help.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Whatever I might say, you are not in any case going to be satisfied. Will you listen to me at least?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order please.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Prices are going up. Therefore, your shouting must go up! (*Interruptions*)

Please let me have my say.

Sir, Hon'ble Member Shri H.M. Patel was absolutely correct when he said that the question of prices is not a party affair and it must be given serious consideration. I entirely agree with him that the price rise is an issue for the whole nation. It has to be dealt with objectively, firmly and realistically.

Now I would just make a submission that it is not that the Government thinks that the whole situation is very easy or that it can be easily faced or that we do not know that it is not only a question of foodgrains. It is a question of other essential commodities. We also know there are shortages of edible oils and pulses. We know that there is an increase in the prices of vegetables. We know about the increase in prices of many essential commodities.....(*Interruptions*).....In some cases, the increase in prices is extraordinary. There is no room for any complacency on this point and we are not complacent. However, I feel that by all of us cooperating with each other and with the cooperation of people.....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): In what way you want cooperation from the Opposition parties? We are ready to cooperate.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I will tell you what cooperation.....(*Interruptions*)..... Sir, I think the situation is difficult indeed. It has been made more difficult by the drought. But no one need to take any panicky view of it. I am very confident that with all the resources at our command, at the command of the nation, all of us together can face the situation. We will be able to face it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): What action are you taking. People have started hoarding things.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): People are dying of starvation.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Your public distribution system people are corrupt.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.A. DORA (Srikakulam): Four hundred people have died of starvation.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: You will have your opportunity to say what you like.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please. You listen to the Hon'ble Minister.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Sir, let me say frankly and I will show you that I will not defend things for the sake of defence. I will not indulge in any jugglery of figures. I will be straight-forward with you. (*Interruptions*) Let me tell you.....(*Interruptions*). Patience is becoming very scarce with you.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: How can there be patience when the prices are rising?..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I would ask you a few questions at the appropriate time. Now

you are angry. I would ask you when you cool down.

When we say that we have enough foodgrains in our stocks, we are not wrong and if we do not say that, firstly, we will not be telling the correct position. Secondly, in a moment like this, in a situation like drought, as the hon. Member, Shri Patel said, because of the psychology of scarcity, the tendency of cornering more and keeping more even with ordinary consumers, leave aside the speculators, blackmarketeers and profiteers comes about. Therefore, when we say that we have enough foodgrains, we do not say anything wrong.....(*Interruptions*) I would beg of you Dr. Datta Samant to have a little patience.

A number of very useful suggestions have been made and I will now come straight to the public distribution system. I do not say that the public distribution system does not suffer from any deficiency. I do not say that everything is O.K. with the public distribution system. I do not say that it is as it should be, nor will I try to shift the responsibility from the Centre to the States or from the States to the Centre. I would be straight-forward. It is not a matter for shifting the responsibility. This is a matter where responsibilities are common and action has to be taken by both the Centre and the States in order to solve the difficulties of the people.

So far as the public distribution system is concerned, I wish to submit that during the last two years 19000 new shops were added. The question is whether the shops are working or not, whether timely supply is available to the people or not, whether there is leakage or not, and what are we going to do about that?

We have taken up this matter with the State Governments. In fact, this morning itself I had a meeting before the session started. In between I am writing to all the Chief Ministers. Fortunately for you and fortunately for us also, we have now State Governments by almost all the major parties in different States. The party which my hon. friend Shri Acharia represents has the Government in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura. Now, they have Governments in these three States. Similarly, the party which Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee represents is a partner in these Governments. Similarly, Janta Party has a Government; BJP and Lok Dal are partners in a Government. Of course, Shri Ramoowalia has lost his party's Government. I would sympathise with him. Shri Ramoowalia is correct that I should have consulted the opposition leaders in the Parliament. I accept that. But it is not that the opposition is not being consulted in the functioning of the Civil Supplies Department. If you do not treat your Chief Ministers as you party men, then you can blame me. Almost on all matters relating to my Ministry all the Chief Ministers are being consulted; State Governments are being consulted..... (*Interruptions*). Ramoowalia Ji, I have accepted your point. You do not have your Government; I accept that I have not consulted the Parliament leaders. I should have done that. I have accepted that.

15.00 hrs.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *in the Chair*]

Sir, with regard to the expansion of the distribution system, the yardstick is one fair price shop for every 2,000 persons. We are following this yardstick though in some places we have deviated from this. Due to pressure in the open market, the prices of the consumer goods are bound to rise. There is an upward tendency even in the prices of rice and wheat. Some upward tendency is there in the open market. Therefore, we want that the poorest of the poor should be able to get advantage of the distribution system. The system, therefore, must not only be improved but it must also be ex-

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panded. We can have mobile shops and such other things like Open Bazar, Weekly Bazar, and so an. All possible measures to improve and expand the distribution system should be taken by the State Government. We have assured them that sufficient quantity of food grains would be supplied to them. For that matter we have supplied foodgrains to Bengal and Kerala as they do not have their own arrangements like Civil Supply Corporation. So, we are taking the trouble of carrying the foodgrains to the places where there is no infrastructure. And our relations are very healthy with them. As far as the food is concerned, our relations with the States are very cordial. I have received a number of letters from the Chief Ministers, both from the Congress (I) and Non-Congress ruling States and they all are very happy with our stand. Their problems are attended to immediately. I can assure you that we do not at all have any difficulty so far as the supply of foodgrains to different State is concerned. As far as the supply of wheat, rice and edible oil is concerned, we absolutely don't have any difficulty. We take every care to see that no inconvenience is caused to any State with regard to the supply of foodgrains. I have myself talked to the Chief Ministers and they have responded well. They have all praise for this distribution system. Whatever you might say, but their impression is that the system is working very good. Although, to my mind the distribution system is not working as it ought to work, but to call the distribution system as useless or totally meaningless is quite unfair. It is a unique system.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Go to Bihar and see.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I am ready to visit Bihar and you will accompany me. Mr. Vijoy Kumar, I am telling you that it is not Bihar alone, I myself feel that distribution system needs improvement in many places. Pilferage too takes place. I myself feel that what would have been the situation had this distribution and procurement system not been there in the country and had the foodgrains production increased? You can say that there is mismanagement in the Food Corporation because there is scope for such allegations. But how can a farmer say that he is not getting reasonable price when a subsidy of Rs. 2000 crores is being given to the distribution and procurement system? Had this system been not there, neither the farmer would have got the price which he is getting today for his product nor the consumer would have been able to purchase at this price.....(*Interruptions*)

DR. DATTA SAMANT: You are giving Rs. 165 to the farmer and selling at Rs. 450.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: They will not get even this much even in the event of a bumper crop if the Government does not undertake procurement. Which private trader will give this much? You tell me, will he give you this much at this price; no, he will not. Therefore, I say that we should be realistic. It is not fair to criticise the public distribution system day in and day out. Its shortcomings should be brought out. The more you involve the people in this system and trust them, the better it will function. Basudebji, I have asked the State Governments run by your party several times. They have done something. But what I have just said has not been done so far. I have suggested them to set up a Consumers Vigilance Committee each at every fair price shop and let sisters like Geeta Mukherjee be associated with them.

People like Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee who have been demonstrating today, should be associated with this work. Such lady Members should be entrusted with the task of ensuring the proper distribution of essential commodities through Fair Price Shops.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, in Punjab.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Please, sit down. We have written to your Chief Minister Shri Barnalaji also.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: In West Bengal, the elected Gram Panchayats take care of these things, They are entrusted with this work.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Very good. Then, I take it from you that the public distribution system works very well in West Bengal. I am happy to know this. Let me tell you that I do not want to be partisan. Who gains the most from this subsidy given by the Central Government? Of all the States, West Bengal gains the most because it is the most deficient in the production of foodgrains. You are gaining the most.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: That was the agreement after Independence. Deficit States should get..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I was glad to know from you. You enlightened me on this issue by giving me an impression that your public distribution system is working very well

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: No, no.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: He says so. Are you contradicting?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: What he intended to say was.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: My own opinion is that there is considerable scope for improvement in every State including the State of West Bengal, as far as public distribution system is concerned.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: That is true Sir. The state of affairs varies from State to State. Basudebji was probably saying that it is comparatively better in West Bengal.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Are you satisfied with the public distribution system or not? She is not answering. Why is she evading the question?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: We do want improvements in our PD system. You just see the conditions in Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and see what is happening even in Delhi. Compared to all these places, we are a little better.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I am sorry to hear this from you Geetaji. I will not like to bring politics into it. You may. I am not saying that Rajasthan or any other State is better.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.M. PATEL: Can I suggest one thing please? You please concentrate your observations on what we should do hereafter in order that our objective is achieved, price rise is contained and continues to be contained. Whatever be the shortages, we should see to it that essential commodities are most fairly distributed. That is what we have to see. We have to see the positive and constructive proposals. On the part of the Opposition, there will be complete cooperation.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I must say, hon. member Shri H.M. Patel is very positive. I am trying to be as positive and practical as I can. Now Sir, let me tell about this public distribu-

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tion system. We have helped even the distant and most inaccessible areas and we have given assistance to certain States to purchase vehicles. In certain States we have given help to the tribal blocks also. We have given even transport subsidies. Our Prime Minister and this Government are extremely keen that people should get the best advantage of the distribution system. And whatever may be its deficiencies, we should try to remove them with the cooperation of the people. It can certainly be done.

So far as the three commodities-sugar, wheat and rice -are concerned, there is no serious problem in terms of availability. What is needed is distribution. We must ensure proper distribution and improvement in the infrastructure, so that these commodities are available to the people at the rates fixed. We should see that there are no leakages, I wrote to the State Governments on this aspect earlier, and today also we have discussed it in a meeting with the representatives of the State Governments. It has been decided in the meeting that very sustained campaign on dehoarding will be carried on in all the States, by their respective Governments in cooperation with the representatives of the consumers.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: For the last so many days you have not done anything. The same statement you had also given in the Upper House.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: You also join that campaign. That will give you some more work and more popularity.

[*Translation*]

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. If you interrupt him all the time, how will he make his statement?

[*English*]

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I am coming to a very ticklish problem. It is really a ticklish problem, i.e. of edible oils. It is an item which is troubling all of us. It is troubling me. It is troubling the citizens. At present the question is of ifs availability and its price.

Unfortunately for us, there is a wide gap between demand and supply. Regarding the crop, of course, it is the Agriculture Ministry which can tell you in detail. They have made certain plans for the better growth and development of edible oil. They have a plan and all that. I need not go into it. But I can say that the gap between production and supply has become still wider because of the drought, With the result that the prices of edible oils have gone up. The Agriculture Ministry in the beginning felt that we should not import too much of oil because that will depress the prices of indigenous oilseeds and oil. Therefore, sometimes the interests of the farmers have to be reconciled. With a view to help the farmers, sometimes the consumers have to bear a little burden. We should happily bear the burden. It is not that we should always think of ourselves. No, the burden is becoming unbearable. It is becoming very difficult. Therefore, the Government decided to import more oils. We have increased the supply of edible oils for the Public Distribution System. The States have asked for it. We have given them. They have appreciated our move for giving them more edible oils in the distribution system. In fact, in the latest letter which I received from the West Bengal Food Minister, Two days back, he had appreciated what we have done.

Now Sir, the prices of *vanaspati* also went up. We were thinking what to do with *vanaspati*? At one stage we had controlled the prices. Here control means, so many things. Say corruption and all that. As you say, the administrative Ministry has number of problems. Now, we wanted that the prices

should be brought down. We were thinking of what to do. We have discussions with the representatives only today. Today myself and my colleague Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad had a discussion with them. Now the price of *vanaspati* had crossed the limits of say Rs. 370/-. So, we were thinking what to do. I am glad to inform the House that in the meeting which we had with them today, we have agreed on our part to give them 15 per cent more imported oils and they have agreed that the prices, with immediate effect of a 15 kg tin will be brought down to Rs. 335/- by giving a benefit of Rs. 2/- per Kg. to every consumer. This has been in case of *vanaspati.*

DR. DATTA SAMANT: it is not going to the consumers. you have allowed lot of things but for the consumers the rates have gone up.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: It seems that you are not happy with the reduction of prices.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: First you have allowed them to import and simultaneously the prices have gone up. This is my observation.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: This is the decision. We will have to see its impact. They have assured us. if we find that they are not keeping their words and the prices are not kept down, then we are free to take our own decision and we will take that. Stringent possible measures will be taken to see that the prices are kept at the level to which they have agreed.

Hon. Member, Shri Ramoowalia has said that in Punjab huge stock of wheat is lying. We have speeded up the movement. He had written to me that good number of stocks are lying. It is not that they are lying in the open. There is a system known as 'cap system'. We have some in the godown. You have yourself said move them and get the godowns vacated. on the other hand you say they are lying in the open.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Not all. Some of them.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: According to my information we have a system regular godown. And we have a system known as 'cap system' under which they are lying. But we have moved it. I have letters from the former Chief Minister, and your Food Minister also, appreciating our efforts. We will do our best to see that the stocks are moved further, so that unnecessary inconvenience is not there.

Another thing was said, viz. that substandard stocks were supplied. Let me make it clear that the Food Corporation is supposed to supply stocks which are according to the prescribed standards under the Prevention of Food (Adulteration) Act. If they do not adhere to it, in any case, it is wrong. They are even liable for prosecution. Even a consumer can take a sample. Now the Consumer Protection Act says that even one consumer can go, take a sample from a shop and file a complaint. What I am saying is that our clear instructions are: 'Don't give substandard products. The State representatives can check each bag. Joint samples are taken, so that they should display them on the stock. Yet, if there are some stocks which are below the standard, and they are issued and brought to our notice-we have taken back the stocks, we have taken action, punished the officers and taken action against them.

I wish to assure the hon. House and the Members of this House that no stocks below the standards of the Prevention of Adulteration Act fixed in regard to food articles will be issued, and in case they are issued by mis-

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take or deliberately anywhere, action will be taken, if it is pointed out to me.

Now we come to the question of festivals. it was pointed out ton me. Keeping the festivals in view, we are giving and we will give more edible oils. We will also give more sugar. As you yourself know, the sugar allotment for each State was raised. We are pumping enough sugar into the market also. Sugar prices have remained stable in the market. Therefore, festival requirements of various States also we should take care of, to the best of our capacity.

Now a word about the consumer protection. It was this House which did it, and it is your achievement. You passed the most progressive Consumer Protection Act during the last Session. In between what has happened? In between you said that rules would not be passed for two years. The rules were approved and laid on the Table of the House. During this Session, the rules have been laid on the Table. Secondly, a Consumer Protection Council has been formed at the Centre. In some States it has been formed. I have taken two meetings for a further chase-up. the question whether it should be a Plan scheme, or not a Plan scheme, was taken up with the Central Government, and the Central Government agreed to take it, as it is one point in the 20-point programme, to treat it as a Plan scheme from next year onwards. I have discussed with the Ministers, and they have assured me that the setting up of the Consumer Interests Forum means choosing a Judge, two other members, finding places, locating offices and so on. they are taking a bit of time. In the Centre also, I have written to the Ministry of Urban Development to get an office for the National Consumer Commission. I am trying to chase it, to see that whatever you passed under the progressive legislation, is created without any unnecessary delay. But I want to make one thing clear, viz. my view as a ground worker. You are all ground leaders. I am also a ground worker. My feeling is this: no law, howsoever good, howsoever progressive and beneficial it may be, will bring the desired results, unless people are involved in it. Therefore, the country needs a very strong, well-organized, disciplined, responsible consumer movement from the village level to taluka, tehsil, district, State and National levels. That is required. That alone will give you better results. Probably, in that case, people may not have to go to law.

I admire a number of consumer organizations which are doing good work. Some of them are doing good work. One of my friends sitting there, Prof. Dandavate knows about his own. So, a number of consumer organizations are doing good work. Still, the consumer movement in the country is not what it should be. No Government can and, in my opinion, should sponsor any consumer movement. It should not be a politically-sponsored or Government-sponsored movement. No such movement would ever succeed.

I mentioned this point to the Prime Minister once, viz. that some people say that Government should do this for the consumer movement. the Prime Minister said: 'Mr. Bhagat, you must have confidence in the people of India. They will be able, in due course, to develop a consumer movement which will be able to take care of the national interest.' It is developing. Every day I get a letter from a village or a town saying: 'We have formed a consumer committee; we have formed it.' It will take shape. It is bound to take shape.

To give a suggestion is an important thing. I welcome it; I appreciate it. But I would request all of you to take an active interest in the development of a consumer's movement in your areas. This morning I told the State Governments about what the hon. member

Shri H.M. Patel has said and all of you also said. I told all the Ministers not to have a partisan approach at all in their committees' meetings. Do not have one party approach, Do not make it a mere combination of all political parties. Have representatives of the citizens who are interested and make them real citizens' organisations so that better result can follow.

Shri Ramoowalia said about MRTP. There is a procedure and it takes some time. The procedure is very simple. A man sitting in any corner of the country can send a complaint. A very radical thing has been done by you that now the complaint is not left with them. Any one, any consumer in India can write a letter and file a complaint. There will be no fee and nothing of the kind. I need not repeat it. It is a question of implementation; it is a question of educating the consumer about it about the use of media, use or press and so on. We are making some arrangement about it. For example, in one country a soap company raised the price of a particular brand of soap. The residents of a small town decided that they will not purchase the soap for one week. Within one week, that company had to come down on their knees and they restored the price. Should we not create an atmosphere of this kind? You think that by appointing an Inspector the government can solve this problem; government should do this and government should do that. I can frankly say that no government by itself can achieve the result which you want; whether it is my government or your government or some other government. The problem is whether they may accept it or not. The problem of the consumers are the same in Bihar, in West Bengal or any other State; they are common; they suffer common; their misery is common; their difficulties are common; their trials and tribulations are common. Let us try to avoid this partisan consideration and build up a very powerful consumer movement. (*Interruptions*) That is the real question. Otherwise, if you go on blaming me, I would go on blaming you. You feel happy that you have crossed the point. Let us give up this habit of saying I have done it or he has done it or you have done it. Let us not try to create scare city out of drought, floods relief and other things. Let us not think, that we have got something to beat we have got a stick to beat; let us forget it. The real thing for us to do is to cooperate and try to fight this situation with honesty, with the integrity of purpose and by working together. I assure you that the full cooperation of my Ministry is at your disposal. Whenever you have got any difficulty, you are welcome and I will certainly consider your suggestion. Wherever you want me to go with you I am prepared to go with you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV (Varanasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we just heard the speech of hon. Shri Bhagat ji on the current price-rise. He has given certain very good clarifications and has presented the steps which are being taken by the Government very clearly. Therefore, I think my work has become much lighter but I want to make a few points.

So far as the price-rise is concerned, the previous speakers have provided many of the figures and I will not like to repeat them. The price-rise this year is a cause of grave concern. The increase in the consumer price index has been specially on account of the drought situation. With the on set of drought, certain commodities in the market begin to be in short supply and the traders tend to hoard them and indulge in profiteering. Due to the drought condition, people are despairing that Kharif crop may fail which will create a serious crisis and I believe that people, the representatives of the people and Government are paying attention to it. I have complete faith that Government's efforts will be, as the hon. Minister has stated, to ensure that price rise is contained. There are certain

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measures which are in the hands of the Government and which it should take effectively to control rising prices. In the beginning of this year, the rate of inflation was 4.8 percent and last year (i.e. 1986-87) it was 5.4 percent and year before last, it was 4.5 percent. Therefore, efforts should be made to check inflation. I think the Finance Ministry should take steps to ensure that excess money is not available in the market and it is not advanced especially to the brokers and big traders by banks and other financial institutions, because they would purchase essential commodities with this money in bulk and hoard them. Government should exercise strict control on it.

Secondly, Government should take steps to arrest the continuously decreasing purchasing power of rupee. In 1970, the value of rupee was 54.35 paisa and in May 1987 it has decreased to 14.22 paisa. It is essential to check it and also to avoid deficit financing in the Central Budget. In the Budget of 1987-88 deficit was estimated to be of the order of Rs. 5,688 crores whereas in the Budget of 1986-'87 it was Rs. 8,285 crores. Deficit financing directly affects prices and increases inflation. Our hon. Finance Minister is Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari who is very competent. He has stated in his statement that efforts will be made to check deficit financing. Central Government alone cannot tackle this problem. for this purpose, State Governments should also cooperate with the Centre and mobilies their resources. Unproductive expenditure should be avoided so that deficit does not increase. If deficit financing escalates in the State Budget, it has adverse effect on the price level. In order to earn cheap popularity several State Governments release much money in the market which results in inflation, they do not try to make up the losses by imposing additional taxes and thus do not mobilies their own resources. Therefore, if deficit financing is not checked, it will increase inflation and I think the responsibility for this state of affairs is more of the State Governments than the Central Government. If States do not measures to control deficit financing, and do not impose additional taxes to mobilise resources and keep on increasing the expenditure instead, then deficit is bound to go up. During the period of natural calamities, the States in place of mobilising their own resources pressurise the Centre to provide assistance to tide over the crisis and this money also adds to the already existing deficit at the Centre. Therefore, Government should take effective steps to control the system of deficit financing.

Again, Government expenditure is increasing. Efforts are being constantly made to check it. According to the figures of 1986-'87, Government expenditure was 35 per cent of the G.D.P. that is, Rs. 95 thousand crores In 1985-86 this expenditure was Rs. 83,498 crores that is, it was 34.5 per cent of G.D.P So we see that Government spending is constantly increasing. These expenditures are also essential. But the Government in order to economise has stopped certain kinds of work temporarily. This is not proper. A ban has been imposed on fresh recruitment. Similarly, development works are not being taken up afresh. The Posts and Telegraph Department cannot open any new office or agency. The Information Ministry cannot set up new radio stations or T.V. studios. Women's education is being encouraged as a matter of policy, but permission is not being granted for the opening of new schools or new classes in the States. Grants are not been given for opening new schools for girls. The teachers are being recruited on the basis of daily wages in the States. Such wages are much less than those of the regular teachers. It is also creating a lot of discontent. So you cannot exercise control on expenditure in every sector of economy. For example, education. Spending in this sphere will constantly increase

and which will result in price-rise. If we try to economise, then many developmental work will be Stalled as they being stalled at present. We have to establish a balance between them. I agree that the situation is very difficult. Of course, the prices are rising. We have on other choice, but to face the grim situation. We will have to put up with difficulties.

Sir, just now hon. Shri Bhagat ji has stated that the prices of certain commodities have definitely increased. The unprecedented price-rise of many essential items during the last one year has very badly affected the poor people, the middle class, the labour class, the small farmers etc. For example the prices of pulses have gone up by 80 per cent. In our area, pulses are being sold at Rs. 11 for per kg. in retail. It is an essential food item for our people. Edible oils have also become costlier. Mustard oil is being sold at Rs. 30/- per kg. The prices of rice and wheat have not increased, because they are being distributed by the Fair Price Shops. But the prices of other commodities are galloping. The prices of vegetable oils have also gone up. It has registered an increase of 9 per cent during the last three months. Although this increase is not much as compared to that of the last year, the people are expecting that the prices will further escalate on account of the drought situation.

In this connection, my suggestion is that the import of non-essential items should be stopped at once. You should not waste foreign exchange on non-essential items. Instead essential commodities like mustard oil, rapeseed, palmoil etc. should be imported. Pulses should also be imported. The *'Arhar'* variety could not be sown this year. This will result in a further increase in the prices of pulses. Therefore, this item should be imported. Nowadays the pulses are not being distributed through the Public Distribution System. I request that the pulses and edible oils should be distributed through the Public Distribution System.

So far as Vanaspati is concerned, the hon. Minister has just made an announcement. I think it will have a good effect. The rates at which the Vanaspati Corporation of the Government imports edible oils is much lower that the rate at which these are distributed after refining. It the same is made available to the Private Companies, then I think they will supply refined vegetable oils at cheaper rates and you can also enter into an agreement in this regard. It will be beneficial for us. You supply oil to 3-4 private companies in Calcutta. But oil is not being supplied to one unit in my town. I request you to supply oil there also. You can enter into a contract with this unit. The private people say that they will charge atleast Rs. 4/- less than the Government and they are prepared to undertake such an agreement. In view of the functioning of the Government sector, I think you should offer contract to the Private refining units.

Another step in the direction of checking inflation would be to control administered prices. The cost of the items produced in the Government factories should be controlled. The pay and allowances of the employees in the public sector units are being enhanced and new agreements are being entered into with them. I am afraid that the Government on being put under pressure for higher scales may increase the administered prices. The hike in administered prices will have direct influence in the market and result in price-rise. For such a situation, Government alone will be responsible. Therefore, I want to request you to exercise absolute control on the administered prices. These should not be increased on any account. Price rise will have several other effects.

Government should take steps to maintain supply of power at present level. The State Electricity Boards, the National Ther-

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mal Power Corporation, the Hydro Electric Corporation should be geared up to generate more power and for this purpose the Central Government should get the cooperation of the State Governments so that power can be available to the farmers and industries. I think that it will help in checking price-rise as well. If the farmers get a continuous supply of power, then they will grow more vegetables and other items. Today onion is being sold at Rs. 8/- per kg. and potatoes are being sold at Rs. 5/- per kg. The green vegetables are not available in the market because they are not being cultivated and it is not possible to grow them due to drought situation. Therefore, people are compelled to buy these expensive vegetables. I request you that it is essential to pay special attention to the generation, production and distribution of power so that the farmers are able to get sufficient power with which they can grow all the essential food items and industries can also function properly. This will ensure that the people get all their daily requirements. More kerosene should also be made available to the people. The Government has supplied kerosene oil in the flood affected areas. In the drought hit areas diesel should be supplied in addition to kerosene. I want that the farmers should be supplied with diesel at subsidised rates. The farmers can utlised diesel to draw out underground water for irrigation purpose and they can grow more vegetables and foodgrains which will help in checking price-rise. Sufficient diesel is being distributed to the farmers. You can enhance the supply if you want. But it should be at subsidised rates so that he can grow short duration crops. Several shops under the Public Distribution System have been opened in the towns and cities. In my State most of this work is entrusted to the Cooperative Societies and some of it is in the hands of the private people. The cooperative societies lack funds and as a result they are not able to lift the essential consumer goods. The commodities lifted by the Private people are not of a standard quality-or proper weight. The Food Corporation of India should be issued strict instructions to ensure that full quota of foodgrains and sugar is supplied to the retail outlets. It is alleged that FCI is not supplying the full quota. If someone is to get 100 kg. of a certain commodity, the actual supply is 10 kg less. How will that be made up? The rampant irregularities in the Food Corporation of India can be tolerated to a certain extent, but when the Fair Price Shop dealer is given short supply of rice and wheat, it cannot be tolerated. The Fair Price shops are under the State Governments, but the Food Corporation of India is under the Central Government. If the Fair Price shop is to get 100 kgs. of wheat, the Food Corporation of India should be asked to supply 100 kgs. and not 90 kgs as is the common practice.s The shortfall is very frequent. What happens is that 100 kgs is recorded on paper, but actually 100 kgs. is not supplied. Where the state agencies are distributing, they fleece the Fair Price dealer at every level. The dealer gets empty bag as his profit. Who will continue to be a Fair Price dealer if there is such a state of affairs? That is why they have to resort to malpractices. The State Government should look into it. If the Government can mend the employees, it is alright otherwise let their salaries be stoped and let them work only on commission basis. The dealer has to shell out money wherever he goes, whether it is S.D.O., Civil Supplies Office, or RFC. If he goes to the FCI Office he gets short supply. If even after spending so much of money he gets foodgrains and sugar in short supply, how can he distribute it properly. By merely delivering a speech and going through the papers will not serve the purpose. Everything is in order on paper, but he gets short supply. The supply does not reach the villages. Yesterday, in a T.V. report we saw the Prime Minister touring villages and everywhere the womenfolk raised their hands and said that they do not get any supplies. These dealers are very smart and they quickly change their

affiliation as soon as the party is out of power. Previously, when the Janata Party was in power they were on its side and now when congress is in power, they have joined its ranks. These dealers support the party in power in different States. There is no check to this. Therefore, Sir, as the country is facing severe drought, the Public distribution system is under heavy pressure. Therefore, the vigilance committee that has been suggested, should be immediately set up, but if the Inspectors are asked to conduct an enquiry, it will be of no use. The Vigilance Committee should take a decision on its own. If it does not want to award punishment, it is all right, but the Inspectors should not be asked to conduct enquiry, because they connive with the dealers and the very purpose is defeated. Complaints do not matter. I am now afraid of making complaints, because the person against whom the complaint is made is immediately transferred, but the dealer again connives with the new incumbent and the malpractice continues. Therefore, the vigilance committee should be set up at the Panchayat level and instead of filling a suit against the dealer his licence should be cancelled.

Sir, I am mentioning very important things. There are mobile vans in Delhi which provide essential commodities at cheap rates to the general public. such vans should be introduced in our cities also. There are no such vans in Varanasi. I am not aware whether they are in Kanpur or Lucknow, but they are definitely not in Varanasi. I therefore request the Government to introduce at least four such vans in Varanasi so that essential commodities could be supplied to all the areas in the city.

Sir, in the end, I would like to say that we should encourage farmers. If we can provide electricity, seeds, fertilisers and diesel to the farmers at subsidised rates, he can still produce short duration crops. Sir, the farmers are under heavy debt. Many State Governments have deferred the repayment of loans from farmers. But this wil not serve the purpose. Now the farmer's debts are being written of throughout the country by various States Governments. Therefore, the Government should think in this direction and provide seeds, fertilizers, water and diesel and also loan to the farmers to allievate their miserable condition. They had been given loans earlier, but today they are not in a position to repay it. Therefore, I urge the Government to provide fresh assistance to the distressed farmers.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, I am very happy that we have got a very experienced and very knowledgeable Finance Minister who can try to do something for the inflation today. But yesterday, we heard some 400 starvation deaths in the Eastern part of India, Kasipur, in Koraput district. Every day we are hearing so many starvation deaths. The reason for all these things appears to me that there is treble alliance - one is rich section of the farming class, second is the rich urban industrialists and the third is, the rich organised labour force and also high-salaried people. They group together as a tunnel and swallow all the fruits of development. With a force of political clout, they are taking all the bank credits and at the same time, enjoying the lion-share of the fruits of development in various areas. 90% of the people are not able to get their food, get their body clothed and get other minimum requirements. When we compare to 1960, when the rupee value was 100%, it has come down to 14% today in 1987. When you look at essential commodities like rice and edible oil, there is at least 300% rise. When you look at the price of wheat and cotton, there is 250% rise, When you look at this state of affairs, it is very clear that the Government is going to face the economic disaster. We have reached the red signal. We have to be very alert. Here, I warn the Government that this time, you have reached the stage of no-return. I wish

[Dr. Chinta Mohan]

the Government should bring in some sort of structural changes. Otherwise you cannot improve the economy of the country. Recently, there was a Conference of Economists in Tirupati. They have brought out some resolutions. They have said, if you go and improve on these aspects, the prices can be brought down. I do not want to go deep into the details. I would like to throw some light on some of the few points where the Finance Minister is directly involved here. (*Interruptions*).

I would like to say some-thing about the industrial production. The main aspect of the industrial production today depends on the public sector undertakings. There is no accountability in these public undertakings. Some of the Ministers who are sitting on the top are privately supporting the private sector and publicly supporting the public sector here. Public sector is in rotten shape today. I do not want to go into the details because I do not have much time to say.

Yesterday, I was trying to emphasise one point in this House. So far the Government has given 8,53,000 licences and out of them, 3,25,000 small scale units have become sick. 2,500 large industries have also become sick, and with the result, an amount Rs. 20,000 crores is wasted by the sick industries and consequently, the economy is in bad shape and there is inflation today.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY SHRI J. VENGALA RAO: Yesterday he said that the amount is less.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: He said about this. I do not want to contradict him. Yesterday he said that only Rs. 4,000 crores. But exactly when you go back to the sick industries starting right from independence, Rs, 20,000 crores is wasted in sick industries. I would like you to make a note of this.

A very important point is the black-money. There are two parallel lines running here. One is black-market. Another is white market. Here they are mingled with each other with the result they are producing some income. With the income velocity of these people who are holding this black-market money, they are trying to pin down the poor people in the society today. As a result of this income velocity, they are over-riding the poor people here. I would like to quote some of the figures of this black-money as per International Monetary Fund statistics:-

In 1975-76, about Rs. 1,870 crores of black-money was there in India.

In 1980-81, it was Rs. 20,678 crores. In 1983-84, it was Rs. 36,787 crores. In 1987, it was Rs. 46,000 crores.

Your predecessor also said recently, some time back, in Hyderabad that Rs. 40,006 crores is going outside India. I do not know. The Minister should come out frankly with the figures.

The Economic Survey Report says that 50% of the money is only black-money in this country.

As regards agricultural production, I do not want to go deep into the matter. I would like to make two points. First is Waste Land Development Society. I am very happy that you have got this Society.Your emphasis is on 20-Point Economic Programme. Your thrust is on Land Ceiling Act. You brought out many resolutions. Your great leader Madam Indira Gandhi brought Land Ceilings Acts. I am very happy about it. But recently your Cabinet has taken a decision to give thousands of acres of land in Gujarat to very big industrialists. I want to know your policy. This goes to show that you are pro-rich and you are not trying to help the poor.

As regards agricultural production, the projects are pending. There are many people in tis country who do not have food. Every Member mentioned this in this House. We have a drought-prone area in Rayalaseema. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, with the cooperation of other Chief Ministers, wanted to bring Telugu Ganga Project. Instead of helping it, you had a political vengeance on this issue and you tried to delay it. I do not want to go deep into it. But unfortunately the poor man in Rayalaseema and in the drought-prone area is suffering but not the man who is sitting on the top. I want you to understand the problems of the poor. You should have a clear policy, clear concept, and clear idea before you do anything.

As regards deficit financing, you said deficit financing is also causing inflation. You said that during 1985-86 it is Rs. 3,349 crores. But it has reached Rs. 7,000 crores.

During 1987-88, I believe the deficit financing may reach about Rs. 14,000 crores This is the shape of things to come here.

Coming to the trade policy, you have lot of trade deficit. I am very happy that you have the reins of administration of the Ministry of Commerce also. You are trying to reduce the trade deficit. You are issuing export and import licences. Your are trying to boost up the export had reduce imports. You are giving export licences to some people to USSR. You are giving them only to some private people. Why can't you publicise it openly that such and such order has come from USSR and that interested parties can take this? Why can't you come out very frankly? The people outside are not able to understand your policy. You should have a clear export policy. You should have a clear trade policy. Then only you can reduce the inflation.

Coming to the credit policy, you should have a very clear and clean credit policy. Otherwise, the poor people in the society have to suffer. Here I would like to say that whereas a rich industrialist in this country can take a loan of Rs. 100 crores in a day, a rickshaw puller cannot get even Rs. 100.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to conclude.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: I will conclude in two minutes.

A richshaw puller, for getting a loan of even Rs. 100, has to mortgage his wife's wedding sarees, *mangal-sutra* and household utencils. What sort of credit policy is this? These are the things which are causing price-rise and inflation.

I want to know something about government expenditure. There is no accountability at all. Some friend was saying here some time back that one Minister spent about Rs. 41,000 in a day in a 5-star hotel. I want to know whether there is any accountability at all in the Government. You have appointed so many Chairman in the public sector. I want to point out here that they are only concentrating on three things, three 'S's- they are concentrating on the South Block, on Star hotel and on Scotch whisky bottle. They do not have any concept, they do not have any principle, they do not have any ideological background. When you are having such people, how can you expect the things to improve in the public sector?

Coming to the Reserve Bank report, they should go in for micro level analysis. We have given them a lot of powers to improve the economy, but the Report goes to show that they are going in for inflationary economy. Sir, you are a very enthusiastic Finance Minister; I hope you will bring about some change.....

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Sir, may I help in substantiating what my friend has said about the expenditure of Rs. 41,000 in a day?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He does not need your help.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: I have a copy of this. May I give it to the hon. Minister?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): Yes.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: I am very happy that my friend has supported me in this. I hope the Minister will try to give a reply to this.

Mr. Bhagat was trying to say about the public distribution system. He said that he wrote letters to all the Chief Ministers, to this person and to that person. I am very happy he is trying to bring in a consumer movement in the country. I congratulate him, if he can do that. At the same time, I would like to make this suggestion. People say that a lot of black money is going outside. This is a very important thing. I want to know how you are going to reduce this black money and what is your policy in this regard. You are the new Finance Minister. Therefore, we want to know something about it. Is there any plan to bring back the money that has been taken out? You can at least say that the black money left outside can be brought and spent here for housing; you can give them liberal concession in the matter of housing and see that these people spend that money here. Instead of the money remaining outside, it can be brought and utilised to improve the economy of this country. I want to know clearly what exactly is the credit policy of this Government.

Another important thing that I would like to emphasize here is this. You should bring in some sort of a campaign for not wasting things. People are wasting so much money, so much of food materials and other things. Please try to bring about some change in this regard.

Coming to the final point, you have spent on subsidies about Rs. 5,025 crores in 1985-86. Is there any accountability for that? You are giving one per cent for social concessions. I am very happy about that. But you are spending the rest of the money on fertiliser, transport, foodgrains, etc. And there is no accountability in this regard. I want you to go deep into the matter and see that inflation comes down.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the price rise during the last four and a half months, since the presentation of the Budget, has been a cause of great anxiety to the people. It has upset the budget of everybody. The housewife found that every week she had have to pay higher prices than before for the essential commodities, higher prices than before, such as edible oils, fruits and vegetables. During this period, the price of tomato shot up by 233% from Rs. 6 a Kg. to Rs. 20 per Kg. Today, however, it is a matter of relief to find that the price of tomato has come down to Rs. 10. During the same period, potatoes increased by 100% and onions by 66%. Mustard oil, ghee, washing soap have all registered a price increase of 20 to 40%. It is true that the price of all these necessities are not the same in all the markets in Delhi. They vary from city to city of this country also. But the tendency is unmistakable, that is, the tendency of steep upward rise is disquieting. Rising trend is higher this year than during the corresponding period in the last year and the year before. Compared with the indices of June 1986, i.e. during the last 12 months,

the price of cereal and products have recorded a steep increase of 9.5%, oils and fats by 13.8%, milk and milk products by 15.1% and meat, fish and eggs by 7.1% and condiments and spices by 19.6%. That is the rise of these commodities over the year. The official index of wholesale price has increased from 380.6 to 404.8 by August 8, i.e., within a period of three months the rise was 6.4%. But let us look at the rise in the consumer price index which is a better indicator of increase in prices. The wholesale price index which we use usually, in this connection, is not a proper indicator because it underrates the increase in prices because of its comprehensiveness. And secondly, because the wholesale prices always lag behind the retail prices. Between March 1987 and June 1987, later figures are not available, that is during the three months, the consumer price index has registered an increase of 4.2%. As a result, these price increases, as pointed out by some Hon. Members in the House, the purchasing power of the rupee has come down to 14.2 paise. It was 100 paise in 1960 and 44 paise in 1970.

As regards, yesterday's position, among the critical items, price of pulses have been steady because of the satisfactory imports of various items such as grams, Moong, Urad, green peas and other pulses. Then, secondly, in the oils, oilseeds market, a downward tendency was visible recently because of the large release of imported edible oils.

So far as Vanaspati is concerned, the prices are rising because we have not allowed some Vanaspati factories to work. We are importing more edible oils. Why not distribute it to the factories which are not working? I have an instance in my own district whereas one factory is closed and 750 workers are likely to be unemployed. I have been pressing the Government to release the oil. They have a complaint against management. Let the management be sued, prosecuted, let management be punished but why punish the workers? They will loose their job by next month.

Then, Sir, sugar prices have tended to decline due to the Government's release of large free sale quota of 4.75 lakh tonnes for the next month in addition to 3.82 lakh tonnes of levy sugar. It is a matter of satisfaction that foodgrains prices have ruled steadily for some time. This is due to the comfortable stock position. Our godowns are full and this will enable us to tide over the difficult position created by the drought.

Much of the rise in prices of fruits, vegetables, milk and milk products is due to seasonal factors. During the months of July, August and September these prices always rise. But partly it is also due to the failure of the monsoons. The whole position has been complicated and made difficult by the worst ever drought during the last hundred years. Drought has affected most of the States and a few states that remained unaffected have suffered from floods.

The losses inflicted on the economy are terrible. It is estimated that foodgrains worth about Rs. 2000 crores have been lost. This loss is enormous. 262 districts out of 407 have been adversely affected. The Prime Minister's assurance that nobody will suffer for want to foodgrains is highly reassuring. He has further assured the country that finance will be no constraint on the relief measures which are necessary to keep up the people's purchasing power.

The Government has taken the necessary steps to deal with the situation. We have been suffering from drought for the last three years and many of the States have the expertise to deal with such a situation. So, they are ready to deal with this situation in advance.

[Sh. Y.S. Mahajan]

The Prime Minister has asked the States and the Union Territories to step up the anti-hoarding drive to maintain the price level and to ensure availability of essential commodities. In an urgent communication to the States, they have been urged to closely monitor the foodgrains stocks, to review and strengthen the distribution system. This has been pointed out by the Hon. Minister also. The States have been urged to open up fresh outlets wherever necessary.

You may have thousands of more shops; but they must be given supplies also. The supplies must not fall short. Improving the distribution system will not by itself maintain the price level or reduce the prices. Particular attention has to be paid to ensure adequate supply of essential commodities like edible oil, control cloth and salt to the vulnerable sections of the society. Much of the work of controlling the price rise will overlap with the work connection with drought. It is not wonder, therefore, that the States have been asked to act simultaneously on a number of fronts including the crop production, provision of employment, irrigation, drinking water and supply management for essential commodities. All these measures should not deflect our attention from financial or monitory policies which have a tremendous effect on the price situation.

Our first speaker Hon. Shri B. Bhagat referred to the increases in the amount of money i.e. M. I. He also referred to the deficits in the budgets. We have entered an era of large and increasing budget deficits. We have also begun to have large increase in the money supply. For the last many years, increase in money supply has been 13% to 15%. May I point out that economy always bring to our attention the quantity theory of money undoubtedly there is substatum of truth in it. There should be some relationship between the increase in money supply and increase in the quantity of goods and services.

Our production has been increasing by 5% every year and the money supply has been increasing at the rate of 15% per annum. There should be some balance between the two.

Financial provision has to be made for drought relief, to provide employment in order to keep up people's purchasing power. Care should be taken to see that durable assets are created through this expenditure to build up the capital base of the commodity. Care should also be taken to see that there is no wastage of resources and that the monitoring system is so geared as to prevent leakages. May I point out even under the Employment Guarantee Scheme there is lot of leakages to the tune of crores of rupees are taking place? If this situation can be improved and if we can also increase productivity in industry then it will be possible to prevent a price rise or reduce the potential increase.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while intervening in the debate on price rise Mr. H. K. L. Bhagat did not spell out with concrete steps Government have taken to contain the rise in prices of almost all essential commodities. The situation is indeed a grim situation. The prices of essential commodities especially foodgrains and vegetables have increased. This is what we apprehended when the Budget was presented for the year 1987-88. An uncovered deficit of about Rs. 6000 crores was kept in the budget. We expressed our apprehension that this huge amount of deficit would surely have an impact on prices and inflationary situation. This has come true.

The official figures for whole-sale price index which stood at 399.1 for the second week of July registered a rise of 0.6 per cent

and stood at 401. Now it is 408. There has been an increase of 5.9 per cent in the average index of primary articles during the first two months of current financial year. In January 1987 it stood at 379.6. In February it was reduced to 376.6. Again in March it increased to 378. In April it again increase to 380.6. In May it was 388.8 and in June it became 392. In July it stood at 401.5 and whereas now in August it is 408.05.

The all India average of consumer price index for industrial workers has also touched a new height. During May last it jumped by 12 points over the month of April. In April it was 691. It went up to 703 points in May. The increase in price of essential commodities indicates that the annual rate of inflation in consumer price index will be around 15% in 1987-88 which will be an all-time high.

Sir, if we say that the abnormal increase in the prices of essential commodities is due to drought or natural calamities like floods this year-it is rather unprecedented this year-it is not so. These are not the only factors which contribute to increase in prices of essential commodities. The Government tried to explain that this increase is seasonal. But it is not so. It is also a fact that when production increases, prices do not fall. Drought may be one of the reasons. Natural calamities may be one of the factors. After the presentation of budget, the increase in prices is due to the faulty policy of the Government. While intervening, he has not spelt out what concrete steps Government has taken or is now contemplating to contain the price rise. The prices of all essential commodities have already increased. Now sky is the limit. The Government is now considering to take some measures. He has not spelt out what measures he has taken. He said only that he has increased the number of fair price shops under the public distribution system.

Sir, the public distribution system exists in our country. No doubt it has to be strengthened. But merely by increasing the number of fair price shops, the rise in prices cannot be contained. We must consider the purchasing power of the people. After 40 years of Independence, 50 per cent of our population is still below the poverty line. The tribal people or the scheduled caste people cannot purchase the foodgrains which are supplied under the Integrated Tribal Development Project scheme because they have no purchasing power. The purchasing power has, therefore to be increased. But you cannot increase this purchasing power unless there is a flow of money in rural areas, unless there is proper implementation of the poverty alleviation programme in the rural areas. People have no work, specially the agricultural workers, the poorer section. They get work only for 100 days maximum in a year. So, you have to provide for work in the rural areas under the NREP, under RLEGP and under various poverty alleviation programmes. You have to revive food for work programme which was very much successful. Fifty per cent of the rural population are below the poverty line. They have no purchasing power. You have to think about them. How will they purchase foodgrains and other items from the public distribution system, from the fair price shops when they have no money? You have to increase the purchasing power of agricultural workers, the poorer section. Unless you do this, only increasing the number of fair price shops, having one fair price shop for every two thousand of population will not solve the problem.

You have not only to strengthen the public distribution system you have also to include other items. Why only wheat, rice or sugar? Why not other items also? In this House for the last several years, we have been demanding that fourteen essential commodities should be supplied through the fair price shops. These fourteen items include items like rice, wheat sugar, edible oil

[Sh. Basudeb Acharia]

clothes kerosene, coal etc. All these items are not available in every State. The Central Government should procure them and then supply to the States with subsidy. You are spending Rs. 2000 crores on food subsidy. Why can't we increase it to Rs. 2500 crores? This increase of Rs. 500 crores was estimated about 3-4 years back; it may be now Rs. 700 crores. That means, by spending Rs. 2700 crores, you can include fourteen essential items. These can be procured by the Central Government; it is only possible for the Central Government to procure them and then supply those items to the States. These fourteen items can be supplied at a cheaper and one uniform rate throughout India through fair price shops.

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

16.25 hrs.

You are spending Rs. 2000 crores already. If you spend Rs. 2700 crores, Rs. 700 crores more, sixty to sixty-two crores of population will be benefited and they will be able to get these items through he fair price shops.

There are a number of laws.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): On a point of order, Sir. Newspapers are being distributed in this House. It is not a proper method.

AN HON. MEMBER: These are not being distributed.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur): On a point of order. He is not in his seat.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: I am in my seat.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: There are a number of laws and in the last session, this House passed unanimously and we all supported the Consumer Protection Bill. The rules have been framed and we are told that the same have been laid on the Table of the House. But will these laws be able to contain and control the prices, the spurt in prices? I doubt, Sir. What is necessary is the political will to implement those laws. The Finance Minister will tell this House how many black-marketeers, hoarders have been punished.

You have got a bufferstock of 23 millio tonnes of foodgrains, but for what purpo You are maintaining such a huge amou bufferstock. Four hundred scheduled t of Kalahandi and Korapur died of starva What is the use of our maintaining the buf stock? (*Interruptions*). I personally visite that place. I went there. I went village after village. I saw the condition of the people.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): That is not correct..... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): It is politically motivated..... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No interruptions. Only Shri Acharia will speak; nobody else is allowed.

(*Interruptions*)**

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I went to village after village. I saw the condition of the people myself.... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please wind

** Not recorded

up.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Mr. Acharia, you please conclude.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Land reforms have not been implemented in the State of Orissa even after 40 years of Independence.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request the members to take their? seats. What is this? is everybody shouting like that? Mr. ria, you please wind up. Time is over.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Shall I the permission to continue later ise?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No please. Nothing doing. Time is over.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: They disturbed me Sir. If the time is over, I can continue later.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. You cannot continue even later. I have to give a chance to so many other members as well. In the beginning itself I asked you. You replied at that time, that you would complete by 4.30. You should have finished. I cannot allow you.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I will take just five minutes Sir. I was disturbed by them. My time has been wasted by them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So many members keep on disturbing. On that, plea, I cannot go on giving more time to every member.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat now. You are not going to continue. That is all.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record. Please take your seats.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is it?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What I was concluding, I was disturbed by those members. My time was wasted. So, you allow me to continue later or give me just five minutes. I will complete my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. We will take up193 discussion. Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I will complete in 5 minutes. Sir I hope Prof. Dandavate does not mind it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. Afterwards he would say that the discussion was scheduled to be started at 4.30 but it was delayed and so on.

MR. BASUDEB ACHARIA: Then I will continue later.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No please. There are many members who are yet to speak. That is why I am telling you.

(*Interruptions*)

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* Not recorded

16.33 hrs.

DISCUSSION *RE*: ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHIEF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR OF SWEDEN REGARDING INQUIRY INTO THE ALLEGED BRIBES PAID BY BOFORS IN THE HOWITZER DEAL

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Sir, I am on a point of order?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: The rules of this House are being infringed upon. The rules of this House are infringed upon if the discussion under 193 raised by Prof. Madhu Dandavate is going to be allowed. Sir, I invite your attention to the rules of this House with regards to Committees. (*Interruptions*) So, Sir when this matter has been referred to a Joint Committee and only after the Report has been received and is placed on the Table of the House, there can be a discussion on this issue and not otherwise. That is the general rule of the Parliamentary Committees.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Which rule?

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Please read Rule 253 onwards. You also read Rule 268. It says: "all persons other than members of the Committee and officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat shall withdraw whenever the Committee is deliberating." The Committee had been elected. There are Members of the Committee who are sitting in this House and this matter is being taken up. Do you think that the elected Members of this Committee will take part in this discussion? When there is already a Committee, as per rules, under this Chapter, this can be discused only after the report of the Committees is placed on the Table of the House.

Then coming to Rule 193, it says: "any member desirous of raising discussion on a matter of urgent public importance may give notice in writing to the Secretary-General specifying clearly and precisely the matter to be raised.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him finish his point of order. I will give my ruling. Why are you in a hurry?

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: This matter had been discussed in the House more than once. Even you yourself.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Take your seat. I want to give my ruling.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Sir, I am submitting. You please hear me. This is a very serious matter. I am asking you whether after the Committee is elected, the same matter can be discussed in the House, under Rule 193? By doing this you are creating a precedent. It will be quoted later. This is not a small matter. So, I want a ruling from you that a Committee having been elected, whether the same matter or the issue connected with that matter can be discussed in the House under Rule 193? It is a very serious matter. According to me, it cannot be discussed because it infringes the rule of the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar): Sir, you will kindly note what has been admitted by the Speaker after issuing the business paper cannot be ques-

tioned by any Member.....

(Int*erruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please take your seat. First let me dispose of this matter.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Azad, after the constitution of Committee had tabled a Motion under Rule 184 and got it adopted without discussion.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I will give my ruling. I want to inform the House and the hon. Member also that the Committee has not yet been constituted because the election is not completely over. We have not finalised the Chairman. After finalising the Chairman, the Committee will be announced. That is one point.

The second point is that the Business Advisory Committee has accepted this and thereafter if was adopted by this House. Therefore we cannot stop it. That is my ruling.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: I cannot question your ruling. The Members of this House have been elected. But I said, the ruling is subject to review.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Result has not yet come. That has not been announced till now in the House.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Okay, but with due respect to your ruling it is subject to review.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order? Let me finish all the points of order, first.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): All right, you finish off everything!

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: I welcome the discussion on the subject. But the fact remains about the admissibility under Rule 193.

The question remains about the admissibility, under Rule 193. (*Interruptions*) Under rule 193, the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker have no authority to violate the rules. Only the House has got the authority. I am quoting proviso to rule 194:

> "Provided that if an early opportunity is otherwise available for the discussion of the matter the Speaker may refuse to admit the notice."

So, the early opportunity was available. My submission would be that the only course open to us is to suspend this provision, and then start the discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. As you are saying, the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is not supreme. I accept that. Either the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is not supreme enough to do any-thing. (*Interruptions*)

Listen to me. That rule is there. Already, the Business Advisory Committee has also placed it before the House, which is more supreme than the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker; and the House has already accepted it. What can I do? Therefore, the House is supreme. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: My submission would be that this is specifically what I want.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This has already been accepted. At that time, you could have objected; not now. That is all. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: All right; you go through the record: how many times you did it.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You could have objected at that time. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar): The only submission that I have to make is that you have to consider the rules, and the importance of setting a precedent in this House. This subject has been discussed *ad nauseam*. This is the fifth time that we are discussing this matter; and for the future, you are opening the flood gates. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not discussing my ruling. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: I do not know whether the hornet's nest has been disturbed. We are discussing this issue for the fifth time. You know it, Sir. There is the other consideration. (*Interruptions*) In the same Session, no topic, however important it may be, can be discussed more than once; and that has not been adhered to. Therefore, I think there is a clear-cut policy or rule, and we are setting a very bad precedent. (*Interruptions*) It will be resorted to time and again by anybody who wants to tarry on on a certain issue, and take political advantage of this. Therefore, this is a very material issue, and I urge you to seriously think over it, because when there is a specific rule, and that rule.....(*Interruptions*)

I am only asking you to reconsider it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give a ruling for Mr. Tewary also. Don't worry. He is not challenging my ruling. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: Every time there is this plea which they take...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Tewary, please take your seat.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: If you have to run the House according to the rules, I think the rules should not be violated, and no unhealthy precedents should be set in this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are not at all violating any rules. We are always following the rules and regulations perfectly. Also, in this discussion, the rule is not violated because this is not the same subject. This is about a different development. We are discussing only the announcement of this Public Prosecutor of Sweden. It is a new development. We have never discussed it. Therefore, it does not violate the rule. So, Mr. Tewary, please take your seat.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: There is nothing new. No new subject has come.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Every time they will collect something.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But this aspect is somewhat different.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: It is not the question. In fact, the matter has been referred to a Committee. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Prof. Madhu Dandavate. The time allotted is two hours. I request Members to be very brief, and give whatever points they want to make, because there are many other subjects which we have to discuss.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): How can we finish in two hours?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is there. But if the House decides other-wise, it is an entirely different matter. I am speaking about what was decided earlier. Please try to be very brief, and try to come to the point.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, despite many manipulations in the past to see that the motion that I had proposed in different forms was tried to be sidetracked and discussion evaded.....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: This is not correct.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Don't start right from the beginning, You will have enough opportunities in the course of my speech to intervene. (*Interruptions*) Despite that because of the ingenuity of the rules of procedure of the Business Advisory Lok Sabha and also the determination and vigilance of the opposition and the consideration of the Committee followed by the consideration of the House in adopting the BAC's Report, I have been able to have this opportunity for discussion on the subject. I rise to initiate the discussion on the announcement by the Chief Public Prosecutor of Sweden regarding enquiry into the alleged bribe paid by Bofors in the Howitzer deal.

It is in the fitness of things that one particular criticism that has been voiced against us in this House and outside, I, should take cognisance of it is a cardinal point that has become extremely crucial in the discussion of the entire subject. After the announcement of the Chief Public Prosecutor of Sweden regarding the enquiry to be taken up in the Bofors, a question was posed to the opposition; is it in keeping with the dignity of this Parliament and the dignity of this country that we should seek the assistance of an agency outside the country to investigate into the matter. As a Member of Parliament, I consider myself accountable to this House. Even a veteran like Prof. Ranga had doubt about our respect for the nation's prestige and about patriotism. I consider myself answerable to a verteran like Prof. Ranga, who is the founding father of our Indian Constitution. In that spirit, I would like to raise certain points.

Much is made of the fact that when we have an investigating machinery in our country the investigating agency in our country. Is it patriotic and in consonance with the dignity and the prestige of our land that we should seek the assistance of a foreign agency, and request them.....(*Interruptions*) I would like to put the record straight. Some points were already raised; but sometimes the public memory is very short and therefore I must try to narrate four or five points.

As early as in 1975, you may recall that when Maharani Gayatri Devi had gone to the United States of America and the diamond jewellery was stolen. Mrs. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. Mrs. Gayatri Devi lodged a complaint; and with the consent of the Prime Minister, a foreign agency was engaged, hired to detect this theft of the jewellery; and the same agency was asked to go into the assets of Gayatri Devi. That was not the agency from India. It was the foreign agency engaged by the Government.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT (Arrah): Engaged by whom?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Naturally by the government; your government. In that hectic period of emergency you were the Speaker. So, you must remember it very well.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has held so many offices; he has forgotten.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Then there is a statement by Shri Bhure Lal before the Thakkar Commission as the Director of the Directorate of Enforcement that he was compelled to hire Fairfax agency because he has no separate agency of investigation abroad. Earlier Shri Vedhvan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance had gone abroad and reported that no investigation was possible on our own. I would like to point out to you a third important instance. The appointment of a foreign agency, in principle, was approved by the Prime Minister on two or three occasions, when Bhure Lal saw him and when Shri V.P. Singh saw him.

Fourth: There has been a confession by the Directorate of Enforcement that "we have no means of investigations abroad and therefore we have dropped the German Submarine deal investigations."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Professor, why do you....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, this has appeared in the Press.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever you are stating, how is it connected to this?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is connected. I am trying to reply, whether foreign agencies can be utilised. Let me develop my own arguments. You may differ, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, but there is a logic. I am trying to put forward an argument by giving instances that hiring a foreign agency for a proper purpose is in keeping with the dignity of this country and there is nothing unpatriotic in that.

The details about Ajitabh Bachchan's apartment in Switzerland were found out by a private detective agency in Geneva.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Listen to me. When you are bringing certain names here....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I beg of you not to disturb my line of thinking. My line of thinking is, it is not against the dignity of the country and the patriotism in seeking investigation by foreign agencies.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is up to you. You can have your own way of bringing your point. I have no objection. But then if you are bringing in names of certain persons who are not in the House and if you make any allegations that I will not allow to go on record. I want to make it clear.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I have not made any defamatory remarks. I have only stated a fact that the agency was employed.

Again, when General Vaidya died at Pune, the investigation of the murder was handed over to a foreign agency.

In Charles Shobhraj's case, who was in the Tihar jail, an international smuggler involved in corruptions and collusions, Interpol's cooperation was taken to investigate.

You will be surprised that as far as the Bofor's problem is concerned, I have with me a copy of the Swedish report. The Indian Government requested the Swedish Government to investigate the details about the Bofor's episode, etc. And today only, the despatch from Stockholm has confirmed that. Therefore, it is my submission in the context of our welcoming a Chief Public Prosecutor's inquiry in Sweden, that it is perfectly in order, it is consistent with our patriotic intentions and it is consistent with the dignity and honour of the country, that whenever it is in the interest of the country, in the interest of carrying out the investiga-

tions and in the interest of the security, it is perfectly in order to utilise any foreign agency. The Stockholm despatch of August 25, 1987 states:

> "The Swedish Prime Minister, Mr. Ingvar Carlsson, has been under strong Indian pressure to investigate allegations that Bofors bribed Indian officials to win the Howitzer gun contract in February, 1986."

I would like to urge that we are more interested in loss to our exchequer and whether bribes are received by Indian officials and politicians or whether they are received by non-Indian relatives either of politicians or officials, we are just not concerned about it. And, therefore, we will insist that when this inquiry is being conducted in Sweden, let there be no distinction at all, between the Indian officials and their relatives who are non-Indians and Indian politicians and their relatives who are non-Indians, we are not concerned about it. We are concerned about the threat to the nation's security caused by corruption in Defence deals.

The Swedish Foreign Minister, Mr. Anderson has also suggested that a citizen's commission also probing the deal be permitted to scrutinise documents normally kept confidential for state security business secrecy and not available.

Sir, I welcome the statement and I hope in the light of that without bringing into the question, the matters like business secrecy or the question of nation security, the matters will be gone through.

In this very House whenever the question of enquiries were raised and especially when the enquiry is directed, towards finding the truth about the acts of corruption and skeletons of corruption and it is sought to be done by some agency outside the country, there has been often a talk of destabilisation. I do not want to dwell on this in detail. But I want to remind this House once again about it.

Sir, it is corruption that destroys the democratic fibre of the country a nd it is corruption that destroys the stability of the country. The fight against corruption never destroys the stability of the State, it never destroys the stability of the system, it never destroys the democratic fibre of the country.

I mention in this House that in the famours Lockheed scandal in Japan, the Prime Minister of Japan was involved. It was established that he was responsible for the scandal. But, even then the Japanese system did not become unstable. No less a person than President Nixon was involved in the Watergate scandal. Ultimately, when the Members of his party threatened that he will be subjected to impeachment, they were not at all alleged that they are contributing to the process of destabilisation. Similarly, here whenever we demand enquiry into corruption in high places either by an agency inside the country or by an agency outside the country, it should never be taken as encouragement to the process of destabilisation. On the contrary if all corruptions and scandals are unearthed and skeletons are taken out, in that case, the democratic fibre of the Indian democracy will not be destroyed, it will be strengthened. That is our contention.

Sir, as far as the probe by the Chief Public Prosecutor of Sweden is concerned, the question is posed that when the Parliamentary probe has already been set up by our Parliament, what is the propriety of having this?

The nationals of Sweden can be summoned only by the Swedish Government. It is absolutely clear. When the Bofors are

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involved, just as some persons in India might be involved in the corruption and in the scandals, some nationals of Sweden might be involved. Some others might also be involved. When our Parliamentary probe goes into the matter, can we bring them to book? Our Joint Parliamentary Committee may go ahead with this work. I wish them good luck. But at the same time, if there are foreign nationals in Sweden who are quality of collusion with the Indian Officials and Indian politicians and they are they are guilty of having perpetrated a fraud-in that case, it is very necessary that they should be investigated by an agency which has the right to summon them, which has the right to bring them to book and they should be within the jurisdiction of the laws of the country, in which they might have committed the crime. This is an important aspect.

There is a precedent of pre-trial enquiry about Bofors itself and that is in Singapore. Sir, pre-trial enquiry had taken place and there again, Bofors were involved. Bofors seem to be very famours for the international frauds and here they are involved in India today. There, they were involved in Singapore.

As far as the question, "why not the Parliamentary Joint probe and why do you insist that this probe will be able to give a successful result? is concerned. We have made our position absolutely clear. We did not emphasise in our letter to the Prime Minister so much on chairmanship of the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the composition of the Committee, but mainly the powers of the Committee. I any repeat, when you pose the question to us that," when the Parliamentary probe is already set-up, why do we want the Chief Public Prosecutor to go into the problem" we had demanded four important powers for the Parliamentary Committee.

17.00 hrs.

(1) That Committee should have the power to go into all decisions and policies regarding the defence procurement and storage ever since 1980 because we are repeatedly told that the decision not to have..(*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Why not 1977?

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the rationale for that?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I give the rationale. Since this Government has said that they were concerned about Bofors and one of the former Ministers got up in this House and pointed out that in 1980 when he was the Minister, he remembered that the decision was taken that there should be no middlemen. And if the decision was taken in 1980, it is a logical corollary that in the context of this they should be examined.

(2) There should be the power to summon the Ministers. (3) There should be power to go into the German submarine deal. Lastly, the foreign nationals may or may not come but those who desire to appear before the Committee, this Committee should have the power to hear the evidence. These are the four minimum terms and powers that we had mentioned. Unfortunately, even in the parliamentary probe there seems to be an impropriety. A member who is likely to be the Chairman of this parliamentary committee, he was a member of the Cabinet.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How can you say "likely"? What is the guarantee that the former Cabinet Minister is going to be appointed as Chairman of the Committee? Do not bring it unnecessarily..... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I accept your ruling. I correct my statement. My suggestion is that while putting any person as the Chairman of this Committee, he must not be a member of the Cabinet at a time when these decisions regarding defence were taken.....(*Interruptions*) Therefore, whoever be elected-it is my humble suggestion to the Government that they should try to avoid the impropriety. I am hundred per cent sure and I agree with you that they are not likely to commit that impropriety. They always respect propriety. I do not think that they are likely to commit that impropriety. But it is a friendly advice that I would like to give.

I would like to say something about two documents. The letter of denial of allegations from Bofors was read before Parliament. And a lot is made out of that. They said that they have not give the commission. They have flatly denied the charges that are being investigated. And it is thrown our face that the Bofors themselves had already sent you a letter and it was read in Parliament that we are not responsible for this. I would like to point out through you to this House the tradition of Bofors. The Prime Minister had already handed over to us the copy of the Swedish National Audit Bureau report. In that very report they have pointed out that Bofors have already told the National Audit Bureau that no agreement existed regarding the payment of commission and they did not make the payment of commission. They have made that statement. After that, the same National Audit Bureau which investigated the entire matter, in the concluding paragraph, came to the conclusion that, on the basis of the evidence, our inference is that there exists an agreement about the payment of commission by Bofors to dot dot dot. Only those dots are to be deciphered. So, if the National Audit Bureau could not accept the bonafides of Bofors, I think Indian Parliament need not be over enthusiastic to accept the bonafides of Bofors only because the letter of Bofors has been read on the floor of the Parliament. Have we not forgotten that even in the House of Commons in U.K. a very prominent personality holding Defence portfolio had made a statement and for having misled the Parliament he had to tender resignation from the post that he had held. So, remember that the Ministers sometimes have also misled the Parliament, - in House of Commons they have done it - It is quite likely that the Bofors had sent the letter which need not be correct, and I say it on the basis of evidence given by the National Audit Bureau that they themselves rejected the denial of Bofors that they had indulged in the payment of the commission..... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): If a Member misleads the House?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If a Member misleads the House, he has to give regrets to the House.

S. BUTA SINGH: He can go away with the apology only.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I would like to refer to another important document, the most counter-productive document. The Prime Minister made a statement in this very House and many Members welcomed it. He made it clear and said: "I want to make it explicitLy clear that I am not at all involved in this Bofors scandal. I am not personally involved, my family members are not involved." So, we respect everybody's words. He has made that statement on the floor of the House. But I feel that it was a very counter-productive statement in the sense that he has only clarified about his family and family, according to our accepted connotation would be oneself, one's wife and one's children. That is supposed to be a family. But

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when these statements are made, what happens about others close to them? What about the colleagues, what about the officers, what about the politicians and what about the distant relatives? They do not fall into the category of family.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Vasudhev Kutumbakam.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT): Sir, Prof. Dandavate should listen to Mr. Unnikrishnan. He says '*Vasudev Kutumbakam*'. Is that what he is saying?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Yes, that is exactly what I said.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Does that include Tewary also?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I am thankful to Shri K.C. Pant because though in the college I was a student of nuclear physics, in the school days I was a student of Sanskrit also. So, I follow what is meant by '*Vasudev Kutumbakam*'. I have taken note of that. Therefore, I feell that..... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, when he says 'distant relatives', territorialy or otherwise?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There are many Members of the Parliament cutting across party who. They feel very much embarrassed by this statement. They say that he has only given a clean certificate to himself and his family but what about other relatives and what about friends and what about those who publicly said in the statement that they have always stood by the Prime Minister.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): That is why the probe committee was appointed by the House and these friends refused to cooperate with it. What sort of logic are they following!

AN HON. MEMBER: Scheme.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I have only heard the last word word 'shame'. I am very sorry that I have said something which is a matter of shame for Prof. Ranga.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, he wants your cooperation in the Parliamentary committee. That is what he has said.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: All right, Sir. I am happy that the new Minister for Defence, Shri K.C. Pant is here. He is the present Defence Minister..... (*Inierruptions*). Sir, I did not mean anything derogatory Unfortunately my colleagues in the Opposition are making insinuations. I have only stated the fact that the present Defence Minister is here ..... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Try to be brief. Already you have taken 25 minutes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am initiating the discussion, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: But there are others also who want to speak.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In this very House on 20th April, 1987. I need not read out the whole thing because in one of the notices I have given that.

Defence Minister, Shri K.C. Pant made a statement. He flatly denied those allegations made on the Swedish Radio regarding commissions, payment of commissions, etc. and all the allied problems. But, after that the Swedish National Bureau's Report has

clearly established that these are the things that are already there and, therefore, I think he has tried to mislead the House. Of course, to-day he will speak again and correct himself. I know Shri K.C. Pant-whenever he commits a mistake he is always prepared to rectify. It is very likely that he will change the statement.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Unlike you. That is the whole problem.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: Otherwise, you would have joined the Parliamentary Committee even now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Only the concept of what is right and what is wrong, that is the difference. That is all right.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: You make him the Chairman.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Very often, we talk about the names.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not waste time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Very often there is discussion about the names. Some of our colleagues said, give us the names. At least one name has been discussed all over the world and commonly accepted by Members on both the sides of this House. For instance, Chadha's name has been mentioned. As far as.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you cast any aspersion, I will expunge.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Within the frame work of what the Prime Minister said, I will take up this issue. As far as Chadha is concerned, the Prime Minister, unfortunately, tried to misguide the House on Bofors agreement with Chadha "Bofors agreement with Chadha". "Bofors" is not defamatory; "agreement" is not defamatory; and "Chadha" is not defamatory. I am referring to Bofors agreement with Chadha. The Prime Minister and the Government misguided the people. (*Interruptions*)

I cannot misguide you. You are already misguided. (*Interruptions*)

P.M. said "There were no middlemen at the point of signing the contract".

There is reference to Bofors agreement with Chadha. Agreement with Chadha was signed on January 3, 1986. Agreement was signed, there is nothing defamatory. Agreement would be valid upto 31st December, 1990. So, this particular statement and clarification - that is offered by the Prime Minister, to my mind appears very misleading.

I would like to point out to some industrialists without making any defamatory remark. The basis is one of the printed documents which are available. I have with me the House Book of Greeves Cotton 1985-86. I would like to tell you that Shri L. M. Thapar is the Chairman of Greeves Cotton-nothing defamatory. He is the concessional distributor for 'Saab-Scania AB' which supplied tow trucks for the Bofors 155 mm FH-77B Howitzer according to the inhouse booklet of the Greeves group of companies. Photostat copy if he requires, I am prepared to give. I will not give him the original copy.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: Give it to the Committee.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: That is available. In fact it must be with you. Probably, you also can give it to me.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: They are agents for 'Saab-Scania'.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: That is what I say.

Saab-Scania has been sub-contracted by Bofors to manufacture tow trucks. Thapar through his company Greeves Cotton, is the biggest arms dealer. That is nothing defamatory. According to company official book, Greaves Cotton represent 42 Defence manufactures as their distributors. According to informed sources, over the last 4 years, Rs. 14,000 crores worth Defence equipment were bought and 75% of these involved were transacted through Mr. L. M. Thapar. The Chairman of Greaves Cotton, Mr. Thapar has direct access to persons in high places. To have access is not defamatory.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You go on saying, it is not defamatory.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am sorry, I withdraw my statement with retrospective effect.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you go on telling "not defamatory", "not defamatory", it creates suspicion in me whether it is defamatory.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Instead of telling "not defamatory", Shall I say, it is defamatory?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Don't use the word "defamatory or "not defamatory". Why are you going on telling "defamatory" or "not defamatory"?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: CBI was tipped off by the Economic Intelligence Bureau and in the raid on Thapar in March, 1987, documents about Bofors deal were found. I would like them to lay them on the Table of the House.

Thapar is the link through whom Bofors pay-offs were paid in Swiss Bank account. I would like to know whether that is a statement of fact. It is because this is the news that has appeared in the economic journals. I would like to ascertain that.

The two trucks brought by Bofors from Saab-Scania were over-valued-by how much amount-by more than Rs. 100 crores and the balance of the excess amount was siphoned off by Mr. L. M. Thapar. I would like the Minister to make an inquiry into it. Even if he hands it over to the Joint Parliamentary Committee, I do not mind. (*Interruptions*)

Now, there is an interesting fact. Thapar was arrested and released on bail, despite his own pleading guilty to 15 of the 18 charges made by the Enforcement Directorate. The cases seem to be shelved. I would like to know what are the facts. Since he is connected with the deals with which Bofors is connected, I would like the Minister to go through all these matters and make necessary statement on the floor of the House.

I would like to say a word about Bofors delegation. The delegation of Bofors to be

sent to India is a very interesting phenomenon. The Bofors first refused to reveal the names on the basis of "customer confidentiality". On June 11, the Nobel Industry, i.e. parent organisation argued that India is a customer. Therefore, where is the question of "customer confidentiality"? On June 27, Bofors argued that those who accepted commission did not want their names to be revealed. Is it to be called "customer confidentiality"? Those who take bribes, will they ever tell Bofors, Yes, you can announce from the house tops that we are guilty and we are the people who have swallowed bribe. They will never say it. After return from a foreign tour, the Prime Minister rejected the idea of delegation, saying, "We do not want to meet the delegation". But when there was a loto-fluterall theo thecountry-when Bofors are saying that they are prepared to send a delegation, why is it that the Prime Minister is rejecting a delegation coming to India? Against this background, he draws a very fine and subtle distinction. He said, they need not meet me. They need not meet the Government. But meet the Joint Parliamentary Committee which will be set up. That is, he tried to explain away his initial lapse. It does not matter. Even if the lapse ultimately is corrected, and the correct position is taken. I have no objection to that.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Will you join the Committee then?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Forget us. You have such competent men on the committee, they can go ahead with that.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I thought, you were correcting.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: No, no. Already you are in search of a very fine Chairman and other things. You can go ahead with the committee.

AN HON. MEMBER: We will carry on for years.....

PROF. MADHU DANDVATE: Of course, you have the capacity to carry on the same thing for years together.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Professor within 5 minutes, you try to finish it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: They have given an admission that they will carry on for years to come. That is all.

A word about the credibility of the Bofors. What is the type of organisation with which we have entered into a deal? Forget all the laws about our country. But what about the Swedish laws? What about the Swedish guidelines? As far as the Swedish Government is concerned, they had blacklisted certain countries and warned all the exporters of arms, that arms should not be sent to those blacklisted countries. There was a reference to Middle-East, Iran and South Africa. But, to all these blacklisted countes, Bofors were able to send clandestinely all these arms.

In addition to that, there was some sort of a collusion in France and in that case, which involved France and Singapore, pretrial inquiry and already started. That itself shows and indicates what is the type of company with which you are trying to have an arrangement as far as business deal is concerned.

More than that, I do not want to say anything by which India's security will be harmed. I hope that the guns that have been provided are not sub-standard guns. Of course, we have a phenomenon in which we have contract with one country regarding guns and contract with someone else about ammunition.

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Sometimes the complaint is about both. Repeatedly, the newspaper reports have appeared that some of the experts in our army and defence forces have said that the ammunition that we are securing for these guns in sub-standard and some journals have said that even the guns are sub-standard. I hope that this is false.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: You said sub-standard guns. Without firing, the Government has taken them. Still you say that this is sub-standard gun. I think it is the most powerful gun.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No Member of the Committee should take part.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Not only the corruption in defence deals is a threat to the country's security but even the substandard quality of the guns is a threat.

I do not want to say anything by which out defence forces will be demoralised.

SHRI K. C. PANT: But you have. I thought you would be more responsible about it. But you have said.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I have only said that I hope that I will be proved wrong. And, therefore, let them go into this problem and let us assure this House that all this news that is coming about sub-standard quality is wrong, and as far as the quality of the guns and ammunition is concerned, the Government should assure us that the security and defence of the country are not at all in danger.

All those problems that are placed before you make it explicitly clear that there are skeletons in the cupboard. The parliamentary probe might be able to dig out some of them. The Chief Public Prosecutors from Sweden might be able to discover certain skeletons. The Citizen Commission might be able to do that. But as far as this country is concerned, you go from one corner of the country to another and whatever you may say on the floor of the parliament and whatever the statement the Prime Minister may issue as far as the common man is concerned, he feels that there are certain skeletons which the Government are hiding as far as Bofors deal is concerned and that is why the credibility of the Government has been eroded. The credibility of the Government has been eroded not only on grounds of other issues like communalism, terrorism and unemployment etc. but even on the question of corruption in high places. This Government must seek the fresh mandate of the people.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Now the cat is out of the bag.

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Shillong): A lot of red herring has been drawn across this House back and forth so many times. Red herring has been drawn across the other House. Red herring has been drawn across the country over this question of the Bofors deal. It is true how much red-herrings have been drawn across the country so that it is time that we have a good quiet, intelligent exchanges over these questions especiallly on the eve of the constitution, a formal constitution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. As you have said, Sir, once the Joint Parliamentary Committee has been duly appointed and has taken on it the job, it is necessary for us to restrain ourselves and await the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

The first thing I would say is that I am sorry that most of the arguments of my good friend Mr. Dandavate are based on wrong premise and on wrong information. I would like to submit that our Government has never

asked the Chief Prosecutor in Sweden to go into this question. Our communication right through has been between our Government and the Swedish Government. What the Swedish Government does in its own country, how it goes about it, is the business of the Swedish Government and I do not understand why he spends so much of his time and energy in trying to establish that there was nothing wrong for the Government to appoint a foreign agency to go into any particular question. I do not see any relation between the two.

Secondly, I would like to point out to him that this so called Chief Prosecutor of Sweden.....

AN HON. MEMBER: So called Chief Prosecutor?

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Because, he is not the Chief Prosecutors of Sweden. He is the Chief Prosecutor of a District of Stockholm.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: District means a State there.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Above him, there is another Officer called the Prosecutor-General.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How do you know?

SHRI G. G. SWELL: We make some study. Unlike you, we make some study.... (*Interruptions*) I would request my friends on this side to allow me to proceed further.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are not very sure of you.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, he is yielding. I am just telling something because.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. He is not yielding.....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: I am not yielding.....(*Interruptions*) I am trying to fill the gap in your information. All right? (*Interruptions*). Thirdly, Sir, under the Swedish set up, although the prosecutor or the Chief Prosecutor or the Prosecutor-General is appointed by the Government, once he is appointed, he is on his own. He can take his own decision. If you have seen from the Statement of this Chief Prosecutor of Stockholm, where according to my friend Mr. Unnikrishnan, the alleged crime was committed, he has said on the evidence and the documents that he has received, he says that there was a case for investigation.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is it an established crime?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: That is where you are jumping the gun. That is where you are weakening your case. You are so prejudiced. Therefore, I can accuse you now that you are the people who are drawing the red-herrings.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Are you saying the Audit Bureau was also wrong?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: I am not saying that. I am not coming to that. That is why I was saying that are you jumping the gun.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: It is a matter of common-sense.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Your prejudices and your wishful thinking are running away with you. This is the problem.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Running away with me who has had the last laugh.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: All right.

I would start the argument with my friend, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, himself....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why are you abusing him?

SHRI G. G. SWELL: I am not abusing him.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He caN. I have no objection.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: He is a senior Member of this House. He knows very well that I have very great personal esteem for him and I would point the finger to him, to you and to Mr. Unnikrishnan and say, "Your are the spice of the proceedings in this House; without you, in this House, I do not know what we shall discuss". Therefore, I have very great respect for him. He is a senior Member, not only a senior Member, a knowledgeable Member, a very energetic Member, but had also had the occasion to sit in the treasury benches. Now, I would ask him this question. Is he proud of himself or does he feel ashamed of himself.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am humble about myself.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: ..... when as a Member of this House, as a senior Member of this House, he and his colleagues made a beeline to the Swedish Embassy here and paid court to a mere Minister-Counsellor of the Swedish Embassy.....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: They are saying 'shame'.....(*Interruptions*) Should an Indian feel proud when kickback are received from foreign companies ..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. Mr. Swell, please continue.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Let me go on. Please think coolly about your decision and my decision. You examine that coolly.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We were bothered about the country.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Please all me. Sir, 70 Members.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. Mr. Swell, please continue.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am on a point of order. I would like to draw your attention to the consistent non-human misconduct on the part of a particular hon. Member who is so distinguished that I cannot name...(*Interruptions*) I do not know his name, Sir....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I request the hon. Member to be calm. Please be calm. Do

not make noise unnecessarily and disturb the hon. Member speaking.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You should take care....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will take care. Mr. Swell, please continue.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: I hope all these interruptions do not take away my time. Please consider that.

70 hon. Members of this House-the papers published their pictures-went to the Swedish Embasy, met a Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy-I was told the Ambassador was not there-who was the rank of a mere Deputy secretary or Joint Secretary, you go to pay court to him on a matter on which this Hon. House is the supreme authority of the country are seized. You choose to go and make your appeal to a representative of another country. (*Interruptions*) Is this an action of which any Hon. Member can be proud of? Is this an action of which this House can be proud of? Is this the say, I would not do myself.....

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: When many people came to you and treated you as a link between the Prime Minister of India and the country, you never objected and they never felt humiliated in meeting you.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Going and meeting a person for a discussion.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him say. Later on if you have any objection you can say.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Let me explain. Professor Tewary happens to be here. These things are not on par. A very high profiled group of Members of Parliament went there and they went with some kind of representation.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please order.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: You are the first person who went and visited and met Ambassadors....(*Interruptions*) I can prove Mr. Unni Krishnan's connections with different embassies..... (*Interruptions*). On the Floor of the House, I am prepared to prove his connections with foreign embassies.....(*Interruptions*) He becomes the spokesman sometimes of bourse which are contrary to the national interest. I am prepared to prove it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Listen to me.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: You are very vulnerable Mr. Unni Krishnan I am prepared to prove it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request not to accuse each other. Don't bring any accusations. Let Mr. Swell speak. Don't interfere.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: You please allow the discussion on CIA which we have asked for. We will prove it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: As far as the allegations made by Mr. K. K. Tewary are concerned, nobody will misunderstand.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: I am not interested in personal exchanges, I am not interested in personal visits made by a Member of Parliament or anybody. He is free to meet anybody and to do anything he wants. But this is a special team of Members of Parliament, a hundred of them, going to the Swedish Embassy and through the Swedish Embassy transmitting a message to the Swedish Government. (*Interruptions*)..... I put a question. Does it not come to the same thing that on a matter that this House is seized of, some Hon. Members have chosen to make an appeal to a foreign Government?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: That is what you did. That is what your Government did.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: I make a distinction, Sir. There is a legally constituted Government in this country. It is a normal thing that one legally constituted Government corresponds with another legally constituted Government. If you have a problem, this House is to decide. If you have a problem, the Government legally constituted in this country is the authority to deal with that question: it is not some foreign Government.

I won't go to the extent of saying that this is anti-national; but at least this goes against the prestige and the honour of this country.....(*Interruptions*).

I would like to congratulate Mr. Indrajit Gupta, I would like to congratulate my good friend Mr. Somnath Chatterjee and I would like to congratulate my good friend Mr. Madhu Dandavate that they are now having second thoughts about sending a delegation to Sweden itself.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There is no question of reconsideration because there was no consideration at all.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: If you speak with some authority that the idea of sending a delegation to Stockholm has been given up, I take it and I congratulate you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It has been made clear that it is not an Opposition parties delegation. If some individuals have to go, they will go.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: I accept the qualification; but still the matter remains that some Hon. Members in the opposition are still thinking of going to Stockholm.

You must have read in this morning's paper what the Foreign Minister of Sweden has said in an article which was published in the Stockholm Daily. In that he has said that there has to be public washing of dirty linen. Now when these friends go out of India to wash the dirty linen in Stockholm who is going to.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Their suggestion is that we should join the Parliamentary Committee probe.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We agree that there is dirty linen to be washed.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Sir, I am sorry I have to speak on these terms and in this tone. Normally I do not do it. But I say so much confusion, so much of prejudice has been created, so much of dis-information has been spread in this country over this question that I feel it is necessary to meet my friends in the Opposition head-on over this question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We do not mind head-on but let there be no kick-

back.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: In karate if you get a kickback you are finished.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That is going to happen to you.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: All right. Now let us come to more substantive questions. (*Interruptions*) Actually I begin my real speech now. The pith and kernel of the Opposition charges against the Government is that the Government has been prevaricating over this question, that the Government has been trying to stonewall this question. That the Government has many things to hide and so on and so forth. Sir, I think, we have to go into the sequence of events.

Let us go into the sequence of events and see whether during this short period between April and August Government has done anything or has not done everything to get to the root of this matter. Whatever has happened is it because of the initiative taken by the Government or is it because of others. I will give a short recital of these sequences. The whole question burst into this House and into this country on April 17 when certain broadcast was made by the Swedish radio.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: What is the broadcast?

SHRI G. G. SWELL: You know what is the broadcast. Immediately the Government came to know about it, it came before this House on April 20- the earliest opportunity- to make a statement. Simultaneously the Government asked our Ambassador in Stockholm to find out the facts; to ascertain the facts both from Bofors and from the Swedish radio. As a result of the efforts made the Bofors company wrote to our Ambassador in Stockholm on April 24 when it made certain statements. On the basis of this our Government asked the Swedish government to find out the facts.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Why was the document provided by Bofors on the 24th April not made public?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: The contents are known.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Let the Minister answer this single question. If he can answer this question I will resign.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is there he will answer. Why are you so agitated? Please take your seat.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Why the Government kept away the document of the Bofors from the people of India?

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not allowed.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: There was never the question of keeping away any document. The contents are knows and, I think, it is not the practice of any Government that every time a letter should be laid on the Table of the House or be made public. That is not the practice.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDING CHOWDHARY: What is their in the letter?

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Everything it there. I can tell you even now. Bofors give their explanation.

** Not recorded

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: What is there?

SHRI G. G. SWELL: They explained how they operate, that they don't have marketing facilities, that they don't have representative offices abroad.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: They agreed on April 25.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: I am going by sequence, Sir. On April 24, our Government took more action on that.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: What action?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: On April 26, Sir, the Swedish Government asked the Swedish National Audit Bureau to go into this question-just two days later. They went into this question. Sir, naturally the Swedish Audit Bureau had to take some time. But even so, we must say to the credit of the Swedish Audit Bureau that they took a little over a month to produce the report. On June 1, the Audit Bureau, Sweden, sent its report to the Swedish Government. On June 4, the Swedish Government transmit the report of the Swedish Audit Bureau-although it has expurgated, some parts were taken out of that report-an expurgated copy of report of the Swedish Audit Bureau. That report of the Swedish Audit Bureau was received here on the 4th June. Immediately on receipt of the report, the Government met with Opposition leaders and told them about this report-may be on June 4 or June 5. I don't know the date of the meeting. Also, the Government , on June 11, approached the Speaker and the Chairman that they should constitute a joint parliamentary committee to go into this question, especially because certain portions of the Audit Bureau report were left blank as to the names of the recipients, as to the amount received, as to why, for what services they were paid. All these questions were left blank. Naturally there was a question of finding out the truth.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Why not earlier?

SHRI G. G. SWELL: That is a different matter. On July 29, the Government-the Defence Minister-came forward with a motion before this House to constitute a joint parliamentary committee. The form of the motion, as it was, was entirely unsatisfactory to the Members of the Opposition. And we had seen scenes in this House of the Members rushing to the well to protest against this all. Naturally there was communication and discussions with the Members of Parliament. In response to the issues of the Opposition, the Government, on August 6, came forward with an amended motion in which practically everything that the Opposition had wanted-everything that was possible-was accommodated and mentioned in the revised motion before the House which was later on passed. Of course, it took a little time to get it passed here. It took a little time for the motion to be passed in th Rajya Sabha. We know for one full week, the Rajya Sabha was involved in discussions and it could not be passed. So, it took a little more time

In the meanwhile, there comes this announcement from Stockholm that the Chief Prosecutor of Stockholm would go into this matter. Naturally, the Government also wanted to find out the facts and it was on the 20th of August that the Government again wrote to our Ambassador in Stockholm to go all out and get unexpurgated report of the Swedish Audit Bureau, because without that it would be difficult for the Joint Parliamentary Committee to proceed with its work. Within this short period, so many things have

been done, so many steps the Government have taken to get at the truth of the matter. How can you say that the Government has not done anything? How can you say that the Government has side-tracked the issue?

SHRI V. SOBHANDREESWARA RAO (Vijaywada): You have not explained how Win Chadha was allowed to go out of this country after this information came.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: That is a different question.

SHRI V. SOBHANDREESWARA RAO: It is connected with this. He is the agent of Bofors.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: If I have the time I would explain all that. As an example of the red herring I would like to mention this. In the press and everywhere it has been put out that Bofors had this agreement with Win Chadha and the agreement with Win Chadha would run upon 31st December, 1990 and you say that all has been wound up. Where is the winding up when the agreement with Win Chadha goes on upto 31st December, 1990? The facts of the matter are here. This is where I want to fill up the gap in your knowledge. I want to prove and explain how it is a red herring. Bofors from whatever little information we have had have made it clear.

The negotiation of the deal for the purchase of Bofors guns has started as early as 1977. Now it is ten years. The deal was signed on March 24, 1986. I think, 1977 was the time of the Janta Government, when the negotiations of the deal were started, and the contract was signed on March 24, 1986. So long it was through middleman. The Bofors company had said: "We do not have sales establishments, we do not have representative officers and, therefore, our way of practising is to have people in different countries to help them for consultancy, people who know about the country, people who know about the developments, people who are in a position to advise them what to do". I suppose ths is a natural commercial practice every where. And it was only when our Prime Minister came on the scene that he insisted that there should not be any middleman on this question, and that the whole thing has to be negotiated between the Government and the Company directly. In response to that, Bofors said: "We felt compelled to sever connections with people and companies or groups with which we had this discussion before in response to the Prime Minister's insistence that there should be no middlemen. We wound up those agreements and this agreement with Win Chadha is a new agreement only for administrative purposes." Therefore, that agreement with Win Chadha which is still pending is new and is not the same thing as the one that was before, but you make it appear as if it is the same thing, as if the Government is telling a black lie everywhere. This is what I say is an example where you laboured on a point which is not a point. Now, I will come to my last point. I would like to know.....

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM (Nagarkurnool): Mr. Swell, have you been promised a Ministerial berth in the reshuffling?

18.00 hrs.

[*English*]

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Sir, I would like to put this question to Prof. Dandavate, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and my other friends.....

AN HON. MEMBER: Not, Shri Tulsi Ram.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Sir, I would like to

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ask on what ground do you still persist to stay out of this Joint Parliamentary Committee?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is a powerless Committee. It does not even have 10 horse power.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Alright, what is it that you wanted? First you said, we wanted to go through all the procedures and regulations of procurement of weapons and system. Then you wanted to get the name of the people who have received different amounts. All right, it is there. Then you wanted...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: This is the point. You talk of Bofors.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: And also of submarines. (*Interruptions*)

The moment I said submarines, I do not know why you are getting angry. I am not alleging anything against you.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Then you said, you wanted the services of Comptroller and Auditor General; you wanted the assistance of the Attorney General and the investigative agencies of the Government. All that is there in the Motion. And then you wanted to find out things from the Sweden itself. They are saying that, "if you want to send a team to Sweden for some specific reasons, if the Speaker agrees, we do not have any objection." Then you wanted the Chairmanship; that is a different matter, that is under the rules of the House. You cannot insist upon.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Don't you have faith in the rules and regulations?

SHRI G. G. SWELL: You wanted the Ministers to appear before this Committee. The Minister of Defence had given a commitment in this House in which he said that he will have no objection.....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How long will he remain a Minister, nobody knows.

SHRI K. C. PANT: This is not a West Bengal Government. If a Minister makes some commitment, he fulfils it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You may have to eat your own words. I do not know why, Sir, but he has got some inferiority complex when it comes to West Bengal. May be it is only when you compare the performances of both the Governments.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Sir, the Minister, Shri K. C. Pant, made this solemn commitment to both the Houses of Parliament that he will have no objection to any Minister appearing before the Committee, if the Speaker permits.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: why, 'If the Speaker permits'?

SHRI G. G. SWELL: It depends on an issue. In any case, we have solemnly decided, by the Constitution of this Country, to follow a certain system of Government and the system of Government is the Westminister system. It is not an American system of Government. In American system, the Ministers have to appear before the Congressional Committee. But under the Westminister system that we are following, the Ministers have never appeared before any Committee. As a matter of fact, even the hon. Members of Parliament cannot be hauled up before any Parliamentary Committee unless it is a question which specifically relates to them, if they violate the

privileges of this House or something like that. Now, you cannot throw the entire system overboard just to suit your convenience on a particular issue. But even so, the Government have gone out of their way and they have said that they would agree even to this.

Now you talk about the Official Secrets Act. Now, the Official Secrets Act is a statute. My friend Mr. Somnath Chatterjee will agree that a statute cannot be undone by a motion in this House. But even so, they have agreed. The Government have said that any kind of information that the Committee want, will be given to them. What else do you want? (*Interruptions*)

If Government have accommodated all your wishes, what else do you want? I would like to know what more objections you have. If you still persist.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I have told very categorically that there are four points on which real power is not available to this committee. If you permit me to speak for just two minutes, I can again tell you.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: All right. Tell me what are those.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I have pointed out in my speech.....

SHRI G. G. SWELL: You may repeat them.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. member.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur): Why should he repeat all that?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Swell, you please continue.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: My submission is that the Government have gone out of their way, have bent over backwards to get the cooperation of the Opposition. And if the Opposition stay off, it is because they have other political motives. They have other axes to grind. That is the truth.

Therefore, I have to make this last appeal.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why last appeal? you will live long.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Last appeal, in this speech. And I will be making many more speeches.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: On which side, we do not know.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He is smiling approvingly.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Sir, I will make this last appeal at the end of this speech. Whatever we may do, whatever differences we may have, let us not do a disservice to this country. Let us not bring down the prestige and the dignity of this country. There is no court of appeal in this country, except this House and the people of India. Therefore, they must join the Parliamentary Commitee appointed by the free will of the members of this House. Even when the members of the Opposition stayed out, it was the exercise of their free will.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: That is right.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: They must join this Parliamentary Committee. It is an extension of the dignity and power of this House. It is an extension of the dignity and sovereignty of the people of India. Let us not go to any court

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of appeal outside the country. Let us find out the truth through this committee.

SHRI D. N. REDDY (Cuddapah): Before I start my speech, I would like to place before this House description of this Bofors Company in the words of the Swedish Government itself. Swedish Government has described Bofors as a company which has taken export credits from the quota earmarked for the development of third world countries and used it for weaponry. So, this is the company with whom we have been transacting so long. The effort to unravel Bofors mystery is not to expose the culprits but to .....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please. I request the members not to make noise. Those who want to leave the House do so without disturbing others.

SHRI D. N. REDDY: I would like to start my speech again because there has been a lot of disturbance. I would like to give you the description of the Bofors' company with whom we have had transacted so long in the words of the Swedish Government itself. This company has taken export credits from he quota earmarked for the third world development and used it for the weaponry. This is the company with which we had so many transactions all these years. So the effort is not to just unrivel the culprits in this Bofors mystery but also to defend the country's security. A company which sells arms under dubious circumstances is bound to sell our secret also. In this, we were very eager to cooperate with the Government but unfortunately they refused to take out cooperation and gave misstatements and mis-directions all through. An occasion arose after sometime when the Prime Minister of this great country had to stand in the House of Parliament and admit that either he nor his family had received any payments. We felt very very sorry for it. Because the circumstances had come to such a pass that the Prime Minister had to come here and defend himself.

In the last Session, if I remember, when the Opposition Parties wanted that a Parliamentary Committee should be constituted so that it may probe into the affairs and bring out the culprits as early as possible, but the Government said 'No'. As a matter of fact they stalled all the proceedings for forming a Parliamentary Committee. They said, there were no middlemen. Now, it has been proved that there were middlemen. They said, there were no kickbacks. Now it has been proved that there were kickbacks and corruption has been rampant in this transaction. Now, they have come forward to form a Parliamentary Committee and they want us to form part of it. As a matter of fact, I question the necessity of forming a Parliamentary Committee at this stage when it is already established that there were middlemen and there were kickbacks. Therefore it only remains to name the culprits. For that the Government of India is far more competent to get the names either from the Bofors or from the Government of Sweden and the formation of a Parliamentary Committee now, I say is redundant and is not at all necessary.

The hon. Member who just spoke before me Prof. Swell-I am sorry he is not here made a very emotional speech and made much of about 100 MPs from the Opposition side going to the Swedish Embassy. I cannot understand this question at all. Who is he to question us? We did not go there with a representation. We want there and demanded that the Government should bring out the culprits at once because you are taking such a long time in investigation. We demanded that the Government should show the culprits to us and prosecute Bofors as early as possible. That was our stand. As

a result, you may see in today's paper itself, the Government of Sweden has agreed to give out all details and to wash off dirty linen in public in the weapons' deal: your dirty lines. You have created the dirty linen and it is for us to get it cleaned as early as possible. That is why we went to the Embassy and asked them to take early steps to wash out your dirty linen. So you have no point at all. We have got every right to go anywhere so that justice is done to our country and defend our country's security and resources. He also pointed out that a representative Committee is going to Sweden. We have got every right. If I feel that you are not doing right thing and if I feel that I am capable of getting some more evidence and bring the culprits to court. I will certainly go on my account and then get it. What right have you got to question my position? You yourself admit that we are sovereign Parliamentarians. We have got every right to be anywhere in the interest of the country and not anywhere else. I am very sorry to note that all through, from the beginning of the discussion here, we had been misled and misguided in the House as well as outside. The public also have been misled. As I had submitted before, it has been established already that there has been a lot of mischief by way of middlemen and kickbacks and at this time, the Parliamentary Committee is redundant and probably it may not be effective all. All through, our suspicion is the Government is trying to shield some culprits because they have been giving elusive statements and to bringforth my argument, I will give you few points which happened before.

(a) When Bofors company's vice-chairman arrived in India and expressed his readiness to reveal the names orally, Government said 'No'.

(b) Next, Bofors wanted to send a high-powered delegation, and Government said no, because they were afraid that if a delegation of Bofors came here, apart from the Government the Opposition parties might meet them or the newspaper men might meet them, and the names might come out. So, they prevented that delegation also.

(c) Then, most important of all, the Prime Minister's assurance to Bofors that the contract would not be cancelled on any account shows that it was a bait to Bofors not to reveal the names. I have already discussed what Bofors is, and the Prime Minister gives an assurance that the contract will not be cancelled on any account. So, it was a bait to them, so that they do not reveal the names, and that they will be paid in full. If Government of India really wants the names, the Prime Minister ought to have threatened Bofors that unless they give the names, their contracts will be cancelled. But he did not do that. Government has got a responsibility to answer this question.

(d) The Bofors company originally said that they would disclose the name if we, the customer, wanted. But later, they strangely changed their stand, and said that commercial confidentiality prevented them from revealing the names. When the transaction is between the customer and the Bofors, I cannot understand to whom the commercial confidentiality is attributed. Government of India is the customer, and Bofors is the dealer who has supplied the ammunition. So, the confidentiality is only between these two parties. So, this particular commercial confidentiality does not hold good at all.

The impression universally created in the House and outside-I am sure Government also understands this point-is that Bofors are obliging Government of India in not revealing the names; and as a reward, Government is reassuring them that the contract will not be cancelled. This is a very serious allegation and I am very sorry that

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Government has created this image, and have lost all credibility in and outside the House. That is the thing which is most precious for a Government. If credibility is lost, everything is lost.

Now, the Public Prosecutor of Sweden, with the approval of the Attorney General, based on the National Audit Bureau's report, considers that there is a *prima facie* case to initiate investigation. There is a misconception about the object of this investigation, that the country is compromised, in sending a request to the Swedish Government. As I said before, they have already started their investigation. So, we had to go there; we asked them and demanded, not submitted, that the investigation should be completed as early as possible, and the culprits handed over to us.

Moreover, Indian culprits cannot be prosecuted in Sweden, as far as I know. Only those who are in Sweden will be prosecuted, and probably sentenced. Indians will go only as witnesses, whereas they can be hauled to India, and here they can be prosecuted for violating various laws, including FERA. Hence, to say that the country is compromised, is only a desperate attempt to place a lid on this scandal.

Now it has come out that Bofors supplies the guns, and that another company from Belgium supplies the ammunition. That is a very strange thing in Defence deals. I am sure the Defence Minister, in his reply, will tell us the reason why ammunition was also not bought from the same company. This arrangement is strange in Defence deals. We should have a direct dealing with the Belgian company, rather than through Bofors, as otherwise both Bofors and the Belgian company will make profits; and naturally, the kickbacks will be more. This ammunition from Belgium is supplied to Bofors, and we buy ammunition, again from Bofors. That is very strange indeed.

Again, there are two notorious personalities who have been mentioned frequently in this country. One is Mr. Chadha, and the other is Ajitabh Bachchan. I do not mean Amitabh Bachchan who has resigned, or made to resign. I have absolutely nothing against him; and I am very sorry, also, to miss him in the House.

I am referring to Ajitab Bachchan. So much has been said about them. But the government is still silent about what they propose to do. Yesterday, some Congress I Councillors from Delhi Municipality had written to the Prime Minister saying that why he is not being prosecuted for such and such issue. When that is the case, why should there be delay in prosecuting such a person.

Chadha as allowed to run away from the country. It has become an old issue. He was allowed to go to our Embassy there. Now you want him to be sent back to us b, the government; and the USA Government says that it is not in their hands; they cannot. He was in our control in our country and he was not arrested. Later on, we woke up and then asked for him. Is this the way that we should deal with such a criminal, who has gone into this deal and deceived his own country; and he was not arrested.

About the composition of the Parliamentary Committee, it is not our concern, because it is true that we refused to participate in its deliberations for this reason that it is redundant and has absolutely no power except for some propaganda purposes. The Government of India can get the names from the Swedish Government or from the Bofors. Why the Parliamentary Committee? What are they going to do? You want to involve us and make us a figure head in that. We do not want that. Moreover, the opposition parties

wanted more powers as has been just now enumerated by Prof. Madhu Dandavate. So, I need not repeat them. They were not willing to concede. So, we refused to cooperate with them and take part in the Parliamentary Committee. So, for all these reasons the hon. member has no right to say or comment on our going to the Swedish Embassy and asking them to give us more information to start the proceedings as early as possible.

The two-news items read as follows:

> "More openness in government called for by 28 distinguished persons in the country. The amount of secrecy that the government has in mind about this deal has brought us to this position."

They are leading social workers, people of high integrity, leading politicians, ex-judges etc. The names have been mentioned in the paper. So, I need not repeat them. They have all apealed to the government to be more open minded in their dealings and take the people and the Parliament into confidence I appeal to the government that neither the Government of Sweden nor the gun manufacturing company shall be permitted to hold to ransom a great country like ours, its people and its government. With this idea in our mind, we are very eager to see that the culprits should be brought forth as early as possible and prosecution is launched and see that such nefarious deals shall not occur in our country for ever.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT (Arrah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the discussion regarding enquiry by the Chief Public Prosecutor of Sweden, it appears to me that there is hardly an, relevance for this discussion. According to our standard practice or the parliamentary practice, whenever an enquiry is ordered there is no discussion on that; discussion takes place only when a report of the enquiry comes. I do not know-they are very senior hon. members-why did they raise that discussion on the enquiry by the Chief Public Prosecutor? When he spoke, I was more than convinced that he himself realised the utter futility or irrelevance of this discussion on the enquiry by the Chief Public Prosecutor of Sweden, because he did not focus squarely or pin-pointedly on the aspects of the enquiry or the matter connected with the enquiry.

But he went backward and forward, vertical and horizontal, travelled wide, and covered all kinds of things. He indulged in insinuations, innuendoes or even allegations and produced the moth eaten arguments repeated so many times, discredited arguments about this.

So, this has become another debate. The Joint Parliamentary Committee is going to come into force. But even then, I think the hon. Member will be satisfied that at least he has repeated these issued before the Joint Parliamentary Committee is about to meet.

My colleague, the honourable Prof. Swell has very ably dealt with this question and refuted the arguments put forward by the hon. Member. But I would like to raise only two or three points. First is, about the subject matter, the inquiry by the Chief Public Prosecutor of Sweden. The first point is that this is an inquiry ordered by the Swedish Government. They are empowered to order am inquiry by whomsoever, or whatever be the agency, they choose, it is for them. They have neither consulted us nor are we involved about it. The Government of India has not been consulted about this investigation, but all the same, he should welcome it. The hon. Member, he did not say anything except making wild allegations, repeating them. He did not even say that anybody who brings the truth about this matter is welcome. And our attitude is that we welcome it. But certainly, as a Govern-

[Sh. B.R. Bhagat]

ment as a sovereign country, we will not like to deal with any subordinate agency of any Government. I think this is an insult to a friendly Govenment of Sweden for a country like India to deal with a subordinate agency of that institution. And in that respect some hon. Members have taken objection on certain conduct be some hon. Members of the Opposition. Members of the Opposition when they went to the Swedish Embassy-I do not know, I do not want to comment, but I read it in the papers-that the Swedish Ambassador was himself embarrassed; and he even said so. I read in the papers, he was embarrassed. He said," All of you, hon. Members of Parliament, when you have come I do not know where to make you sit, how to do this,.." But certainly, in this way you embarrassed a friendly Ambassador and I think it has not added to your prestige.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That is what you think.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: Our Parliament is known for its very high position; and in many matters in parliamentary practice and traditions we have set the trail, which even the Mother of Parliaments copies, our traditions. And, I think this action is not on the lines of that.

Then, secondly you have yourself seen the futility or absurdity of sending a delegation to Sweden and you have just given it up. I am happy, of course you have seen wisdom, you have seen reason at least in this respect.

18.27 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

So, the point is, that the Public Prosecutor of Sweden is concerned since this matter relates to this and apart from welcoming, I do not want to go more into it. But I am saying that obviously it will function under the Swedish laws and regulations. Whatever report it will bring now under the Swedish laws the paying of commissions is no crime, and even if it discovers some commissions or that some money has been paid, it is not violating any Swedish laws and even payments, legal and regular payment has been made to either Swedish nationals or foreign nations or anybody else, it does not violate the Swedish law. According to their procudure of work they may not even publish the report. He may keep it to himself. That is the law. That will not serve our purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the time permissible under the rule is two hours. Shall we extend the time?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is extended.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Upto what time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MIINSTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): This debate should end. We have to sit upto that. I would like to take this opportunity to inform the hon. Members that we are going to serve dinner here.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: If it is not finished today. then tomorrow will it continue.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the present the discussion is extended upto Eight.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everything is for the time being always. Let the time come, we will decide.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: The point that I was making is that-after the investigation, the Chief Public Prosecutor of Sweden is not able to submit the report because he finds that there is no violation of Swedish law. So far as we are concerned, the Government is trying persistently to find out the truth, even the names, payments and other related matters right from the beginning. This is our track record. Prof. Swell has pointed out and I think it needs repetition. What is your record and what is our record. When this matter was reoprted by the Swedish Radio in April 1987, we immediately on 21st April 187 got in touch with the Swedish Government and asked them to supply full information. During the period between April and June, we contacted the Swedish Government through our embassy in Stockholm and through their mission here and helped them in the appointment of the Swedish National Audit Bureau. When the report came on fourth June, we immediately took it up with the opposition leaders. Then, we made a reference to the Speaker for appointment of a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

I would like to say here that in the Budget Session there was a demand from the Opposition members that a Parliamentary Committee should be formed to look into the matter. When we consulted the leaders of the Opposition and suggested that a Joinf Parliamentary Committee be appointed, they started heckling and agitating. Then, they came forward and said a number of things. This Committee is inadequate and all that. This is not unparliamentary, but uncharitable. This has never been the tradition of this House. They have termed the Committee as 'white wash'.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: It only reflects their total lack of confidence in themselves.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We never said it white-wash. We said it eye-wash.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: You may not have said that, but others have said that. I can produce reports that have appeared in the papers attributing these remarks to the hon. Members.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I always use the correct words. I said 'eye-wash'.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: If you think that eye-wash is an honourable term so far as the parliamentary committee is concerned, well, you are very....

PROF. K.K. TEWARY: His English knowledge is poor.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am prepared to take tuitions from Prof. Tewary.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: You may stick to your own remarks. The point was that Prof. Dandavate today, although it was not the occasion, raised a debate on inquiry. I want to repeat that the parliamentary tradition is that whenever any inquiry is ordered, the debate begins only after the report of the inquiry. Prof. Dandavate was outwitted in his earlier motion and we agreed to it because it keeps his prestige. But this is not the occasion for a debate. The debate on the inquiry can be only when the report comes. But you went on to the parliamentary committee. You explained why you did not agree to this and then you raised several matters-the Official Secrets Act....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: What we have lost, you are reading that.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: You have raised four objections-right to call for the Minister's testimony. It should be able to have evidence from foreign nationals and foreign companies. And all those matters have been agreed to except the official secrecy. The Official Secrets Act is an Act of Parliament. You know better that nobody can override the Act of Parliament. Even a motion of this House cannot. Still the Government gave an assurance that they will try to cooperate to the extent possible and provide all facilities. The Auditor-General and the Attorney-General will be available.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Do you think, we seek Speaker's permission to call the Prime Minister before the Committee? Unneccessarily you are putting him into this situation.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: You are an experienced parliamentarian. Can you suggest any way to eliminate the Speaker from a parliamentary committee? Is it being done? You have said that it is a special committee, extra-ordinary committee. Whatever it is-it is a special committee, extra-ordinary committee, historic committee, momentous committee. But tell me the way in which the Speaker's power, right, prerogative can be eliminated.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Perhaps, they want to leave it to the Chairman of the Committee.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: As far as this Committee is concerned, it cannot be compared with the Committee like PAC or Estimates Committee.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS: When you demanded a parliamentary committee, you compared it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why do you intervene like that? I am taking up the point with him. I say that in those committee like the PAC and PU, the money matters orginate from Lok Sabha and then they go to the Rajya Sabha. That is why, I can understand certain powers being vested with the Speaker. But this is an unprecedented joint committee in which why the presiding authority of only a particular House be unnecessarily intrusted with a very embarrassing responsibility? I will ask you a simple question. If you ask the Speaker shall the Committee summon the Prime Minister before it, you are unnecessarily creating embarrasing position for him. I do not want to say anything more.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: I will only say one thing. This is a Joint Parliamentary Committee. This is a parliamentary committee of any nature, extraordinary, I agree, but I quote him only the May's parliament: "A Speaker is the corner stone of the parliamentary edifice." You remove him and the whole structure falls. How can you think of eliminating the Speaker? Then it means malafide, I am sorry to say this.....(*Interruptions*).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am speaking about bonafide and you are talking about malafide.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: Because you have moved recently a motion of No-Confidence against the Speaker. Although it has been lost but you have no faith in the Speaker. That is why you are saying this. Why do you say that in a body like this, an hon. person like the Speaker will function not in the interest of the State or the parliament? This is denegration of the Parliament. You citedexamples unnecessarily. Who is saying that you do not....(*Interruptions*).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: All right, forget him. You were once a Speaker. I may take your illustration. During the Emergency if you were handed over such a

case, you would have felt embarrassing..... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, in the history of Parliament many accidents have happened.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, he was the Speaker during Emergency. If such discretionary powers were to be given to him, normally he was feeling embarrassing during Emergency and that would have embarrassed him more.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Sir, I think you should authorise him to speak on behalf of Shri B.R. Bhagat so that you should hear him.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: This is really the hub of the whole thing, the whole process. I am sorry this was a very important occasion. Corruption in high places, as you say, is a vital matter. All of us are interested. Government is more interested and we have said it that we want to eliminate this. The Prime Minister has said times without number that whoever may be involved, however high his position may be, he will not be spared, and you make a mockery of this statement. I am sorry it is most unfortunate, to say the least. That is why I say it is a very great occassion in which we could have sent the correct friends, would have educated the people, built the morale of the country, strengthened the parliamentary and democratic institutions of the country. These have been missed mainly because you have been persuaded to believe that here is an occasion in which you can destabilise or even derail this Government, democratically elected Government by the will of the people. You want to subvert it politically. You want to subvert it and all your actions have been motivated by that. I am sorry to say this. But this is a fact which cannot be denied. Otherwise what is wrong in your participating in it? Instead of participating in this parliamentary process of investigation, you are going helter-skelter. Now you are saying you are supporting. Nobody is objecting to the investigation, the best investigation possible, even by a foreign agency because we know that for a matter which concerns in a foreign country, the powers of the agencies here are limited. But in that spirit you cannot support the employment or the engaging of a body like the Fairfax which is openly, covertly and overtly a CIA agency. Mr. Indrajit Gupta, will you support it?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): But are we discussing Fairfax?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: But he has discussed it. I am answering to him. He has discussed it. That is the point I am making. On the matter of investigation, he has raised all these questions. I am making this point because.....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Then do you have to repeat it also? Whatever he says, do you have to repeat?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: I am only replying....(*Interruptions*). Well, I do not repeat it.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Are you now admitting that this Government at one point of time engaged a CIA agency?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: I am not saying that.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): What else? Fairfax was engaged by Mr. V.P. Singh who a was Minister at that point of time.

18.45 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): That is why he is out.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: Fairfax has been engaged.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: By Government, I say. Are you disputing the fact that Fairfax has a CIA connection? I want to know.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I do not know.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: This Fairfax was engaged by your Government. If this is your admission that this was engaged then this Government is guilty of engaging it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Who engaged Fairfax? Tell us that.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: I leave it here. The Chairman of the Fairfax himself said that he was involved in Watergate and all that I leave it at this stage.

The last point I am making is that your track record is you have been trying to make use of it for your political purposes, stonewalling it and hedging it and putting all sorts of difficulties in finding out the truth. Our track record is, as I said right from 17th April, we have done everything possible, persistently and consistently to find the truth and even today we want the truth. We want the names and we want to know whom the payment was made. This is our position. You are not able to answer and the main reason for it is...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS: If they want to join the Committee, they are welcome.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: One more thing. I am sorry to say and Shri Indrajit Gupta will not like me to raise it. Prof. Madhu Dandavate has raised it. I am sorry to say this. It is for the Defence Minister to say, it he has said repeatedly. What he says is that these are sub standard guns and will affect the morale of the Army. Defence Minister has objected to it. This is a point. You are charging the highest man, the most important person with all kinds of allegations. It is most sensitive and most important matter like defence of the country, the morale of the army. You make a pronouncement without any evidence whatsoever! I say this is harmful to the country and I know you patriotism, your service, your love for the country and great love for the citizens, I am second to none in believing it. My submission is it is for the Defence Minister to say how good the gun is, and the morale of the Army and security of the country is not threatened. That is my only point. This matter should not have been raised here.

The point now is where do we go? The Joint Parliamentary Committee is about to meet. Now even belatedly you have not participated. Well, the avenues can be created. You can participate. But your contention is that this Committee will not bring out the facts. Let us all honestly try. We can assure you even without you we will most honestly and most sincerely try to find the facts. We will approach Swedish Government, everybody, approach all avenues to find out the facts.

Another point I am to make is, Government is not in the dock. This should be noted. The point which you are making, the media unfortunately in the country is making is not correct. Government has nothing to hide because from the very first day Government

has been doing its utmost to ascertain full facts.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has directly come back.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: Why? You object to going to Sweden? (*Interruptions*)

All strange things are happening. The Government has been doing its utmost to ascertain the full facts and has been constantly keeping Parliament and nation informed. If Government did have something to hide, it would not have done so. Nor would it have persisted with the establishment of a parliamentary committee. It has also been pointed out not only by Government but by others as well, that in the highest traditions of the parliamentary democracy, the Committees of Parliament function beyond party lines. This is what I am appealing. It is our tradition. We do not function in the committee on Partly lines. If you wanted more Opposition Members on the Committee, they could have been there. It is indeed unique for a Government to invite the formation of a Parliamentary Committee and to share its sole executive authority with Parliament.

It has become equally clear that while Government is doing its very best through all possible means and through the modality of the Committee to obtain the full facts the Opposition, I am sorry to say, are now resolute in trying to stall any further progress in the matter. In fact, in their latest letter of the 6th August, 1987, Bofors have, besides denying categorically the payment of any kickbacks to any Indian citizens, Indian Government officials or political figures-this is the point, I am telling-they even assured cooperation to the Committee.

The only inference which can be drawn from the Opposition's continuing dissociation is that rather than wishing that full facts may become evident, it wants to use insinuations and allegations to further its own political designs and does not dare to run the risk of true facts emerging. They probably ;fear that true facts will set these insinuations at rest and will end the controversy. This is very very sad because in the process of utilising these insinuations for political gains, it is distracting the focus of the nation and of the Houses of Parliament from other major issues like the unprecedented drought and has permeated the forces of destabilisation which have always been working in a country like ours. The destabilisation forces never stopped. When a country weak and divided, they start operating and in this case, these forces are out to undermine the democratically elected Government in this country. You had ignored this aspect also because of your political motivation to bring down the Government. This is not strengthening the democracy. Even at this late hour, I hope you will reconsider your attitude and participate in the process of parliamentary probe into unearthing true facts about this matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, so far as Prof. Swell is concerned, my respect for him so is so much, I cannot say that; his was a command performance. And so far as Mr. Bhagat is concerned, of course, naturally, all hopes are always eternal. He has abused the Opposition of indulging in *mala fides* and destroying the parliamentary traditions. He says, We are denigrating the Parliament image. Of course, Prof. Swell was seeing red herrings drawn across the country. Of course, he has not accused us of lack of patriotism. If the Opposition is like that, why are they eager to get us into this committee? If we are such a bad people, we are doing *mala fide*

SHRI K.C. PANT: Shall I answer that? It is because we respect democracy; because we have faith in democracy and the Opposition, unlike some people here. It is the institution.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Very well, here, Mr. K.C. Pant wants us only for the sake of the institution, not for the truth. It is very well. It is not for ascertaining the truth. I find that this is the second speech of Mr. Bhagat today. Probably he is a little exhausted. He wanted to get the record on behalf of the Government strength. He referred to track record. I also want to put the record straight and I hope you will give me the time.

Please do not forget that it started with the report of the Swedish radio accusing political functionaries in this country of having been paid bribes and of the political functionaries of the ruling parties of having been paid bribes or commissions.

The only one statement we have got so far from the leader of the Government in this House is of the nature Nothing else we have got and an amazing statement coming from the Prime Minister of India when the whole House of the country was waiting with bated breath that some important announcement will be made, he comes and reads out a written speech saying

> "Neither I, nor any "member of my family" has taken any part in consideration of this." (*Interruptions*)

We have been saying that there has been a very determined attempt on the part of this Government to prevent exposure and disclosure of the real state of affairs and we felt it was our duty to compel this Government to take all necessary steps to find out the truth and they are talking today and, if I may say so, without being misunderstood, shedding crocodile tears. If it is parliamentary probe or not, I do not know. They are shedding crocodile tears.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As a parliamentarian, you know!

SHRI K.C. PANT: Crocodile as far as you are concerned.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I stopped to give emphasis on this. You will appreciate this.

SHRI K.C. PANT: It is crocodile tears as far as you are concerned.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Pant possesses such snavity and such patience he exhibits always but I find whenever Bofors comes, he loses his patience. I have the good fortune of knowing him for a long number of years. Of course, he has been changing his portfolios often. But he is now been losing his balance.

In that context, it was the Opposition who had asked for a parliamentary committee probe. Who opposed it resolutely? It is this Government.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS: On what grounds?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There they opposed it. They resolutely opposed it and therefore in the situation we find there is no other mode or method of finding the truth. When a very competent authority in Sweden, the Public Prosecutor of Stockholm, had taken now a decision to investigate into the charges of bribery in the matter of the contract entered into with the Government of India and Bofors, we cannot but congratulate him.

Mr. Bhagat also congratulated him and he has taken this stand in spite of very

resolute and sickening attempts on the part of the Government to prevent disclosure. I wish to make an effort to establish that this Government has been trying to conceal and not to reveal the facts. It cannot suit them. And in their panic, they have said many things, at many times, and the terms of reference of this Committee will establish to the hilt that this is not even an apology of a parliamentary committee. The country is being taken for a ride by the pretence of a parliamentary probe. They are now eulogizing the Committee. I am sorry for Shri Shankaranand; he has lost his Chairmanship and he has lost his Ministership also. (*Interruptions*)

19.00 hrs.

We have seen him on the Treasury Benches for many many years. Now he has to find out a place in the last bench. This is the way of functioning of this Government. The Prime Minister wants to get rid of a Minister, dangles before him the Chairmanship of a Committee and then even that is also taken away.

SOME HON. MEMEBRS: He is coming ...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I wish him a long life and a return to the Cabinet also .... (*Interruptions*). We are also happy that this Swedish Foreign Minister has pledged to the public, if I may quote Professor Swell when he said: "This will be a thorough and public wash of all dirty linen in the weapons deal"...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Indian Linen or Swedish linen?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No. The point is that Professor Swell was saying that the delegation will got to see the dirty linen.

AN HON. MEMBER: To wash the linen?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He said: "to see the dirty linen they will go". Well, I am not holding any brief for them nor espousing whether they would like to see the dirty linen, that is their object or not. But what you are afraid is the water, that the dirty water which will come out of the washing, will swamp you away.... (*Interruptions*). Therefore, you are afraid. Why this enquiry is taken up? This Government in its nervousness is now saying - even probably they are afraid - that the report will be adverse. What they are saying? They say: "no, no. We shall not be bound by the findings of the Chief Public Prosecutor" They will not agree, until and unless this great Committee points out, whose credibility to the people in this country is zero if not minus...

(*Interruptions*)

PFOF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): What are you saying? We are elected by the people... (*Interruptions*). We are elected as you are elected by the people.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You have not got that credibility to go to that Committee...

(*Interruptions*)

PFOF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I think, you are not in the Committee? Are you there?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let us hope that Mr. Ringberg is a free agent in his country and he will not be a party to any conspiracy to conceal facts and that he will relentlessly pursue the matter to the end, as he has already found-this is very important - the reasons to suppose that bribery has been committed by the Swedish Company. This has unnerved this Government. In this background, what has been the attitude of this Government? Let us see to it. We are reminded, *ad nauseam,* by every hon. Speaker from the Treasury Benches that as if this Government wanted an enquiry. Our demand for a Parliamentary probe was rejected. What was the action taken by them? They wrote a letter to the Swedish Government. Was any action taken in India? When I asked this question, the hon. Minister did not reply last time. Did this Government know or did not know that Win Chaddha was an agent of Bofors in India or was a contractor of Bofors in India? If they knew, then they should have taken steps. What steps did they take? They were supposed to have instituted an inquiry or investigation, so far as he was concerned. But what happened? He was a person who could have been or would have been able to give relevant evidence in this matter. But he was allowed to fly with his son, dangling your Indian Passports which were not even impounded; not even cancelled at any moment of time. He was not arrested. Have you tried to get any information in this matter? What effort was made to launch a prosecution here? Has any FIR been lodged? Has it been lodged here, I would like to know. Has any complaint been lodged with any police station, in any court of law, against anybody? How did you expect that you would get the facts? You felt that your letter was sufficient to the Swedish Government. The Swedish Government, on that basis, held an inquiry through the Audit Bureau, and the Audit Bureau has said that illegal payments have been made. The Audit Bureau has said that bribes have been paid, commissions have been paid. They have even identified the amount and they have left certain blank spaces because, according to them, Bofors were unwilling to disclose. Therefore, it depends only on the Bofors' good wishes, according to this Government which has accepted this; that was the Minister's statement on the floor of the House: "What can we do?". And this Committee will go on a ceremony and ask for information from Bofors and Bofors will say, "No; we have refused to the Government of India; we have refused to others; we refuse to this Committee also". Then they will end up with the matter...

SHRI K.C. PANT: Why did you ask for a Committee?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, shall I have to go on answering the Minister at ever stage? I shall, but you should allow me adequate time. Now, may I read out from the Audit Bureau's report? (*Interruptions*) Why did I ask for a Committee? I asked for a real committee, not an apology for a Committee. I asked for a genuine Committee. Now, what is the report of the National Audit Bureau?

> "Only A.B. Bofors is in a position to give a full account of his own payments."

This is the position faced by this Government. Will the Government tell us or will even a member of this Committee which has been set up, tell us as to how they propose to go about in this matter? There should be a proper investigation and inquiry. Admittedly, money has been paid; money has been paid not only as a bribe but as commission. We have been told times without number that there was winding up cost, no commission to any agent or any middle man. Why? The Prime Minister has said, the Government of India has said, that there would be no middle man or no agent. Admit-

tedly, Mr. Win Chadha was a contact man, it is said; not an agent or a middle man but a contact. Then they got rid of the contact because they valued the Rs. 1470-crore contract more. Bofors were in tottering, economic and financial condition. They were in financial difficulties. They had no pending orders with them. There were transactions with Iran through Singapore, illicit transactions, and when they came out in the open, there was prosecution against Bofors. So, it was a God-sent opportunity to Bofors to get a contract of this value, Rs. 1470 crores, which would keep the Bofors busy for another five or six or seven years. They were lacking in orders even. Therefore, this was a God-sent opportunity for them; to please the Indian Prime Minister and the Government of India, they said, "Very well; we shall not have any agent". Therefore, what do they say? They say, "We had to pay winding up cost to our contact man". That is what the Audit Bureau Report has said. I am referring to that. And the contact man, who would have got in five years Rs. 1.2 crores, has supposedly been paid Rs. 50 crores. Not even children will believe this. Only sycophants will believe this story that against a possible demand of Rs. 1.2 crores, a winding up cost of Rs. 50 crores was paid to this o-called Indian contact by the Bofors. Then the other sums - the three sums which were mentioned in the Motion for constituting the Committee -, that is, SEK 170-250 million, SEK 2;9.5 million and SEK 2.5 million were paid as commission and not as bribe. This is the finding of the Swedish Audit Bureau. Commission is paid to whom? Commission is never paid to a contact man. Then there must have been some sort of an agency or some sort of middle-men, some sort of commission agent. Commission would not be payable to a contact man who was to arrange only hotel accommodation, booking of plane tickets, arranging for cars, etc. This is the position. Then the commission has been paid to whom? The million dollar question is: to whom has the money been paid? They have said that they have not paid to an Indian. They say that they have not paid to an Indian concern or company. Therefore, when money has been paid, if it was in India, then there must have been some record in the Reserve Bank of India. The Reserve Bank of India is not asked to tell. We have not been told so far whether any Indian ha received through the Reserve Bank of India. Then, somebody has been paid in foreign currency. It has to be found out whether a foreigner or NRI or any person of any other nationality or any concern in which NRI or Indians may be interested as shareholders or as owners has been paid in foreign currency.

Now, Sir, the question is very simple. Who would have been paid this money? Bofors would pay this money for securing the contract. Now for securing the contract they pay money to somebody who would help them in securing the contract. Now who would help them in securing the contract? Who could take the appropriate decision to influence the Government to enter into the contract. Who could take a decision on behalf of Government of India to enter into the contract? The Defence Minister and the Prime Minister who happened to be one and the same person at that time. Therefore, this is a very simple step by step analysis. Bofors are paying huge sums for the purpose of getting a contract. This is admitted that they have paid it. In spite of our Prime Minister's very keen desire to see that there should not be any middlemen and Mr. Olof Palme's efforts to make it sure that there was no middleman it has been paid. When the identity is concerned who can find out whether Bofors have indulged in any illegality or criminality or not, except the Swedish authorities themselves. When we asked for a parliamentary probe, this Report had not come out. We thought that something wrong has been done in India. We wanted that

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Indian parliamentary committee to go through the records we did not know about the disclosure at this stage. But they could not believe and trust the Indian parliamentarians for whom today they are saying so many things, trying to persuade us to enter this still born Committee. At that time, we never said that. After the Swedish Audit Bureau Report, what have they done except writing a letter to Bofors stating, "please send us the names', at the same time, making it clear, assuring Bofors that even if they don't give the names, they will not suffer. We make it certain, we make it clear, we announce this in Parliament of India that Bofors contract will not be cancelled. This was what the Government did. I had told the Hon. Minister at that time that please don't say that in Parliament of India, please don't commit yourself that you would not cancel this contract. The threat of cancellation might have worked because they are seeing this possibility of contract being cancelled. But the Minister has solemnly assured Bofors, "come what may, whatever may happen to his country, this Govt's credibility may become zero, people may suffer, huge amounts may have gone out of this country, when money is being collected in foreign banks, that does not matter; but your contract will not be disturbed. I, K.C. Pant, the Defence Minister, assure you Bofors that our contract will never be disturbed." And if I am not the Defence Minister, Others will be bound by the assurance given in the Parliament of India. How do you expect the Bofors to give you the names when they refused to give it to their own Audit Bureau, to their own Government? Now what would have happened to this Parliamentary Committee with opposition members? They will say, "well, we wrote to Bofors." Bofors said that we are sorry, we won't give you names. Then Committee's job will be over. Then the Government will trumpet to the outside world that even the opposition members stalwarts like Shri Madhu Dandavate and Indrajit Gupta have not been able to find out the names, why do you blame us. Therefore, we won't be a party to this. And what is this Committee? Sir, a good deal of effort has to be expended by my Hon. friends here to show that a grand Committee has been set up. Everybody says, this is the first time in the 40 years history of the Parliament that a most unusual committee, an investigative committee, has been appointed by the Parliament. But this unusual committee will have only usual powers! Wonderful argument of this Government!

We are only always reminded of the fact that after all it is a Parliamentary Committee; rules are there. Mr. Somnath Rath, who is my name sake, who is a little upright - today I don't know what happened to him, probably he is also having his hopes on that side - suddenly quoted the rules relating to Parliamentary Committee and said that how can a usual Parliamentary Committee...

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: I have read the rules and I have raised a legal question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I think if you were in the Chair, the debate would have ended!

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Even then the rules would have prevailed, it was immaterial whether you were in the Chair or myself

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: May I request the Hon. Members to kindly bear with me for a few minutes more?

AN HON. MEMBER: It is very difficult to bear.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Because it bites!

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Let him

explain as to what does he bear.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let only the Home Minister bear me. He si a substantial man aided by the Minister of State for Communications!

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): Today is the first day during the last one and a half years when Mamtaji is listening to you patiently.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): If I speak, he will get nervous will not be able to speak further.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I would like the Hon. Defence Minister to tell us, if my knowledge of English is inadequate, about Clause 8 of this Resolution. May I read it with your permission, Sir? It has been mentioned that if the Committee wishes to nominate a Sub-committee to visit a foreign country for specified purposes - then Mr. Kaushal, Mr. Shankaranand, I hope he can at least go to Stockholm, and Mr. Kurien, probably he says that he is a member.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I said 'we' not 'I'.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: And then my good friend from Calcutta, Mr. Asutosh Law, I don't know where has he gone!, the whole Committee cannot go, kindly see, it is important - connected with the inquiry, the matter will be referred to the Speaker - I don't envy the Speaker in this respect - who may take such decision and give such direction as he thinks it - viz., five persons may go or four persons may go and they may stay in a four bedded room or four persons in a bed room, etc. ....(*Interruptions*) They will have nothing to do. If you read this clause you will see that such a Sub-Committee shall not hold sittings - no sitting, only standing all the time - shall not record evidence ...(*Interruptions*)... Nobody has read this clause, it seems to me. It says that the Sub-committee shall not hold sittings, shall not record evidence or take decisions in a foreign country. Kindly think of the fate of this Sub-committee. I do not see. I do not hear. I do not speak. Sir, it is worse than a still-born child. It is a deformed child pre-geneted by some corrupt elements in this country and Sweden. And today I do not envy the thirty hon. Members of Parliament who have to hold this de-formed baby and try to put cosmetic treatment to it and bring it back to India and say nothing has been found. you are a very good looking healthy baby. And you want us to be a party to this!

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): Sir, the great lawyer and my hon. friend is trying to mislead the House. We have physically picked up these provisions from the Rules book which are applicable even to the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee and the Public Undertakings Committee today. Today it is happening inside the country. PAC sub-group cannot have a sitting, cannot record evidence and cannot take decision outside Delhi. If that is happening with PAC what is wrong with this parliamentary committee?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am not misleading. I was reading this unless Shri K.C. Pant has prepared a misleading document.

Then a sub-committee goes to Stockholm. They cannot hold any sitting. They cannot record any evidence. Even if Bofors want to give evidence there they will say we cannot record. Parliament has not permitted us to record.

S. BUTA SINGH: Parliamentary committee can have evidence here in Delhi. This procedure is followed in all parliamentary committees. So why not in this parliamentary committee!

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You go all along to Sweden and do not record.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They cannot record any evidence. They cannot hold any sitting.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A sub-committee need not necessarily take evidence. They can gather information and pass on to the Committee. That will save time.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What is this tamasha? If a sub-committee goes to Sweden and does not do anything there.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, it is no challenge to your authority.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am now convinced that you have not read it earlier.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have read it and that is why I am telling.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I hope our good friend, Prof. Swell-inspite of your today's speech I still have respect for you-said on what ground you stay away? Do you realise it now? You are not allowing us to call any Minister because it is obvious that the first on the list would have been the Prime Minister and you cannot possibly allow the Prime Minster to be interrogated even by Members of Parliament. He is untouchable so far as you are concerned. That is why you do not permit the Ministers.

SHRI G.G. SWELL: This is the system we follow.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What system?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Mr. Chatterjee, the Prime Minister is required to answer your questions every day of the week in the House. This is our system. We do not have the American system which you seem to admire. They have sub-committees in which Ministers appear but not in our system. Inspite of that I did say that Ministers could appear but it must be relevant in the eyes of the Speaker and the Committee. Is this very unreasonable?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The evidence which he is supposed to give before the committee will he give in the House?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Obviously it has to be reasonable and obviously the Committee has to decide. The Committee cannot just call anybody. The Committee has to sit jointly and take a decision and even if that unanimous decision is taken to call a particular Minister what the Speaker will do! Will he sit an appeal over the decision of the Committee as a whole? Is there any Committee whose decisions can be over-ruled by the Speaker?

SHRI K.C. PANT: What are you afraid of. That is exactly the point. I am glad you have raised this point. I want to pin you down on this. If the Speaker cannot over-rule the Committee what are you afraid of?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I would like to know why do you bring in the

highest office in the Parliament in the possibility of conflict.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, Speaker himself that day said: "Don't involve me in this." He said it from the Chair....

AN HON. MEMBER: It is on record.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: ....unless that has been expunged

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, no reason has been given. Only putting me questions: Why are you concerned; why are you concerned? What was the reason which prompted them to include the Speaker here. Not a single reason has been put forward. And then, Sir, what would happen?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS: Home Minister had explained.

(*Interruptions*)

S. BUTA SINGH: Why are you objecting here? You can't go to Shillong and you want to go to Stockholm without the permission of the Speaker.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Which rule of procedure contemplates as certaining such ugly facts like kickbacks, I would like to know. Which rule of this House contemplates? Therefore, let us not try to be over-smart in this matter. You have an unusual committee with usual powers. That is what I am saying. How can you function in this? Ministers cannot be called. Well, I know Official Secrets Act is a statute. But there is no question of obliterating the Official Secrets Act. That depends on the Government's attitude for taking a plea under the official secrets Act. That is the point. We wanted it to be in our motion. It has all been rejected. And you want us to give credibility to your committee! You want to sell it to the people by including the Opposition in it with no power, with almost a husk committee - nothing.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Will you allow me?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I don't know why you are interrupting me.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Because you are saying ... (*Interruptions*) ... I have great respect for you. You are putting forward your point of view. But factually it is wrong to say that on the Official Secrets Act, the Government has not said anything. In the upper House, this question was raised and I made it absolutely clear that the Official Secrets Act will not come in the way. The Government will cooperate in every way possible. I made that clear. I just wanted to put the records straight.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, our resolutions, our amendments said certain things. Even then you have only relied on your statements made in the House. But you don't wish to make it a part of the motion appointing the committee. That is our objection there.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker ...

SHRI K.C. PANT: Can a motion override a statute? You at least know this.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: But that was not the main part.

SHRI G.G. SWELL: Point of order, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am not saying over-rule a statute.... (*Interruptions*)... Therefore, now the object is: Go and accuse and abuse the Opposition, if you can. And Mr. Swell, I don't know what point of

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order.

(*Interruptions*)

S. BUTA SINGH: What have you been doing?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will you allow me to go and interrupt the Home Minister in that manner? He will take my time. Even the Home Minister, who is unable to manage the affairs here is also going there.

S. BUTA SINGH: I am trying to make you straight.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, Prof. Swell said, we had made a beeline for Swedish Embassy with regard to an alleged crime. Mr. Swell, crime is here 'admitted', not ' alleged'. Please do not forget that. You have been carried away by emotions in your unusual role today. We did not make a beeline for the Swedish Embassy. We had wanted to give a letter addressed to the Swedish Prime Minister. Now, you have written to the Swedish Government. Havent You? Haven't they written to the Swedish Government for inquiry? Do the Members of the Opposition have no locus stand to write to foreign Prime Minister?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Many of them are here, Prof. Swell, to be handed over to Indian Prime Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he was our distinguished - I hope he is distinguished - envoy in two countries.

(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: For not giving a petition.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Ask him whether it was given or not.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He knows nothing about foreign missions. If somebody goes there, would you treat him as they have come to pay court to you? The trouble is in your present company, you are habituated to pay court to one person. You have lost your sense of prestige and dignity. That's why you find in others that we go there to pay courts,. We are not here at anybody's mercy. (*Interruptions*). Sycophancy is not my credential; your credential to become a Minister is syophancy ... (*Interruptions*). Sycophancy is not our credentials. ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS: To this we object very seriously. It is a very bad remark, a wrong remark. We are all elected Members of Parliament. All Members of Parliament here are as much elected as Shri Chatterjee is. We must object to this. It is an insult to electorates. What are you talking? What do you know about us?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Very well, Sir, loyalty to the leader ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS: We are loyal to our leader. Are you not loyal to your leader? At one time you were loyal to a foreign country... (*Interruptions*). What is wrong in it if we are loyal to the Parliament, to our constituents and to our leader? .... (*Interruptions*).

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: You were loyal to the leaders of another country.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS: He should be controlled; he should not be allowed to go on like this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I assert that the opposition parties had discharged their duty to the people of this country in trying to see that the real culprits are brought to book and since only the Swedish authorities can find out the real culprit in this matter and there is a complete incompetence and unwillingness on the part of the Government to find out the facts, we had no alternative, but to approach the Head of the Government in Sweden, the Swedish Prime Minister, to make efforts for the purpose of discovering the truth. And you are trying to take credit that you want the truth to be discovered. That is why when on the first day, Mr. Ringberg's statement came out in the press, what was your reaction? Your reaction - at 6.25 in the evening, Mr. Azad moves a motion and it is passed at 6.28. Bravo for the motion that came in!

I hope that Mr Ringberg who appears to have received the support and the concurrence of the Swedish Government — the Foreign Minister of that country has come out with a statement - will go through the over this procedure according to law. we cannot dictate to him. Opposition cannot command him to do anything...(*Interruptions*). I am not afraid. It is known who is afraid.

Never in this country a Government has been found exposed as the present Government in this matter. This Government is fighting a rearguard battle to save the image of its leader. That is why they are prone to accuse the opposition; with the help of the mass media they want to give misinformation to the public, as they are always utilizing this media. It is clear that the days of this Government are numbered and the sooner... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS: Are you in the dreamland? Are you dreaming?.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The sooner ... (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I know so many things about them Charity begins at home ... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No interruptions. Please conclude now, otherwise I am going to call the next speaker.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The sooner this Government goes to oblivion, the better it will be for the country.

Sir, this toothless Committee with almost semi-deaf ears and the diminished vision is there for the purpose of selling this Government to the people of this country and to paint the picture of credibility so far as this Government is concerned. But the people are not accepting it and that is why this Government is on a panic run. That is why we say that if you think people are with you, this is the opportunity to show your political morality. Dissolve the Government and see what the people think about them.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while welcoming the debate, I would like to emphasize that we want to prove and prove beyond doubt that we are also very much interested to know the name of the person who has taken considerable amount as commission as was stated by the NBA. Sir, it is not that the Opposition only is interested to know the truth, we on this side, every Member of the Congress Party is equally interested to find out the facts. But we are not like the Opposition who started insisting on the formation of a Committee without any prima facie case. Sir, it is they who insisted upon th formation of a Committee and not we. We are not like this gentleman lawyer, who spoke before me, who can make the black white and the white black. We opposed at the first instance

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because there was no prima facie case to establish a Committee. But since now there is some doubt as to the payment of Commission, we immediately agreed to the Opposition's demand and now it is they who are receding back. Now, they are giving all sort of arguments, saying the Parliamentary Committee as toothless, a still-born child and what not. Sir, to my mind they are abusing the Committee because they are not fully aware of the power that the Committee possesses. Some of these young friends hardly know how the Committee exactly functions.

Now about the Rules, which he has quoted, like this Committee will visit the foreign country but will not have its sitting, will not have evidence, will not have decisions, these rules were not framed by some small lawyers or a Professor in the Physics Department. They were framed by very eminent constitutional pandits of this country. We did not frame them and nor he framed the rules. In the preceding speeches delivered in this House, Sir, our friends from the opposite have called us sycophants, bonded labour etc. I would like to say that we in the Congress Party believe in democracy. The democracy believes in a Leader. We do not belong to the party where bonded labours sit. One of my friends to my right is saying do not go beyond that. But I would ask why should I not go beyond it? You have gone much beyond the Indian frontier in the matter of whips. We take help from our Leader. We have a Leader, we believe in him and we follow him. That is what the democracy say. We are not like the totalitarian party which calls others as sycophants. I would say that all the sycophants and bonded labours are there in the CPI(M). Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask my friends on that side not to indulge in this sort of cheap talk. Let them try to understand my argument. They should learn how to speak. These rules were framed with a purpose. The meaning given by my great learned advocate is not correct. There have been many Parliamentary Committees in the past 40 years. They had visited many parts of this country. But Committees, when they go out, do not sit and take evidence and they do not take decisions. But Sir, when they go, they do sit. They do not stand. When they go to West Bengal or Tamil Nadu they do gather information. What do they do when they go outside? They meet all kinds of persons who are available and gather evidence but they do not take evidence. That is the difference between taking and gathering evidence. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Committee is not meant to go to Stockholm on a sight-seeing tour. It is quite apparent. I am surprised how this gentleman did not understand this point. If the Committee has to go there, it would go there for gathering information. One can wake up a sleeping man. But how can we wake up somebody who pretends to be asleep?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he is going on abusing me. I said that the Committee cannot record evidence. What does he mean when he says ' taking evidence' and 'gathering evidence'? He should explain it properly.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, which is the word in my speech that he considers as abuse? Let him point it out, I will withdraw it and apologise to the House. No, you cannot answer me. You cannot meet my arguments and you cannot stand the sting!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have referred to the recording of evidence. He is drawing a great distinction between 'taking' and 'gathering' and what not! What is this distinction?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Why do

you shout? That is my interpretation. You are a lawyer. I too am a lawyer though I am not practising and taking money like you. That is the only difference. Of course, I also practise for the people in Parliament but I do not take money. (*Interruptions*) I have really not spoken even a single word which would match the abuse that they showered on us. What all did he say? Have I said just one work like that? But even so, it is pinching the hon. lawyer.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: 'The Committee shall not record evidence'. What does this mean?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Please sit down. Try to hear this also Mr. Lawyer. It is just the beginning. I have a lot more to say. This is only the first round, rather a *namoona.*

What I have been saying all along is that the rules are purposely framed. You cannot do the same sort of things in a foreign country as you may be doing in your own country. Therefore, it does not preclude meeting persons who are responsible or who can be of help to the Committee. That does not really preclude it. It was simple common sense. You do not go there for the honeymoon of a young member of the committee. Nor do you go there for sight-seeing. When you go to Stockholm, you go there to gather evidence. When you go there, you can meet persons of responsibility. If the Parliamentary Committee goes there, it will be treated with respect. It is not like the opposition members going there, just for the sake of going. They are waiting eagerly as to when they could go. Well, they have issued a statement. Madhuji and Somnathji have not agreed to go on the Committee. Very good. I am happy. Madhuji is quoting rules, the decisions of the Business Advisory Committee, and the debate in Parliament. At least this much faith he had in the Indian Parliament and only in the Committee he has no faith. He believes in raising the debate time and again in this House. He talks about the rules of Parliament. He talks about the Business Advisory Committee. But he does not believe in the Parliamentary Committee because it does not suit them. It is not a powerless Committee as the Defence Minister has stated. I would not like to go again and again into that argument. Mr. Swell and also the Minister have explained about the Official Secrets' Act and all that. I do not want to say anything about the Ministers appearing before the Committee, if the Members want them.

Now it is said why refer to the Speaker? I quote two instances. As you know there was a deadlock between the Government and the Opposition in the case of Shri L.N. Mishra. Day in and day out, it was there. (*Interruptions*) If you shut your mouth and open your ears, you will understand me better. For one month the deadlock between both sides continued. This deadlock was there in Tulmohan Ram's case and Shri L.N. Mishra's case. What was the way out? The Government was not at all prepared to say in a language which the Opposition can understand. The Opposition was not even prepared to understand the language of the Government. What happened in that case? It was left to the Chair for mediation. In that case, in the Speaker's Chamber, the papers were shown and the controversy was resolved.

Now I quote another instance. Shri Biju Patnaik, the great leader of the Janata Party, who is now on the Opposition and Shri Surendranath Dwivedi, the great man who is not on our side now but who was on this side, they have not seen and I have seen them and I do not want to refer the books, there again another controversy-Report.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]
Defence Minister was also on this side.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: That is right. There are many like that. Some of you do like that. I do not know which day, you will show your true colours.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I have never defected.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: But it is a very small life. You have a long life and let us see what, you will decide. That is the question.

I quote another instance. It is again another deadlock. What happened again? Again there was a reference to the Speaker. Therefore, in this case, I would plead with my Opposition friends that, it the Resolution says about the visit, the rules do not bear the meaning, as interpreted by my learned Advocate, has put before the House, that is misleading the House. The real meaning was that they may not stand. He said it in a literary meaning. But the figurative meaning was that they can gather evidence. They are not going for sight-seeing or for honeymoon.

Regarding the four points which Prof. Madhuji has said, these have been explained by the Defence Minister in his statement in this House as well as in the other House and the other point was made clear by Prof. Swell.

I think there is no logic now, no ground for the Opposition to say that this is a toothless Committee, I cannot join this. It is a still born child. You can only do that. If it is a still born child, then you are responsible for that. But thanks to the resilience of the Indian democracy, the Parliamentary Committee will function and it will not have a still born child, but it will be a healthy child which will show to the world that Indian democracy functions. You have very which resented our telling you that you have denigrated the Parliament. What else have you done? You have done an unprecedented act. By a Resolution of this House, you have called upon a Committee but you did not believe. You believed more in the Public Prosecutor - District Public Prosecutor. He is not there for the whole of Sweden. He is only for the canton. You believed more. Even if this Committee which we have set up, if I can concede for a moment, just for the sake of discussion that it has certain limitations, even then a Parliamentary Committee is much better than a District Public Prosecutor of a foreign country. I hold and believe and so also my friends on this side that he had denigrated the parliamentary institutions. I repeat, it has shown the helplessness and the pitiable condition of the Opposition who are crying what can I do, excepting going to the Embassy. I do not challenge you right. Please go every time you like. (*Interruptions*) On the second occasion, if you have a difference with the judgement of the Supreme Court, go to the American Embassy and say: ' Let the Supreme Court of U.S.A. decide this.' (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Sir, they went to America.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: All right; I will add another point: if you had any difference with the Government about investigation of a particular case, you can call for Mossad from Israel, or call C.I.A. (*Interruptions*) If you like, you can call KGB also. I have no objection.

What I say is this: I do not claim perfection for this Committee. Madhu or my friend Indrajit may have their apprehension; and possibly, in the working of the Committee, that might have been proved true to some extent. I do not challenge that point, mind you. But what I say is this: to start with the

presumption that the Parliamentary Committee is much worse than a Public Prosecutor is to insult the Indian democracy.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: It is a ruling party Committee.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: My young friend says it is a ruling party Committee. I do not agree to this. Why does he say this? We do not want to make it a Politbureau Committee, like your party. We have not agreed to that. But the question is: You see it from any angle, from any side; you will find that this Committee is the most competent. Today, since you have boycotted it, I do not say that it is still that powerful. I do not say it. Let us state the facts. A Parliamentary Committee of all parties would have been much more powerful, would have carried much more weight when we want to have evidence, than the Committee as it is. But who is responsible for this? (*Interruptions*) You alone. You wanted to denigrate the Parliamentary Committee. That is the position today.

Therefore, I would request sincerely, not for argument's sake - it is possible I am again repeating -, Madhu, Indrajit and Somnath may have an apprehension that this Committee is hedged in by limitations, and may not function effectively. At some stage in its working, if some of us find it to be so, will you kindly come before us and give suggestions for the removal of the difficulties and to start in a better way? But to start from the premise that it is nothing and useless, and that the Public Prosecutor is better, is the height ...

Mr Dandavate had talked about that businessman, the great grand Thapar. His house was raided. Some Bofors documents were produced. I believe him. Will he not send them to the Public Prosecutor for examination? Or, will he like them... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: We will examine Bofors.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: That is right. It would have been better if you could have shown it in this Committee itself. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, let him speak first. Then I will speak. (*Interruptions*) What is the use, Mr. Deputy Speaker? I do not like this running commentary.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to know one thing. Mr. Chowdhary, do you want to answer every point of Mr. Azad? (*Interruptions*) You listen to me. Do you want to answer every point he makes now? When he is speaking, let him speak. (*Interruptions*) Listen to me. If you want particularly to speak about something, you can ask me. I will give permission for you to speak. I will give it. He goes on telling you 'listen, listen' but you do this. This is not correct. Dont interfere.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I agree with Mr Chowdhary, the young man, that the country wants to know the names of those persons who have taken considerable amounts. (*Interruptions*) I do not disagree there. Mr. Chowdhary, again you are shouting. Please hear me I say that we on this side want to know the identity of the persons who have taken the money.

This Swedish Government have done injustice to us by putting those dots in the report. We wanted to know what those dots mean; whether they are the names or they are the bank accounts or they are something otherwise. We want to know who are those persons? Not only that, we also want to know for what purpose that considerable amount has been given? Only hotel booking and reservation of a car cannot draw that much of amount. We have said that; the government has also said that. We want to know how

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much was paid and for what service? We want further to know under what contract it has been given? We still want to know when was that contract signed. It is precisely for for this that we have formed a Parliamentary Committee. We cannot do it individually; we cannot allow the government to do it; we wanted that let this Parliamentary Committee function. Wherever you want some Minister to come, let the Speaker decide in between. You cannot always see that you and we will agree and see eye to eye; there must be some referee as in this House we have the Speaker. Therefore, we say that this Committee is the only right instrument in the parliamentary democracy to have this. But now the opposition is going back on its demand about that. I want to know from the government whether Hindujas are involved in this. Let them not say that they are the only champions; they are no champions; we are the champions of the truth and this country. We demand from the government that Win Chadha, dead or alive, must be brought back to this country. (Inter*ruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why was he allowed to go away?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: That is your point; that is where you always make mistakes. Government allowed him to fly away. Government did not allow; our is a democratic government, not a totalitarian government where if anybody does anything, he will be more; we do not want to do that. He escaped away, no doubt, but we wish he would not have escaped. It is unfortunate that when we are trying all our best to find out that truth, a lot of suspicion, an atmosphere is being created in the country that we are not serious about it. What else can we say? A Committee is there and a reference is clearly given. We have seen the Audit Bureau Report. We have ourselves protested why those blanks are there; fill up those blanks. We have from the beginning asked the Swedish Government to give us information. There are ways and ways of functioning. The opposition has a right, a mind to immediately rush to the Embassy. Our government cannot; government will talk to government and in that we have not failed; government have written to the Swedish Government and we are trying to find out from them the facts. I wish the Swedish Government would have given forthright the elaborate statement. They have said today that they will find it out. We are asking them from the 21st of April. But, somehow, I think the Swedish Government have their own problems; there the government consists of different parties; they may have their own differences; I do not know. I only wish like our democracy so is the method and code of conduct and functions of the Swedish Government democracy also. If it is not, I think, at least the basic tenets are the same. And even now, rather to give information, Bofors public prosecutor will be well advised; they will do the job better. If they give it to the Indian Government to pass on to the Committee, that will be a graceful, decent way of functioning and in the national code of behaviour and system; that will be better for the Swedish Government to do. The Swedish Government knows that the late Prime Minister, Palme asked special favour from the Indian Prime Minister; and the Indian Prime Minister put two conditions; (1) the weapons must be the best; and (2) they must have the lowest price.

20.00 hrs.

I think, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that we the Indian Government has fulfilled its commitments. It has got the best weapons, it has got at the lowest price.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: We have to sell or buy?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Now, of course a Professor says...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you interfering? Why are you wasting time? When the Minister replies you can ask. I cannot allow like this. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I cannot yield to this young man. (*Interruptions*) This young man must learn some decency in Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Take your seat, Mr. Chowdhary.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: He has yielded.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I am not like you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Are you ready to stand before the gun when it fires?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, two important things concerned with this deal, have been fulfilled quite adequately. One is, we have the best guns and secondly we have got them at the lowest price.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Without any middlemen?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Now, a Professor from a laboratory says that they are sub-standard. Who will decide that? A lawyer, a Professor, a public worker, who will decide? The best judges for the guns are the Army personnel. The Chief Commander or the technical committee that is there.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Middlemen?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: We are not going to believe in the words of a professor. We believe more in the words of the experts of the Army, and therefore the guns were not sub-standard, but a sub-standard remark by sub-standard Opposition Member has brought down the morale of the Indian Army. But I am confident that the Indian Army will not be demoralised by such casual unknowledgeable remarks of an honourable professor.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): Were there any middlemen or not?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Azad, you sit down. We had decided that the debate will continue up to 8 O'clock.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: There was an agreement that we will sit up to. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: You were not in the House last evening. We said we will continue and finish the work today. (*Interruptions*) If the hon. Members of the Opposition would like to participate in the debate they are welcome to do so.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: There are number of speakers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, one minute.

Already in the Business Advisory Committee we decided that today itself we have to finish this debate. The record is there. This is also adopted by the House.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

This is what we have decided. "To be concluded on the same day" that is what has been decided.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You can continue tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Therefore, I think we will continue.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Mr. Deputy-Speaker,.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let all the other Members be brief. Because after that the Minister has to reply. As far as possible, if you all cooperate we can finish it. Mr. Azad, you continue.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Mr. Deputy-Speaker,....

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Was there a middlemen or not?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, our friend Madhu Dandavate had quoted five cases where the help of foreign agency has been taken. He had quoted the case of a jewellery theft of Maharani. He had quoted the instance of Charles Shobaraj, a great offender of law. He had quoted the instance of Fairfax. In none of the cases, Prof. Madhu Dandavate very conveniently forget that Parliament had taken a decision of appointing a Committee. When the Parliament takes a decision to appoint a Committee or appoints the Committee to go into it, all the examples of Madhu do not apply in this case. Though he might have thought that I had given the instances and I felt very happy the Member, it is not so. They were just small, but not like this. Here, Parliament has spent twenty hours and fifty two minutes already to discuss this and appoint a Committee. Therefore, Madhuji your logic is completely not a logic, but tenacity of a logic.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: What about Fairfax?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I would say that the Committee from all pointed angles are the best instrument that we should adhere to find out the truth. It has been said that by Prof. Madhu Dandavate that corruption established, it destroys and destabilises the democracy. I agree with him. But the rumour mongering of socalled corruption not establisbed brought forward by pitiless and helpless Opposition, talking and singing this song and creating an atmosphere in the country, that will really destabilise and that really bring defame and bring difficulty in the path of functioning of our democracy.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: When allegations in watergate were made against Nixon, President Nixon initially said this is all rumour mongering. There is no substance in this. This is scandalising by the Press and only later on, it proved to be correct.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that does not apply in this case. Nixon met the fate of the time for lies. Our Prime Minister said on the first occasion that unless we have some prima facie case, we should not hazard upon the investigation of the Committee. The moment we have a prima facie case, we have formed the Committee. How this example is applicable in our case. This example is applicable only in your case, because in spite of your demand nor seeing the Committee is going to function, you did not join. You have behaved in the opposite side of Nixon and not wanting Indian Democracy to find out the truth. Therefore, I would still say that let the Oppo-

sition come and join the Committee and I repeat again, at any point of time if they feel difficulty in functioning, it is open for all of us we will join with you and remove that obstacle from your way so that this Committee can find out the truth. I would only say this. This only shows the quality-not only what we have so far done what they have said-by not agreeing to this Committee, shows their helplessness, the mightiest word that I can use, but it shows the quality of the opposition. A Democracy can function. It is a right inherent of the opposition to always keep the Government on tip toe, always trying to find out the corruption, but any stick is not good enough to beat the Government in that name. It shows the intention of the Opposition not to find out the truth, but to browbeat the Government by any stick that they can have, even by rushing to the embassy and asking the Prosecutor, replacing the parliamentary democracy, to give the judgement. They can have their own judgement. May God forgive them they know not about what act they are doing to the democracy and to the country. I hope, they will realise very soon that this is the only method that we can do. And I hope, we all are equally interested, rather more interested than the opposition, to find out the truth. I repeat that we, the Members of the Congress Party of this House, want to know the truth. After two things-procuring the best weapon at the cheapest price-if some money has passed over as the reports say, the moment Government knew about it, the Prime Minister, on the very same day, took the opposition into confidence. And we tried to find it out because you do not appreciate and understand it.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Repeating.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Yes, I am repeating Mr. Choubey. I will not repeat now. Mr. Choubey has understood the point. So far he was not understanding. So, I would not repeat. I would say, please come and join the Committee and let us find out the monster, who has got this huge amount of Rs. 50 crores.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): I cannot reply to an abuse by an abuse. Secondly, I am not an artillery expert like Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I did not claim that. I said, Army experts, neither Madhu Dandavate nor Indrajit Gupta.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I also did not claim that. I said, let the experts give the opinion.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You took about 45 minutes. Now keep your mouth shut.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: All right. I accept your advice, but please keep your anger shut.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I have to be brief because the time is running out. I do not have the luxury of going on yap, yap, yap, yap.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I belong to the Congress Party and not the Communist Party which is having 11 Members.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What a great man. It is pity that he is neither in the Committee nor in the Government.... (*Interruptions*) should I go on replying in the same way?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: He should not refer to me and I will not reply.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am not an artillery expert like some people who profess to be. Therefore, I am not going to this aspect

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at all because I donot consider it desirable to argue whether the gun that we have procured is the best gun or not, whether any better gun was avilable or not. I am not going into those questions. And I believe that there is nobody sitting in this House who is capable of deciding that question. But the question which I had raised in the earlier debate and to which no satisfactory reply has been given so far, and this is one of the points on which I personally have had very great reservations about this whole inquiry, was the question whether this negotiation for this gun and the amount that we have contracted to pay for it, includes or does not include the purchase of technology for manufacturing this gun indigenously in our own country. After all, we are interested in the security aspect or only in the money aspect? The future of the defence and the security of the country, I think, is no less important than to find out who has taken this money. I had raised this question much earlier. The Government has got to say here clearly before the House whether they are really interested in developing the indigenous manufacture of this gun or not. If they are interested, then they have to acquire the technology from the Bofors. And for acquiring that technology, I am sure, they are not able to get that technology within this Rs. 1457 crores..... (*Interruptions*) Some say Rs. 1410 crores, some say Rs. 1425 crores, some say Rs. 1470 crores-whatever it is. I am quite convinced from all the discussions that have taken place and what has been revealed so far by the Government that this amount does not cover the cost of the technology. I think, the Government is not interested in developing indigenous manufacture or is it interested? If it is not interested, then tell us what are we going to do after a few years? By purchasing 400 guns which will take, I suppose, about four years to be supplied to us, and will take, perhaps, five years to equip these 20 artillery regiments. If there are six guns per battery, as I believe is the standard specification, six guns per battery, and three batteries per regiment-then only 20 artillery regiments can be equipped by these Bofors guns in a period of five years. If we start producing this gun here in India-I do not know whether they intend to do it or not-then that production can only begin after a period of about ten years and by that time perhaps this Bofor's particular gun and system may be obsolete also. But they are not replying to this question because various reports have appeared which say that if we are to purchase this technology, then we will have to enter into yet another commercial agreement with Bofors. What will be the worth of that contract, I do not know. Perhaps you see, there are some estimates - I do not know whether they are correct or not-that they are demanding some 2.5 billion dollars for the technology. So, in that case another contract with its kick-backs and its commissions may be in the offing, we do not know. Mr. Shiv Raj Patil that day, in the debate I believe, said-if I did not misunderstand him, he did remark-that they are interested in manufacturing this gun and some sort of project has been prepared, and so on. But no amount of project being prepared will work unless Bofors gives you the technology. Now, Sir, what I find from the terms of reference of this Committee, even in the modified form which Mr. Pant has brought subsequently by various amendments which I welcome, is that he did respond to some of the points which were raised in the debate, and did try to modify the original terms of reference to some extent. But this question is not covered. The whole emphasis in the debate also is only on finding out who has taken the money. Well, that is an important aspect of course. If there is a corruption of this magnitude where these big sums have been paid illegally, either as bribe or commission, naturally we have to find out who has taken the money, and that is very necessary also in order to clear, once for all,

this cloud of suspicion which has been generated and which has not been generated by the Opposition. This cloud has been generated. It is in the interest not only of the ruling party, I say not only of the Prime Minister, it is in the interest of this country that this matter should be cleared up as to who has taken this money. Whether they are Indians or whether they are people abroad, non-resident Indians or some foreign agents working on behalf of the company, or who they were, we do not know. This has to be found out. But my point is that is this going to be the end of the matter. The attempt of the Government seems to be to finish off this whole committee by concentrating only on this one aspect of who has taken the money I do not agree with this viewpoint at all. This is probably one of the biggest arms contracts that we have ever entered into. And what is the purpose of it after all? I do not go into all those questions about the range of the gun or whether it is better or inferior or superior to guns which Pakistan has got, or other people have got. That we will just leave to the military experts. We are helpless in this country. We cannot do anything about it. But I think Mr. Pant knows, he has noted the fact that very recently an hon. Member of the other House has addressed a very detailed letter to the Prime Minister which has appeared in the Press also, which has given some very disturbing facts regarding the procedure by which this gun was acquired. I do not know whether those facts are true or not but it should be inquired into by this committee.

Shri Arun Singh before he resigned has told this House that the selection of a weapon system is an arduous process. He said that in the first phase there is techno strategic evaluation which anticipates future requirements. After this comes the parameters required for fixing the operational requirement of weapon system. This is known as General Staff Quotation Requirement-GSQR. Then potential suppliers are identified. Their data are matched with GSQR Then comes the users trial, when the competing suppliers bring their system to be tested by the users i.e. the Army. This is the outline of the procedure which he claims at that time has been laid down as long ago as 1980 and has to be rigidly and scrupulously adhered to whenever any defence equipment is to be acquired.

Publicly some allegations have appeared, have been made ostensibly based on reliable sources-that in the whole process this negotiation and selection which went on for so many years, some very serious default have taken place. That thing is now public. it can be enquired into, and because it has not yet been enquired into, I am not prepared to say like Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad that we have really got the best guns at the cheapest price. it is a big order. These firms were competing for it. Finally even when it was short listed to the Swedes and the French there was very keen competition as to who would bag the order. I have said in the last debate that your selection or negotiating committee which consists of seven people is a Committee which has to be investigated very thoroughly I should say the personnel of that Committee some of whom may not be available any more. Some have been transferred, I am told, before the final contract was signed. It is even alleged that as far as the French Gun was concerned, only its prototype was seen. That gun was not tested according to the procedures laid down and the GSQR which is normally a very detailed technical document has to be on the face of it, requirements of the Army as elaborated in the GSQR. The technical detailed document, such a document was not prepared in this case. It was a very sketchy kind of one page document on the basis of which it was decided to go in for this gun.

My point is that the scope of this

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Committee, the first Parliamentary Committee of this type, going into such a vital matter effecting our security cannot be sought to be limited in this way to the question of who has taken money. That is the only question which seems to agitate the people.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: I am reading from the Motion.

"The Committee shall enquire into the following matters:

1. Whether the procedure laid down for the acquisition of weaponry system were adhered to for the purchase of Bofors Gun."

Exactly, it is a point which you have raised.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It was the point injected into the terms of reference after the last debate. I welcome that. But my information is that in order to carry out this first part of the terms of reference, then we come up again to those obstacles which have, unfortunately, prompted the Opposition not to take part in the Committee-what will be its powers? Whom it can call? Whom it can examine? Whether in every case it will have to take the consent of the Speaker, permission of the Speaker.

SHRI K.C. PANT: You know better.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I do not know better. It is the first Committee of its kind. It remains to be seen, how the government deals with it. The negotiations for this technology, I am told, were begun only last March by another team headed by one Mr. Bhandarkar, belonging to the Ordnance Department and nothing has materialised yet. As I said it may take more than ten years to start the production by which time this whole Bofors system may be obsolete. So, what is the perspective? We have to have some security perspective and some defence planning. I presume there is some defence planning. We had agreed to start defence plan long ago after 1962 events. This is one big factor, in my understanding that in the absence of going into these things, thoroughly it really will render the Committee, I consider, to be infructuous and futile. It is only to find out who has taken the money, which is a factor which can be revealed, without the committee also. It can be revealed by external sources also. Without the help of those external sources, I doubt very much whether this committee or any other committee will be able to reveal, unless those sources, particularly Bofors itself is willing to divulge and willing to cooperate. Up to now, there is no sign of it.

Then, Sir, as far as the commission agents or middlemen or these people are concerned, who have shared in these kickbacks, I presume, there is some network of people who were operating. There is nothing in these terms of reference, in my view, which will enable this committee to go deeply into this question. I am not concerned with any agent who may have been there operating abroad and who may be beyond the scope of your Committee inquiry. It is because, you would not be able to lay hands on them. I am not talking, for the moment, about Win Chadha because, he was here; he was very much an Indian citizen. He was here and he could have been put in a position which would have made it possible for the Committee to find out quite a lot. He was allowed to run away. Now all these things are being said here about getting hold of Win Chadha and all this but the Government has not explained why they have allowed him to get away like this, and allowed a very valuable witness, I should say, to escape. But

there were other people. There are other people. Because we now know that this deal envisages putting together of a great deal of sub-systems for the gun. It may be sold to us in the package deal but there are sub-systems which are manufactured or provided by other firms, not Bofors. So, their representatives are in this country. Government never told us also whether any investigation has been carried out. There is, for example, one Mr. Vinod Khanna, who is an agent in India for the Saab Scania trucks which are used for towing. He may be just an employee of Mr. Thapar, I do not know. He lives here in Golf Links. At the time when the news broke out, the money being taken, he was perhaps away on a visit to England. His house was raided here. I do not know, whether anything was found or not. He has told nothing. No action, no further action has been taken against Mr. Vinod Khanna. Obviously if you raided his house, you had some idea that he may be connected in some way with the whole network of kickbacks money. There are also Volvo B-20 Auxiliary power units which are used on the guns. They are not manufactured by the Bofors. They are manufactured by Volvo and their agent here is, Mr. Jagannath Rao, who runs a firm called Jagat agency. He is very much here and available. There is the Marconi Defence system which mainly consists of the computer which is integrated with the gun. Here, we have got Mr. Rajiv Choudhary and Mr. Sudhir Choudhary who are the agents for this Marconi defence system. They are here in India. Have you tried to do anything? How is this Committee going to function, how is it going to find out? What have been the operations and dealings of all those people who are connected in one way or another with the whole system, the Bofors Defence system, Bofors artillery system? Since these things have not been brought to light and nobody has informed about it, Parliament has not been given any information about this matter, we continue to have doubts as to what extent, you are willing to really find out the whole truth.

Once the audit report has come out from Sweden, of course, you have no other alternative but to appoint this parliamentary committee because it was a *prima facie* case of money having passed hands, Rs. 50 crores or more than that. Now the whole attention is being focussed only on that aspect of it. So, Sir, I do not agree with this outlook at all and as I had said in the earlier debate, I would have been satisfied if Mr. Pant himself said, the point which he himself has said, he has written a letter to Bofors, asking them to furnish this information within a fortnight. He has given specific points and mentioned them here. If those points had also all been incorporated in the terms of reference, I would have understood him. I quoted them that day. These are Mr. Pant's points, not mine.

"The precise amounts which have been paid", now, that we know the amount shall be paid, we have only to find out who took the money. That is not what he wrote in the letter to Bofors. What he wanted to know from Bofors was,

(1) The precise amounts which have been paid and the amounts which are due to be paid by Bofors by way of commission, secret payments etc. in connection with the Indian contracts;

(2) the recipients of such amounts whether they be persons or companies and in the case of the latter, their proprietors and President;

(3) the services rendered by such persons or companies with reference to which such amounts have been paid.

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He mentioned this matter. After all, they rendered some services. Otherwise, why were they paid? How does it come here in this terms of reference, I do not know.

(4) copies of contract agreements and correspondence between Bofors and such recipients; and

(5) all other facts, circumstances and details relating to these transactions in their possession.

This would have been something which, I thought, would be incorporated in the terms of reference. But, that has not been done.

Whether the question of selection of the guns was done strictly according to procedure is going to be a very very difficult thing for a Committee of this sort to find out. How will you know? Here we have said that test trials were held. The report is that the test was only done in one area. You are claiming that testing has to be done in different areas of the country where different climatic conditions exist from the deserts of Rajasthan to the mountains of North-East or wherever it is. Reports say that certain sources were supposed to be in the know that in this particular case the testing was done only in one area. It is well known that the hydraulic system of this gun during the test trials has not functioned properly. They failed. There are a number of hydraulic systems on which a gun operates. Bofors was asked to rectify defects in the gun. Whether they have been rectified or not, I do not know. We should have been told something.

Then there is the question of the identity of the swiss company which, according to Bofors was paid for marketing and counter-purchasing. Have you been able to identify any such company which has been doing marketing and counter-purchasing on behalf of Bofors and, if so, in what commodities they deal? You do not know. Will it be covered by this Committee's limited terms of reference which have been given here? Out of four terms of reference, one is who has taken the money and second, to determine the Indian laws which are violated and then there are only two terms of reference here. One, of course, is about the procedures of selection; and the other is whether there is any prima facie evidence that Bofors have made any other payments also for securing Indian contracts. So, we felt that with the truncated powers which the Committee was given and which, at every stage would have to refer to the Speaker for his permission to call witnesses and examine them—I am leaving aside for the time being the question of going abroad; that has been referred to sufficiently by my colleagues, the impediments which have been put in the way there—it would be quite a futile exercise. I wish this Committee well. If this Committee can do anything and bring out the truth about all these aspects, I will be very happy because it will help to dispel the cloud of suspicion which has grown that you are trying desperately to hide the truth. You consistently refused the idea of a parliamentary committee until the Swiss Committee's report came out. Before that, you were opposed to that very idea. That has created certain impression not only amongst us but among the people of the country at large.

Now, therefore, what I wish to say is that what has happened now, the Committee has been formed and, therefore, I do not wish to say anything about it. The Committee has been already formed and established. But you have still to appoint the Chairman, perhaps. I do not know who is going to be the Chairman. To kindly make rather a side remark, it is not very advisable at this time when the country is going through the worst drought in 100 years to change the Minister for Water Resources. What kind of message

does that send out to the people in the drought-stricken areas? I do not know about it. Whether he is made the Chairman or not, I am not concerned with it. That is their look out.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: There are no Ministers to reply to the flood situation. Mr. Mirdha had to reply.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It is not a very right thing to do so.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He may irrigate the Defence deal.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDARJIT GUPTA: When the worst possible drought has overtaken this country, why do you meddle with the Department of water Resources? I think it is a tactless move that they have made. That is what generally they do in all these matters. They don't think of the implications of all these things. So, all I would say is; finally the Committee has been set up and it has got certain members on it-of course they are strictly speaking members of the Congress Party-and if the committee is really able to function effectively, I wish them well. Certainly, we will not try, in any way, to impede their work. If we have any other information or any other useful data which can help the work of the Committee, we are, at any time, prepared to see that it goes to the Committee. The Committee should also try to take the help of people who are willing to give them some data or material on which they can pursue further, if they are serious about it. But I am afraid that a lot of damage has already been done by the mere fact that the way in which the Government finally agreed to this whole idea of the Parliamentary Committee, the kind of terms of reference which they came forward with in the beginning, then the kind of limitations and restrictions which are sought to be placed on the Committee's functioning, all these have created a situation where it was not possible for the Opposition to cooperate or participate in the Committee. It is no use imputing motives. There is no question of that, you see. I personally am of the view that it would have been a good thing if the whole of the Parliament could have been represented on this Committee. So, I think that for that as you are talking here about traditions and conventions of Parliament and all that, the whole attitude which has been taken up from the beginning was not very much in keeping with the convention. Anyway, now the Committee has been formed. Let it set about its work. This is going to be pre-occupied with the question of who has taken the money. Then, they may be preempted. They may be preempted by this Swedish authority, the Public Prosecutor and the other people. the names may come out long before this Committee can buckle down to this task. So, in that case, of course we will be spared of a lot of trouble and time because I don't think they are going to go beyond that. They are not bothered about the other security, long-range security aspect of this whole deal at all. I would request the Government finally to tell us- now or on some other occasion they must take the country and the Parliament into confidence-about their whole planning regarding this gun; whether it is going to be manufactured or not; if it is not going to be manufactured, then why not? If it is going to be manufactured, where is the technology? If the technology is to be acquired, how much more money we will have to pay for it? And, if we have to pay a big sum additional for getting the technology, whether that will be free of kickbacks and illegal bribes. We do not know who is to be dealt with. Finally, in the process of manufacturing this gun over a period of 10 years, the whole Bofors weapon system may become obsolete in which case

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we will again have to start a fresh.....

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The Committee will be obsolete.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The Committee may become obsolete....(*Interruptions*). I think that the whole way in which this thing has been handled has led to this situation in which the Opposition, despite their wanting very much to serve on this Committee. I can assure you.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Only some of you. I would like to thank you. You took a reasonable attitude.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: From the beginning, they had every desire to be part of this Committee.

SHRI K.C. PANT: You speak for yourself. I will accept it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: When we began spelling out all the details and wanted all the clarifications on these various points, we ran up against some obstacles which have become unfortunately an impediment which prevents us from joining this Committee. That is the situation now, and I think it is no use going on appealing and requesting us. You have formed the Committee. You have elected your Members. Now you select your Chairman. Let it start its work.....

SHRI K.C. PANT: That is exactly what we are doing.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Do that. Do not go on repeating to us, "Please come and join even now", etc., etc. You do not do it at least. Let your Members do it.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Now it is no use.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Finally, I will just say that, if the names are brought out ultimately either by the efforts of this Committee or by the Swiss authorities or by a combination of both, of course, whoever are the culprits, we will have to lay our hands on them - I do not know whether we will be able to-and see that they are properly punished. If those names are such that it can be said that the Prime Minister himself is not at all connected with those people, it is a good thing. But if it turns out to be something else, then I am afraid the Prime Minister will have to go. We do not know. We have no proof or evidence at the moment.....

SHRI K.C. PANT: Why say such things when there is not a shred of evidence? He has come to the House and made a statement. It is highly unfair.....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: How do you say beforehand?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Because he has come to the House and he has made a statement. It is on that basis, I say. It is highly uncharitable and highly unfair.....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You do not expect somebody to come and say that he is involved. Do you?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would say that one Member of this House rose on a personal explanation and contradicted certain reports, and later on, actually, existence of assets outside the country was established. And he says that he is very close to the Prime Minister.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: It is an allegation-even hypothetically stating and casting reflection on the Prime Minister. It should not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Not on the Prime Minister. He did not say that.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Is it not a fact that the Prime Minister himself, from the very beginning when the whole question of kickbacks, commission and all that in this deal was raised and was first leaked out from Sweden, went on saying repeatedly that "the whole thing is a fabrication, it is all lies, it is an attempt to discredit the Government, it is a conspiracy to destabilise the Government and the country". Did he not say all this?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: Did the Prime Minister not say that if somebody was found to be guilty, he would be punished whoever he might be? Did he not say that here? Did he not make a statement about himself? Is it charitable on your part now to raise this question?(*Interruptions*) Is it charitable to make this remark? You are a fair person, Mr. Indrajit Gupta. I did not expect this from you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I have said that if he is cleared....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: How can you say that when there is not a shred of evidence?

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Defence Minister, you yourself said that what was said on the Swedish radio was mischievous and baseless. That was what you said on the 20th April in a written statement. But that has been proved to be false.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Professor, you can say what you like about me. But the Prime Minister has made a statement. I consider Shri Indrajit Gupta as one of the most responsible Members of this House. Therefore, when he says a thing like this, I object to it. There are other Members who might say this, but I would not object to that because that is expected of them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Let me repeat what I said and conclude. Please listen. What have I said? I have said that I welcome this attempt, in whatever limited way it may be undertaken, to clear the suspicions and doubts which are in the minds of the people. If the identity of the names is established-which is also a big 'if'; I do not know whether this will be done-, if the names are found out, if the identity is established, then it will either clear the Prime Minister of involve him. We do not know. You have already come to a conclusion, but we cannot come to that conclusion. If it clears him, it is well and good for him and for your Party.....

SHRI K.C. PANT: For the country.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But the country is not identified only with one single individual.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: That has been the tragedy all these years.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But if it does not clear him, then whatever consequences are to follow must follow. You know about it. What is there being uncharitable about it? That is also a part of parliamentary democracy. Is it not? If he is found to be involved in

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any way, I hope, he is not, if he is..... (*Interruptions*) Anyway, we wish your Committee. Well we will not try to impede it or obstruct it in any way. Let it go ahead. We are prepared to help it with any other information or data which may become available. You please carry on. We wish you well. Let us see what happens?

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvathipuram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are today discussing the decision that has been taken by the Chief Prosecutor of Sweden regarding kickbacks in the Bofors deal.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, members on the other side who had spoken on this issue have charged that the opposition after having demanded the formation of the parliamentary committee ran away from the Committee. I would like you to recall the circumstances under which we demanded the parliamentary committee in the month of April, based on a report that emanated from the Swedish Radio broadcast that bribes were paid and kickbacks received on this contract between the Bofors and the Indian Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was at this time when the ruling party members, the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister termed the allegations as baseless, false, fabricated, concocted and said that it was a part of a process of destabilisation. Between the time when this Report appeared and when we could raise this issue in Parliament, the Working Committee of the ruling party also met and sat overtime and passed a resolution to say that this was a part of a grand process of destabilisation.

Sir, we were asked whether the opposition was willing to believe what the Government said, what the Prime Minister said or whether we would go by what the Swedish Radio had broadcast. This is the kind of reply that we got. Again one and a half months after that, the Swedish National Audit Bureau gave its report, after having been appointed by the Swedish Government. Due to public pressure in that country, the Government decided to form this Parliamentary Committee. Sir, I would very emphatically state that the purpose for which we wanted the parliamentary committee in April was to establish the truth whether money was paid at all, whether bribes were given at all, and whether kickbacks were recived at all by whosoever it may be. But when the Government decided to form this Parliamentary Committee, there was no question of any prima facie case being established because it was completely established that bribes were paid, money has changed hands. Neither the Government nor Bofors came out with refutals or denials that this amount of Rs. 50 crores or, maybe more, was not paid by way of bribes or kickbacks. Under these circumstances, when the Government choose to form this parliamentary committee, as far as I am concerned, I had very strong reservations whether this Committee was being formed to unravel the truth or rather to put the truth under the carpet.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will appreciate that this information emanated from Swedish Radio and that a private company in Sweden made the payments through the Swedish National bank and maybe through other organisations which could have been connected with this. It is obvious from this that no truth could come out as far as this issue is concerned, unless you interact with these four organisations and institutions who are connected with this issue. Therefore, when this Committee was formed, we asked the Government to allow this Committee to go abroad only to record the evidence there. Now Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad, a senior member of this House said that you could

gather evidence but you would not be allowed to record it. I do not understand the difference between gathering evidence and recording the evidence. How can you gather evidence by not recording it and the Committee by going to Sweden and seeing the Swedish landscape certainly will not be able to unravell the truth. So what was the purpose of this Committee at all? Was it really to find out the truth or it was just to let this matter drift completely? Government has itself conceded that the formation of this Committee was without precedent. So how could the rules be precedented? Those who framed the rules naturally did not make any provision fro a Committee like this because in those days whoever the political pundits or wisemen who framed, I am sure, never foresaw a situation when a Government in our country would be faced with a situation like this for having received kickbacks and that too for purchase of defence weapons.

Therefore, Sir, this Committee is not only a new precedent as far as we are concerned, this would be precedent for other parliamentary democracies also. I hope other parliamentary democracies would not have to face a situation like this because this would arise only if there is this kind of large-scale corruption and kickbacks. But when we are doing it then I would have expected the Government also to come out genuinely and sincerely to see that this Committee came out with some kind of finding but that did not seem to be the basis with which this Commitrtee was formed.

Several members have expressed reservation about some of us having gone to the Swedish Embassy to hand over the letter to the Prime Minister of Sweden. There were shouts of shame when one of the hon. Members reffered to it. Are my friends and colleagues on the other side not ashamed that the fate of our Government today is in the hands of a foreign company. What bigger shame can there be to any Indian citizen and patriotic citizen? I am ashamed that today the fate of my Government, my Prime Minister, is in the hands of a foreign national or in the hands of a foreign company. There is nothing more shameful. It was after this kind of public opinion or pressure was created that it was decided by the Swedish prosecutor to launch this prosecution. Even if the parliamentary committee wants to find out the truth they could always take help of this Chief Prosecutor. Why not? What authority does the parliamentary committee of India have over Bofors, a private company in Sweden over which the Swedish Government itself has no control? If I am wrong the hon. Minister may correct me. Afterall Sweden is a country where they also follow the principle of Ombundsman and arising out of several conventions, practices and procedures that they have followed they have this Chief Prosecutor, whose decision has also been approved by the Attorney General of that country.

Well today a report in the newspaper has also mentioned that a minister of the Swedish Government has stated that the entire truth will be unravelled. So how does this come in the way of the Parliamentary committee I would like to know? Should we not welcome it rather than to condemn it and if it is going to help this parliamentary committee which really wants to find out the truth then what is the wrong with the process that has been set in motion today by the Chief Prosecutor of Sweden?

I am sorry to say that there are apprehensions in the minds of the people even today as to whether Government really wants to unravel the truth or push it beneath the carpet. Today we also heard rumours in the Central Hall that Swedish radio is going to announce some names tomorrow. My senior and honourable colleague Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad wanted to know whether

[Sh. V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo]

the Hindujas were involved. He also took some other names because somebody else was involved, all this is a part of disinformation that is being spread.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to know whether Lotus A. G. Lugano is involved or not, whether Mr. Walter Vinci is involved or not. Report had appeared in some newspapers. 'The Hindu' had come out with a front-page news. If it is a company, well who are the shareholders of this company? Was it really necessary, I would like to ask Pantji, to have a parliamentary committee of this type to get this simple information. As I have already stated, the Audit Bureau in its report said that this money was paid. There is no question of prima facie case being established. They established the fact that crime had taken place or the commission was paid. The Prime Minister said there were no middlemen. Well, what are we to presume? Do we presume that the payments were then made directly or under direct instruction. The Prime Minister cames suo motu in this House and said that his family members were not involved. Well, what is the concept of family? Does any sociological or legal definition of family go beyond your dependant children and your wife? What about relatives? The Defence Minister himself went on record to say that neither any Indian company nor any Indian national had received this money of kickbacks. What is the inference then? It is obvious that there was a non resident Indian, foreign national, foreign company or a company owned by NRIS. Whether it was somebody from the constinuent, somebody from the States, we are not bothered. But it is obvious that the money that was paid....

SHRI K. C. PANT: This is not may statement. I read out a letter from Bofors.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that was a letter which Shri Pant read out from Bofors and it was not Pantji who paid this money. It was Bofors who paid it. Bofors, who actually had paid the price or the commission-whatever the case may be-had themselves written to Shri Pant the letter which he read out and stated that this money was not given to an Indian national or to Indian company. So, what I mean to say is that why should Bofors have paid to a non-Indian company or to non-Indian citizen for an Indian contract? These are glaring questions which are staring at before us. Why should Bofors or any other company pay to a foreign national or to a foreign company or non-resident Indian for a contract with India? Will any business pay a commission to any third person who has no contact with the buyer? I mean it is commonsense and those who have done business, know what business is all about. I mean there are no two ways about it. These are glaring facts which are staring at our face today.

As many of my other senior colleagues, who earlier put it, have said, I feel the quicker the Government gets out of this cloud of suspicion that has developed over them the better it is for them and for us too. You said that we are not interested in the truth. Are they interestd in getting the truth, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Yes, yes.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: It is not we who signed the contract. It is not we who processed this contract; it is the Government. It is more in their interest that they get the truth out more than us. Though we are also interested to find out the truth. it should be more in their interest to find out the truth. Is this the way, they feel, they would find out the truth by letting the committee go to Sweden by not to record evidence or to examine anybody in a foreign land. If the committee is going to stop the Swedish Government there-I mean, doing whatever bit they can to find out about this kickback

because of the pressure within their country-how will you then be able to find out the truth? How can you keep letting this situation drift? Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Honble Minister of Defence to take also the help of the Chief Prosecutor who has ordered this inquiry because that would ultimately help the committee. Because there certain areas where it would have no access at all,which would be accessible to the Chief Prosecutor of Sweden. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the position that we are in is that the names of the people, of the companies is what we want. If they can do it with a parliamentary committee, may be even without the parliamentary committee, whatever way it is, we want the truth. If they are also interested in the truth, I hope they will get at it very soon. Otherwise I am afraid, the wrath of the common man, of the public is also growing and it will be very difficult for this Government to continue in office.

21.00 hrs

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would be very brief and would not repeat most of the points, but I thought that within a couple of minutes, I would like to state the position of my party.

So far as we are concerned, we demanded a parliamentary probe and the reason was that at the time when this issue came up, it was disputed that no commission was paid and, therefore, the question that was to be adjudicated was whether any commission or bribery was paid. And that is the point of time we demanded a parliamentary probe.

In fact, the position of the opposition has been vindicated by the report of the Swedish Audit Bureau. It is not that we want to run away from the Committee. I was all along of the view that subject to the terms of reference being to our satisfaction, we should be in the Committee, but the terms of reference and the other conditions were not such which could give us the confidence to be in this Committee.

Some reference has been made whether this Committee can go abroad and take evidence or hold sittings. I would like to state that the House of Commons at their Committees in the past which went abroad and held their sittings and if we have to draw any precedent from the House of Commons, we can draw the precedent from the House of Commons that in the past Sub Committees of the House of Commons went to foreign countries and held their sittings.

There is another point on which I would like to have a clarification from the hon. Defence Minister and that is why I am standing. The Hon. Minister has said that the resolution or a motion of this House cannot over-ride a statute. By saying in the motion that the Official Secrets Act will not be applicable will take away and over-ride the statute. I do not know; this is a point on which there may be difference of legal opinion. Whether a collective decision of the House stating that notwithstanding anything contained in the Official Secrets Act, the Government will be entitled to reveal official secrets, whether this resolution will prevail over the statute or not is a matter on which there will be a legal dispute. I had the privilege of listening to the hon. Defence Minister in a TV broadcast under the caption - Focus, where the hon. Minister said that though the motion could not over-ride the Official Secrets Act, they would provide all information to the Committee. The Official Secrets Act is an Act which binds the Government. Also, the Hon. Minister is not above law. If the law prevents any person from giving any information under the Official Secrets Act, the hon. Defence Minister also in violation of the Official Secrets Act cannot provide any information to the Committee. How does the hon. Defence Minister say in one and the same

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breath that by a resolution you would override the Official Secrets Act, and at the same time say that notwithstanding anything contained in the Official Secrets Act, - though in the motion you cannot bring it, you will provide all information. This requires a clarification.

Under Section 3 of the Official Secrets Act, I find that no person - and I am sure the person will include the hon. Defence Minister and the Government also - can give any information for any purpose prejudicial to the interest of the State. All these provisions of the Official Secrets Act either apply or do not apply. If it applies, then the hon. Minister's assurance in public or in the House that notwithstanding anything contained in the Official Secrets Act, they will provide information is against the spirit and the letter of the law, which he cannot do. In that case, an amendment to the Official Secrets Act may be necessary. I cannot say that I am above the law. This is a point on which I would like to have a clarification.

I want to make another point clear. Some memebrs of the opposition have thought of going to Sweden. AGP was the first party to say that they would not associate with any Committee which will go to Sweden. And we had reasons for that. We thought that firstly without the approval of the Parliament and the Government, if some persons go, they would not be able to collect information and secondly, we thought that the battle with the Prime Minister should be fought here and not on the soil of Sweden.

On these few points, I have made my position clear.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Time is now over. Already I had informed that the time cannot be extended. Now the Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I cannot allow anybody now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Kindly give me two minutes.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want any clarification, you may ask at the end after the Minister's reply Not now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: I had gone for taking my lunch. I had asked Shrimati Dikshit. Kindly give me one minute. Why are you doing so?

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not waste the time of the House. You can seek the clarifications at the end. I am telling you repeatedly that I cannot allow anything now. Only at the end, you may ask. Mr. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT): Sir, the essential facts relating to the allegations made by the Swedish Radio first and subsequently discussed in this House on various occasions are known to all the hon. members. These have been discussed threadbare. Therefore, I was thinking that when Prof. Madhu Dandavate insisted on having his motion discussed, he would have some light to throw and he would have furthered the cause which all of us support, namely, to find out the information which we all are seeking. I also thought that

he would go into other aspects of this matter which may be of interest to him. Therefore, I was listening to him very carefully. But I found that while I saw a lot of rhetoric in it, there was not much by way of additional information that I had expected.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: This debate is to find out the truth about the Howitzer deal.

SHRI K.C. PANT: We have had so many debates and we are more or less covering the same ground again and again. Now also I have found that once again you are covering more or less, the same ground. You spent some time on the issue of appointment and hiring of a foreign agency. My colleagues have already dwelt on that point and I do not want to repeat it. But it does not actually apply to this particular case. The hiring of a foreign agency is not involved here and it has absolutely no relevance so far as it goes. It is the Swedish Government's appointee who is being appointed there who would inquire into the matter.

Now my hon. friend and old colleague, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad made the point strongly that we have been seeking the truth. We have been pursuing it and we have been trying all the time to find out the full facts of this case. Shri Indrajit Gupta said that it is in our interest to find out these facts. I agree with him entirely. When he says that it is in the interest of the Government, in the interest of the Opposition and in the interest of the country, I agree with him. On this, we are one. Therefore, I expected - perhaps I expected it wrongly - the cooperation of the Opposition on setting up of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Anyway, I will come to that later.

First of all, let me take up this question of whether the Government has pursued this matter in real earnest with M/s Bofors and the Government of Sweden. Now, all of us have repeated this point. In this House, the dates of letters have been given and the whole sequence of events has been spelt out more than once in this very House. But, if you do not want to believe something, I suppose, you can always avoid believing it. But the fact of the matter is that after the middle of April, when the Swedish Radio first made its broadcast, withi fourteen days, the Government has pursued this matter not only with Bofors, not onlyn with the Swedish Government, but also with the Swedish Radio. But the Radio till today has not given any further information. Nothing solid has come from that source. Just now, Shri Kishore Chandra Deo said something. Just now Kishore was speaking. He said that there is a rumour that the Radio may give the names tomorrow. We have been hearing these rumours right from the beginning. Why don't they give the names? What is stopping them? Please give the names. If he has a direct access to them, please get it for us.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: I did not get the part of the kickbacks. So how can I get the names?

SHRI K.C. PANT: No, you said it. I did not say it.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: I said that these were the rumours which ...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: One should be careful not to depend too much on the rumours. That is the lesson of this (*Interruptions*)

In no other State do rumours spread so fast as in yours. What should I tell? You would not like it nor will you accept it?... (*Interruptions*)

India is the only country where this

[Sh. K.C. Pant]

happens. I know as to what is happening in your State.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: This rumour has been proved to be true.

SHRI K.C. PANT: So far as rumour is concerned, Shri Reddy should kindly bear the facts in mind.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Sir, the rumour has proved to be true.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. Order.

SHRI K.C. PANT: In fact when we wrote to Bofors and the Swedish Government, one thing we made it clear, right at the beginning and that was, we will share these facts with Parliament. I proposed to share these facts with the Parliament. I have shared with them earlier. But once again I will have to repeat some of these facts because I am afraid once again Prof. Dandavate has questioned some of those earlier statements.

Now so far as the Swedish Government is concerned, you remember Mr. Aberg had affirmed on the 17th April that Mr. Palme had told our Prime Minsiter with regard to the middlemen's question. I won't repeat that. But that is Mr. Aberg's statement. Nobody has questioned it. Mr. Aberg has not denied it. That is the fact. Dis-information upto a point can work. But dis-information cannot work beyond a certain point. Therefore, please don't try it. This is a Goebbelsian technique. Goebbels perfected it long ago, the big lie. Go on repeating the big lie. You questioned what Mr. Aberg said. Mr. Aberg is a responsible man. He is the responsible official of the Swedish Government. You know that it is a fact that he had issued a statement. Even if you have to question something, think of your own reputation. That is what I can say you. A note verbale was given on the 21 April. In the note verbale, we requested the Swedish Government to investigate the matter and inform the Embassy, if there had been any violation of the commitment made and to take the required action from their side. Now, what can be cleared, than this? This is not now. This was on the 21 April which I am talking about. Therefore, when we say that the Swedish Goveernment appointed the Swedish National Audit Bureau in response to the request of the Government of India, is it anything wrong? Is it not borne out by the facts of the case? Is it not the the fact that the Government of India was pursuing this matter? I have the evidence here. I can read out the letters to you, if you like. I can read out the note verbale, if you like. Therefore, we say, it is on our request this was done. I think that it was a good thing that the National Audit Bureau was given this task of conducting this enquiry by the Swedish Government. But as you know, when we got the report, certain parts had been deleted. Now that had been also discussed several times in this House, but the important thing is that did we, after we got that report with the deleted portion tried to conceal that fact? Did we feel guilty about it? We told you on the same day. We told the Opposition Leaders. We told the Parliament. We published the whole document. We did not take even a day. The same day, it was published. It was made public. These are not the actions of the Government which wants to hide something. That is the least which you give us credit for. These are the three things which we did and we decided that we should have a Joint Parliamentary Committee. This Parliamentary Committee should be set up because we felt - I think rightly so - that during the Budget session, almost all the Opposition Members who spoke on this subject, they all asked for the same. If any party did not, even

now I am prepared to accept their word- but as far as I know, I saw the record of both the Houses - every party had demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee. So, Government on the one hand decided that we will set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee; on the other hand, we kept pursuing the matter with the Swedish Government, and an *aide-memoire* was handed over on 17th June, about which I will not elaborate, except to say that our Ambassador in Sweden also sent a similar note to the Swedish Foreign Office on 22nd June. This document reiterated our request for complete information regarding the findings of the Swedish National Audit Para - and I quote:

> "... after such further investigation as may appear necessary."

To leave no room for doubt, the scope and extent of the information required was unambiguously spelt out.

Shri Indrajit Gupta referred to the letter that the Government wrote to Bofors. He mentioned those five points. I think any objective Member will concede that those five points covered all aspects of the matter; and about those five points, he asked: "These are the points. Why did we not include them in the Motion?" and so on. Therefore, he also thinks that the Government did ask the question that they should have asked of Bofors. We asked the Swedish Government the same kind of questions. So, on this also, there is agreement, that the Government did ask Bofors and the Swedish Government for information which we should have asked for, and which we needed. Now, we did not get a reply from the Swedish Government till late August, i.e. till the third week of August.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee is not here. He said something which, I think, he misunderstood.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): He questioned your credibility.

SHRI K.C. PANT: He is not here; and there is no fun in replying to a person who is not there.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We are here.

SHRI K.C. PANT: You are here, but Shri Somnath Chatterjee is Member who enjoys repartee and the sort of quips that are a part of parliamentary life; and I am waiting for the day to see you do the same.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In the future, you cannot give the repartee with retrospective effect.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that we said i.e. Government of India said that AB Bofors alone is in a position to give a full account of its payments, after we received the report of the Audit Bureau. Government of India never said that. The fact of the matter is that the Swedish Government told us: 'Bofors can shed light on this matter. Please don't ask us. Ask them.' So, there is a misunderstanding in his mind. It is not we; it is they who said.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Swedish Government and the Bofors.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Swedish Government said, and not the Government of India. So, on the 18th August, another *aide-memoire* was given to the Swedish Government giving a reference to the earlier assurances of the Swedish Government, to give us a formal reply and pointing out that the information, after such investigation as might be necessary, was still awaited by us. On the 20th August 1987 the Indian Embassy again reminded the Swedish Foreign Office by means of a *note verbale*; and I am making

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this point, because there seems to be a feeling that the inquiry which has been set up by Mr Lars Ringberg, the Chief Public Prosecutor in Stockholm is somehow the result of some efforts made by other Members, and that Government had nothing to do with. I would submit, with all respect, that here again the Swedish Government responded to the Government of India who had repeatedly raised this issue with them. That is why I had dealt with at some length on the number of times we approached them, and the way our Ambassador talked to them, and that it is then, on the 21st August that the response was finally received from the Swedish Foreign Office. They gave a *note verbale* to the Indian Embassy; and this note verbale conveyed this decision of the Chief District Prosecutor in Stockholm Mr Lars Ringberg to initiate the preliminary investigation into the matter.

The outcome of our repeated requests was that essential and complete information be made available to us after such further investigations as were necessary. So, I would claim that the set up of this enquiry was in response to the request of the Government of India. Then once again in passing I would like to say that the action of the government is not to hide anything; it does not pursue foreign government to keep on enquiring into the matter where it could leave well alone and say, alright so far and no further. We take shelter behind something or the other; we have not done that. We have pursued it; and so the second enquiry has been set up.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Did you not allow the fish to slip out of the country?

SHRI K.C. PANT: I cannot convince you perhaps. But I can give you the facts. You can ponder over them; you can come back if you like and we can discuss them. But it will require an open mind if you want to be convinced. (*Interruptions*) I have given you the dates when the radio made these allegations, when the Audit Bureau Board; was set up, how we dealt with it, how we pursued the matter with the Swedish Government. As a result of these efforts, this enquiry was ordered in Sweden. (*Interruptions*) This is the sequence of events.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: You have received information by 24th April, from Bofors through our Embassy that in the name of winding up charges somebody got the money. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: I am surprised; that is what the whole thing is about. That certain portion was deleted from the Report of the Audit Bureau and payment had been made. That is why of all this the whole thing has arisen. Have you not understood that basic fact yet? Everybody understands that naturally. It is because we want to get at the truth a question of Joint Parliamentary Committee arose (*Interruptions*) Now there was a reference to Bofors's letter of the 24th April in which they have said like this. I would like to mention this because a point was made by one hon. member which deserves notice. He says, why are you accepting to Bofors's position. It is not a question of accepting the position. But in fairness one should share their position; one should know their position; one may accept it or one may not accept it; that is not the point. So, what Bofors says is this. They sent an elaborate reply to the Ambassador in Stockholm on 24th April categorically denying having paid any kickbacks or having violated the assurance of 1986; it took the position that the payment which may have been given comes to an erroneous conclusion. It was something which had nothing to do with the winning of a contract. I am not saying that we should accept it. But this is what they said. Then

after the receipt of the Audit Bureau Report which establishes the fact of the substantial payment, once again, Bofors wrote a letter on 30th June in which they denied and said that this had nothing to do with the winning of a contract. Once again you may accept that; you may reject it. Then we told them look, there is this deleted portion and we must get that information. Shri Indrajit Gupta also read out that part. Then in reply we got a letter on 6th August and again they denied that payment represented any bribe or kick-backs, whatsoever. They have gone so far to say and this is something which was mentioned by some hon. member that nothing was paid to an Indian company or an Indian citizen; and moreover the payment in question would still have to be paid, even if they have not got the contract. Now I am not saying this. This is again a Bofors's letter which I read out in the other House because we had received it at that time when the debate was going on. So, they have taken a consistent position and all that they have said is this. About Win Chadha they have said that they are paying them 100,000 kroners for certain functions which were performed by them.

AN HON. MEMBER: What were the functions?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Those functions were spelt out by somebody. Either you say, one may accept or one may not accept, I am not asking you to accept it or not. Because, that is the function of the Parliamentary Committee. But this is what they say and they have not given us those details and they have talked of commercial confidentiality and their plea is that the principle of confidentiality is sacrosanct to the global business undertaken by the Bofors.

Now the crux of the matter is that we have been pursuing it with both. This is the reply given by Sweden and here is the reply given by Bofors. We pursued these matters and I think the important point to be made by me is not to go into the details of it, but the important point is to try to establish that the Government had nothing to hide and because it had nothing to hide, the Government was unequivocal in its persistence to get at the truth, both with Bofors and with the Government of Sweden.

Secondly, we had unequivocally stated here, and at the Prime Minister's level this was stated that if somebody is found guilty, action will be taken regardless of who he is.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Action will have to be taken.

SHRI K.C. PANT: You have no objection to that. Have you? (*Interruptions*) Therefore, the third point is, somebody asked: "Have you taken Parliament into confidence?" I would say that we have taken Parliament into confidence from day one. In fact, I think right from the first day that we got the information Parliament was taken into confidence. Without any hesitation everything was put before Parliament. Can you blame us for that? Can you blame us for that? Even when the Swedish Radio came out with some thing we came before Parliament. On the 20th, I came back from Pyongang on the previous day after Easter, the first day when I came before Parliament I made a statement. Therefore, you cannot blame us for not responding to Parliament or hiding anything from Parliament or being tardy in coming before Parliament. We came promptly every time, with all the information.

Then the question was, again the old question, which Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad has answered, "Why did you not set up the Parliamentary Committee when we wanted it?" The answer is, there was no *prima facie* evidence. The moment we got the *prima facie* evidence, the Audit Bureau Report, we

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went ahead and we took a decision to appoint the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Shri Indrajit Gupta said: "You had no option in the matter. What else could you have done?" Well, I could give him two options straightaway. We could have had an dministrative probe. You would not have relied upon that. You would have said that an administrative probe does not answer the needs of the situation.

We could have had a judicial inquiry. Normally, judicial inquiries were set up in many such cases. We could have had a judicial inquiry. I am sure, you would have said that a judicial inquiry is set up only to postpone the inquiry, not to go into it closely. You would have questioned that. Or, would you not have questioned it?

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: In the case of submarines have you given it up?

SHRI K.C. PANT: In the case of submarines, if there is a judicial inquiry, you question that!

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: What was the fate of it?

SHRI K.C. PANT: I am only making a point here. That will be a long discussion in itself. I am only making the point that there were alternatives. It is not as though this was the only option. There were options. But, would you have preferred a judicial inquiry? I ask you, even today, would you say that you would prefer a judicial inquiry? I ask a question.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We were demanding a Parliamentary Committee from the beginning.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Therefore, when Mr. Kishore Singh Deo _ I am sorry, Kishore Chandra Deo _ says "Why not a Parliamentary Committee...?"

I have been calling him 'Kishore' for so many years, I cannot remember the other two formal names.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You call him "K.C"

AN HON. MEMBER: He has always been a 'Kishore'.

SHRI K.C. PANT: The point I was making was that this is the reason why we went for the Joint Parliamentary Committee, because we thought it would satisfy our friends opposite, it would be in response to their demand and in preference to the other alternatives.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Without any powers.

SHRI K.C. PANT: I will come to the powers.

Therefore, frankly, we were rather surprised when the Opposition, which had pressed so hard for the Parliamentary Committee in the Budget Session decided to boycott and stay away when finally it was set up. Therefore, will you blame us if we say that you do not want to get at the real facts. You do not want to establish the real facts.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA This Committee will not be able to find out the truth.

SHRI K.C. PANT: It is very unreasonable to surmise so because you have shifted your ground. In the Budget session, you were insisting on the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and when we set it up, then you

shifted your ground completely.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Not like this Committee.

SHRI K.C. PANT: I will come to the powers later. But the basic point is that you thought that you had got a good opportunity to exploit politically.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: No. That is not our intention.

SHRI K.C. PANT: That is what you have thought and therefore you said 'Why should we get involved in this Parliamentary Committee?'

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: This type of Parliamentary Committee.

SHRI K.C. PANT: I do not speak for all the Members of the Opposition, but for some I can say, they will be very unhappy if the truth comes out, because then, their main plan would go. Therefore, their crusade is to create suspicion to have a ground. The Joint Parliamentary Committee which produces the results suits them the least. That is the unfortunate fact. It is a tragedy of political life that this should be so. But, unfortunately, you suggested.....

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Are you suggesting that we for years together thrive on your corruption?

SHRI K.C. PANT: I do not know that it is supposed to mean. I suppose, it does mean something. I will try to dig it out later. But the point I am making is that you had shifted your position. There is no use of denying the fact that you have first asked for a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: You leave yourselves open to the charge that this was politically motivated. You did not want us to get at the truth.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We never wanted this type of Committee. This Parliamentary Committee has no power.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: All that you have to do is to get at the truth tomorrow and then say cheers.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Yes. Who will be cheered? We will be cheered and not you. That is the problem.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Truth will be cheered.

SHRI K.C. PANT: My hon. friends do not know that the cat has been let out of the bag by Shri L.K. Advani, President of BJP. On 24th Aug., he spoke at Hyderabad. What did he say? He is reported to have said. This is a newspaper report. I quote:

> "We do not want to remain tight lipped for the next six months by joining the Committee" (*Interruptions*)

What are you shaking your hands at? I am quoting him. I am not talking about you. I made a distinction in the beginning. I am not speaking about the entire opposition.

He was more interested in not being tight lipped for the next six months. That was his main concern.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir,

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]
while replying he is quoting someone else.

SHRI K.C. PANT: He is the President of a Party. I am not associating any of you with that. I am only saying that I would have expected that every Party would have said the leader of the Party would have said 'I did not join this Committee because it does not have the powers'. I do not agree with it, but I can understand it. But, to say that 'I did not join because I will have to close my mouth for the next six months. I want to exploit the situation to the extent. Let me remain out of it'. What does it mean?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: How can we keep quiet?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Is this a bona fide answer? This is my question to you. Therefore, Sir.....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: How can you shut our mouth?

SHRI K.C. PANT: I am not shutting your mouth. I am only trying to meet your points.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Let me ask a question.

SHRI K.C. PANT: At the end you can ask a question (*Interruptions*)

The point is really very simple. It is a very uncomfortable point for my hon. friends in the opposite because they do have respect for Parliament and perhaps, they are in their heart of hearts know that not joining a parliamentary joint committee will not be strengthening the institution of Parliament. And I have sufficient respect for them to know that they would like to strengthen it. Perhaps, they made a mistake; perhaps, they mis-judged the situation; perhaps, they regret it today. I will give them all credit. But whatever it is, they chose not to join it even though we tried our level best to see that they join it. We made changes in the terms of reference. But I will come to that later which my friend, Shri Indrajit Gupta, also spoke about.

Shri Reddy spoke _ I think, he has also gone. He said, take the people into confidence, and you are not taking the people into confidence. I think, Shri Jaipal Reddy has gone. He said that you have kept the documents away. I, therefore, felt that we should take another unprecedented step _ we have already taken one unprecedented step - and we have decided to put the entire exchange of notes, *aide-memoires* between the Government of India and the Swedish Government as well as entire correspondence between us and the Bofors on this subject. I beg to lay on the Table copies of the letters and telex messages exchanged between Government of India and the Government of Sweden and M/s A.B. Bofors for securing complete information regarding the payments made by Bofors in respect of their Indian contract. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT 4856/87]

It is not customary for Government to disclose exchanges with the foreign Governments or exchanges with the suppliers of defence equipment. On this occasion, however, we felt that the Houses of Parliament and indeed the nation as a whole, must be made privy to these documents and allowed to judge on the basis thereof whether it is the Government or the opposition which is keener to ferret the full facts. Let the people judge. I, therefore, take this opportunity of laying these documents on the Table of the House.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY: This you could have done earlier.

SHRI K.C. PANT: That shows that you are not happy even now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why do you not lay on the Table of the House the documents that you have found out and collected during the raid on Mr. Thapar's residence.

SHRI K.C. PANT: You can go to the parliamentary committee. I wish you were in it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You give the information about Mr. Thapar also....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: How uncomfortable they are because I have placed all the documents on the Table of the House. Even two of the leaders are so uncomfortable. They do not want the true facts to come out. I thought you would congratulate me...

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You do not listen to me. I said, while welcoming the step of laying the documents on the Table of the House, I demand that you should lay the papers you collected from Mr. Thapar's residence...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: Now, I would like only to make a passing reference which was hurt us and that is the references to the Prime Minister's statement. The Prime Minister comes before the House and makes a statement and he says that he and the members of the family are not involved. Does it increase the respect of Parliament or decrease it? Does it not enhance its prestige? If the Prime Minister of a country comes before the House and makes this statement, it shows....

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why has he made that statement?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Because people like you and even responsible people like Shri Indrajit Gupta, they say.... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I did not say that. Take your words back.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: I am not talking about you... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If I remember aright, I was presiding at that time and one of the Members at that time mentioned his family also.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: On the contrary I referred to the statement that it is very unwise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One of the Members mentioned it.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Sir, I would like to submit that it was an act of respect towards Parliament. Above all, I would like to submit, it was an act of decency, I would submit it was an act of courage, I would submit it was an act of a man who had nothing to hide. Why does it upset you? It upsets you because you feel that until his image is demolished, Congress is strong. That is why it upsets you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In spite of his image, you are going to fall down.

SHRI K.C. PANT: He is interested in the

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truth as much as anybody else. So, please don't make allegations. He went to Sri Lanka recently. He has entered into an Accord there. The country's prestige has gone up sky-high on account of that Accord. He has faced there a murderous assault. Now he has come back. The people of this country will judge - you alone will not judge-and they will decide. It is not for us... (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: They will decide whether communalism is solved, Punjab problem is solved, terrorism is solved.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Therefore, if you try to destroy somebody's image without an iota of evidence, that is a witchhunt, nothing else. What else is it? It is a witchhunt. Well, if you have evidence, produce it.... (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If others publicly say anything about the Prime Minister, you are touchy about it because you do not treat the Prime Minister and other Members of Parliament on the same par.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Sir, all sorts of allegations have been made by them. When the reply is coming, now they are shouting.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, his intensity of shouting was more than anyone else's.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: The total amount of shouting by one Mr. Dandavate is equal to all the Members of the Congress party. It is his monopoly to shout everyday. Sometimes we also do, we are contagious, but he does it everyday.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Sir, in the beginning, some friends said - I do not know who began that Prof. Dandavate's motion is not in order. It is not for me to say because if the Speaker allows it, we are bound to discuss it. But personally I welcome this for one simple reason. I could have got up and raised a point of order because according to the rules I think one could. It may have been rejected but one could raise it. I think there is some ground. He knows it because he knows the rules. But we had nothing to hide. So, we welcomed the discussion. It gave us an opportunity to say something, it gave you an opportunity. Therefore, all along, right from the first day, it is not the Government which was shied away from a discussion. From the very first day we came before the House with the motion. You shouted, you walked out, you stayed away for a week; it is not the Government, please remember. The Government came on the very first day with its motion. Please remember that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Because we had nothing to hide. That is something which you do not understand.

AN HON. MEMBER: Even today they want to postpone the discussion for tomorrow.

SHRI K.C. PANT: We agreed to suspend the Question Hour to facilitate a discussion. We thought you wanted a discussion. But you did not. Then walk outs have been there. You have not gone through the whole process. You have walked out many times. So, I think on this also ultimately it will be the people who will judge, who are watching this whole thing. So, I would request you to consider the actions of the Government and the Opposition in the light of the facts and not merely in the light of rhetoric. Last week the Public Prosecutor of Sweden decided to undertake the investigation. Prof. Dandavate's motion even suggested Parliament to similarly address the Swedish Public

Prosecutor. Various MPs made such a demand. I think many of them wrote a letter. Now, I do not want to irritate you at the end of the day, so I will not talk about the Swedish Embassy because you see the redrag if I talk about the Swedish Embassy _ how you went to it and so on. I have no intention of doing that... (*Interruptions*). But anyway, you put your faith in the Swedish Embassy processes and I will have nothing more to say about that. But I think it a very fallacious position that you took in this matter and I think, that is why when my friends on this side talked of your going to the Swedish Embassy, many friends felt uncomfortable. I could see it. They felt uncomfortable. They did not like it. Now they wish it had not been done, but they had done it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You have become mind reader.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Well, sometimes one can read faces but may not be able to read mind.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What about technology transfer?

SHRI K.C. PANT: I will come to that also. I want to ask only one question. You say that we have set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee and that a prosecutor has set up an enquiry in Sweden. You are boycotting the Parliamentary Committee and you are to-day hoping that that enquiry will give you results. You go to the Swedish Embassy and you are asking for that enquiry. You have to decide what is the best. But suppose roles were reversed and suppose in Sweden they had a Parliamentary Committee and suppose we had an enquiry here, then what would be the re-action in Sweden, I wonder. If the Opposition boycotted the Parliamentary Committee and came to us and said, please investigate think over it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is hypothetical.

SHRI K.C. PANT: It is hypothetical, I agree, but just to bring the thing, home I would like you to consider it very seriously if it has happened in the United Kingdom; it has happened in Germany and it has happened in any democratic country, what would the people of that country feel? Will they feel proud of it or they will feel humiliated by it? It is a question for you to consider. And in all seriousness you should think about this question. Similarly, selection of the agency - we have all along taken the view that the Swedish Government should give us the information. As Prof. Swell said it is Government to Government communication. They chose the Audit Bureau. We said, all right. Audit Bureau did not give us the full information. We said we want the information. Now they choose some other agency. It is their business. Now would you like some other Government in a similar situation? Would you like the German Government to come to us and say, appoint the Advocate General of Haryana to make this enquiry. I mean this is what it is. It only has to be stated to see how ridiculous the position is and Haryana is your Government today. But, no, it is a kind of thing which I cannot understand and this what would bring down the whole image of the country. This is not how we should operate and it is a very good thing that at least the Government has maintained the standards it ought to and has been dealing only with the Swedish Government in accordance with the normal international practices and so we will expect the Swedish Government to give us the information we have asked for after whatever investigation they feel necessary. That is our position and that is what we have also told them. Now some specific questions have been raised by my friends and I think in passing I do not want to take much time of the House. So, I think it is necessary to deal with some of

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these questions.

About our Parliamentary Committee a lot has been said. Now it becomes necessary for me to deal with them because it is quite surprising how otherwise, well informed people either make mistakes or they choose to tell the House something which may sound rather absurd but which really is part of the Rules. Rule 267 of the Rules of Procedure says -

"The sittings...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: These are for ordinary committees. We know all these things.

SHRI K.C. PANT: I know, you know all of it. Some of my friends do not know it. Why not let them know? Why be uncomfortable?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It is not an ordinary Committee. It is a special committee.

SHRI K.C. PANT: That is the problem with you. Shri Somnath Chatterjee would have tried to listen to it and give me a reply. (*Interruptions*)

It says -

"The sittings of a Committee shall be held within the precincts of the Parliament House, and if it becomes necessary to change the place of sitting outside the Parliament House, the matter shall be referred to the Speaker whose decision shall be final."

O. Kay. Now what do the directions say?

Direction 50(1) says:

"(1) Sittings of a Committee/sub-Committee, whether formal or informal, at which Officers or staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are required to be present, shall invariably be held within the precincts of the Parliament House. If, for any reason, it becomes necessary to hold a sitting of the Committee outside the Parliament House, the matter shall be referred to the Speaker for his directions."

Now, Direction 50(2) says:

"(2) When the Committee is on a study tour, informal sittings may be held at the place of the visit, but at such sittings, no decisions shall be taken nor any evidence recorded."

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: We understand all these points.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Now, he is uncomfortable. Have patience.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: When these rules were framed, this Committee was not conceived of. This Committee was never conceived of. Nobody thought...

SHRI K.C. PANT: My friend also approached Shri Somnath Chatterjee. Why do you feel uncomfortable? You have said something, that is wrong. I am going to expose you. Please sit down.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: You are distorting the entire thing. For normal Parliamentary Committees, that these rules were framed. This sort of Committee was never conceived at that time. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is it any

special committee, apart from a parliamentary committee? It is a parliamentary committee.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Mr. Pant is not yielding. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Direction 50(2) says, when the Committee is on a study tour, informal sittings may be held at the place of the visit, but at such sittings, no decision shall be taken nor any evidence recorded.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: This is for normal Parliamentary Committees, and not for committees like this.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: They could have never imagined, such theft and corruption could have taken place.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Is going from Delhi to Madras the same as going from Delhi to Stockholm? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: Now, Kaul and Shakdher....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Shakdher himself has given an interview.

SHRI K.C. PANT: I do not want to read out the whole thing because it will take a long time. I am reading it because, Shri Somnath Chatterjee appeared to make fun of the idea; why have you done this? What is this ridiculous thing? Will they stand or sit and so on and so forth.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Are you quoting Shakdher? If so, also read the *Economic Times* despatch today where views of Mr. Shakdher on the same issue are there.

SHRI K. C. PANT: In the next debate, you can quote this. Now, I quote Kaul & Shakdher's from page 633.

> "Parliamentary Committee while on study tour may hold informal sittings..."

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Parliamentary committee.

SHRI K. C. PANT: This is not an Unparliamentary committee. This is also a parliamentary committee.

> "Parliamentary Committee while on study tour may hold informal sittings at the place of their visit but at such sittings, no decisions are taken nor any evidence recorded." Normally no sutdy tours are undertaken by the Committee when the House is in session."

Therefore, it is not as though we have thought this up just to stem the parliamentary committee. It is part of the rules, part of the directions.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Unfortunately, Shakdher himself has commented on that. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please order.

SHRI K. C. PANT: One should have the patience to hear something against one also occasionally.

Now, an amazing statement was made by Shri Indrajit Gupta. He said, "Does this Committee have the powers to take evidence". It is inherent in the powers of the Committee to take evidence.

[Sh. K.C. Pant]

Rule 269 (1) says:

> " A witness may be summoned by an order signed by the Secretary-General and shall produce such documents as are required for the use of a Committee."

Rule 270 says:

> "A Committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records:
>
> Provided that if any question arises whether the evidence of a person or the production of a document is relevant for the purposes of the Committee, the question shall be referred to the Speaker whose decision shall be final:"

I have not put the "Speaker" there. This is in the rules. You migh think that I have smuggled "the Speaker" in here. Please don't. About the Speaker, how can we escape from "the Speakr". Let us see, what the rule says. This is what rule 281 says:

> "A Committee shall have power to pass any resolution on matters of procedure relating to that Committee, "for the consideration of the Speaker who may make such variations in procedure as he may consider necessary."

283 (1) says:

> "The speaker may from time to time"

You are not wanting the points made by your own leaders. What is the use of interrupting me? He raised a serious issue. Why do you bring Speaker into it? I am trying to satisfy you. (*Interruptions*) I did not raise the issue. I have been asked, in all seriousness. I think you have missed the whole point. The point is that the Joint Parliamentary Committee has been set up (*Interruptions*). The charge has been made that the Joint Parliamentary Committee has been set up but the Government has not given it enough powers. "Therefore, we could not join the Joint Parliamentary Committee." Specifically some points were made. I am trying to meet those points because I honestly feel that the Government has gone very far in meeting the points of the Opposition and I think it is very wrong on the part of the Opposition not to help this Committee by getting into it. I am making that very very serious point. If you cannot understand it, I am prepared to explain it to you. But don't interrupt me here.

> "The Speaker may from time to time issue directions to the Chairman of a Committee 283 (1): as he may consider necessary for regulating its procudure and organisation of wore."

In other words, the Speaker is there whether you like it or not.

> "If any doubt arises on any point of procedure, or otherwise, the Chairman may, if he thinks fit, refer the points to the Speaker whose decision shall be final."

How are you going to escape the Speaker in this matter? The Speaker will be there in all cases. I do not want to go through the motion again but I thought Shri Indrajit Gupta was not fair to me.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I want to raise an official point.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I will answer your point. He raised the point that all that is to be done is to ascertain the identity of the persons who received and the purposes for which they received payment. He himself said "yes. This is a very important point."

Then one important point he said was what are the procedures followed. He read out Shir Arun Singh's statement and he made the point "Do you follow the procedure in the case of the Bofors gun?" I read this out earlier.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I have evidence to show that this procedure was not followed.

SHRI K. C. PANT: If he has evidence, a Committee shall inquire into the matter whether the procedure laid down for the acquisition of weapons and guns were adhered to in the purchase of Bofors guns. That would be completely covering that particular point.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Can you examine the Deputy Chief of the Army Staff? Will they allow it?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Are you in the JPC?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The Army Chief was one Member of that Committee.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I wanted you to be in the Committee, because you will be able to call everybody, talk to them and you will be able to find out. But you chose perhaps to remain out of this was much better. I do not think reasonable people would have stayed out of the Committee and I consider you a reasonable person (*Interruptions*). Because this is important. They are trying to make out that we have not given it powers. We have said that the Comptroller General of India which is what they wanted and the Attorney-General of India will provide assistance to the Committee as necessary.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There is no difference on that.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Shall I not establish my case that we have have given you a good Committee? Therefore, if you get up and say "Yes. You gave us a good Committee but we stayed out of it." I will sit down. I have no other point to make.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We told you about the four points on which we differ. We do not differ on these points at all. Deliberately you have not understood.

SHRI K. C. PANT: It is not that. You have made your four points. I am trying to show to what extent the Government went to accommodate. Am I not entitled to show that? This is whole point because the whole country is watching. Therefore, I am entitled to show that the Government went very far in order to accommodate you. You would like all the time to repeat kickbacks because it suits you. You do not want to get to the truth. You want to stay out of the Committee. What is the use of saying these things, Professor? The Comptroller-General of India and the Attorney-General of India will provide assistance to the Committee as necessary. These are the two of the topmost officials. One is dealing with accounts and the other is dealing with law. The Committee will have access to both. The investigating agencies of the Government of India shall render such assistance to the Committee which may be required by it, for the purposes of this enquiry. Now, without this, the Committee may not have been able to do much. But the investigating agencies of the Government of India will be available to it. (*Interruptions*)

22.00 hrs.

I cannot appeal to them because Indrajitji says stop'. But if they join, well and good. Even now, it is not too late. That is what we want.....(*Interruptions*) The Parliament reflects the whole country. The Parliamentary Committee reflects Parliament and that is what we would like it to be. You

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think that we like this Committee without your participation. But I would very much have you in it. In all honesty, there is no doubt about it. Please do not have any doubts about this mater. The Government is unhappy that you are not in it.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Do you think we also like the Opposition without you?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: In fact, you are there in the Opposition because we are in a majority..... (*Interruptions*). The question of why the Speaker is brought in, in some cases, arose. I have taken a lot of time. I do not want to go into all these things. But the fact of the matter is that if you see the predicaments into which this group of Opposition leaders who want to go to Sweden, has brought itself into. You would realise as to why the Speaker was brought into. They want to go out. It is all right. They want to go to Sweden. I have nothing against that. Sweden is a beautiful country, by all means. But whom will they meet? Whose evidence will they get? Will they be allowed to go there or not? All these are questions which, somebody, must sort out. Therefore, if we have to take the Speaker's permission, what is the wrong in that? As I explained earlier, if you have to go outside Parliament House and meet them in Delhi somewhere-else, you have to get the permission of the Speaker. Please do not take a distorted view of this. That is why the Speaker was brought in it. In inviting people from abroad, you yourself say that there is a competition amongst various people in the world for the sale of this gun. People are presenting their own points of view. There are vested interests in all these things. You all know about it. Should one not be careful? I think, the Committee should be careful. Therefore, if the Speaker is in it, in case a question arises it will help. What is the wrong in that? Ministers never appear before Sub-Committees. Normally, Ministers appear here, they are answerable to you and not to the Sub-Committee. That is the American system. This is entirely different. In America, it is true that before the Sub-Committees, the Ministers go or the Secretaries go, whatever you may like to call them. But, in our system that is not the case. We have again made a concession to your desire and we have said: "All right. The Minister can come provided the Speaker wants". The Speaker can judge. Today, you are taking objection to Mr. Shankaranand as Chairman; why should he be made the Chairman?..... (*Interruptions*). Some people say like this. The point I am making out in all seriousness is, the Speaker has.....

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Don't misunderstand. There is nothing against Mr. Shankaranand. That man held the position of a Cabinet Membership while formulating that policy and so propriety demanded that he should not be there.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: I do not know where all these things come into this. One is a Minister. One is not a Minister. One is a Member of Parliament. My hon. friend seems to attach too much value to the Ministership. We are proud to be Members of Parliament. So, the question really is this. (*Interruptions*)

The question is this..... (*Interruptions*). Shall I ask in all seriousness?..... (*Interruptions*). This is an issue on which, one certain matters, in spite of your best intentions and our best intentions, there may

be polarisation within this Committee. Suppose, if you have been there, there would have been polarisation because this is an issue of that kind. In that case, the Speaker, would, if anything is there, help the Opposition. The Speaker would have been there, as I think Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad has said, as a referee. I personally think that it would help otherwise the Committee would may be divided very quickly and the Committee might not be able to proceed with its work. So, the Speaker's inclusion is as much to see that the Committee functions as to give a measure of protection to all sides, including the Opposition and perhaps, particularly to the Opposition. And this is something which I am surprised that the Opposition did not understand. Somebody said that it may be because of a tiff with the Speaker, last time, that would have influenced your judgement.....

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Don't bring that element. I object to it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: If I don't bring that element, I cannot understand how the Institution of the Speaker can be objected?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If you are not understanding, what can I do?

SHRI K.C. PANT: You can try to give it to me. I am prepared to be presuaded.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Do not bring in the extraneous element of our No-Confidence Motion against Speaker and try to interpret it that way. It is not fair.

SHRI K.C. PANT: What is the institution of Speaker?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There was one No-Confidence Motion against late Shri Mavalankar, but it never happened that any Minister carried on that logic further and said that the Opposition was motivated. Nobody gave that argument. Please don't do that.

SHRI K.C. PANT: I cannot for the earth understand why the Speaker is objected to, when the Speaker is the guardian of the House, guardian of all sides of the House. Even in the House this very debate would not have been possible if the Speaker has not allowed. I would beg to submit to Prof. Madhu Dandavate that Speaker, apart from his personal feelings, is an institution, and he has to carry the Opposition with him. You know that very well. He has also to maintain a certain position in the House.....

PROF. MADHU DANDVATE: Do not make an insinuation.

SHRI K.C. PANT: I do not understand. He is the fairest.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why do you bring in the Speaker?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Because you brought in that point. You objected to his inclusion. I would submit that that objection is very flimsy. This is my point. You are making a very flimsy objection.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We have been demanding that the Speaker should be kept out of controversy and involvement. To attribute that because there was a No-Confidence Motion we are objecting - I am objecting to this particular logic.

SHRI K.C. PANT: But I do not understand it otherwise.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am very sorry you do not understand.

SHRI K.C. PANT: I am sorry about many things. But I do not understand.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You have decided not to understand.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Like you in many cases; yes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You have brought the Speaker into the picture this way.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: No Parliamentary Committee can be thought of without the Speaker.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am not saying that, Mr. Azad. I am objecting to the insinuation.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Every time they are saying, ordinary Committee and Special Committee. Neither May's Parliamentary Practice nor Shakdher's book makes any distinction between Committees-ordinary Committee, Special Committee, this Committee and that Committee. Without Speaker, we cannot move even an inch. Therefore, to the objection in respect of Speaker, the Minister must reply.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am not objecting to that. He should not attribute motives to us. I would suggest that you invite Mr. Shakdher before the Committee you have appointed. Then you will come to know.

SHRI K.C. PANT: On this issue, finally, I would say this. It is a very simple point and it is a matter of commonsense. If you had joined the Committee, made the best use of it and if it did not work, you could select the remedies open to it. But you did not give it a trial. After all, we went so far, but you have refused to give it even a trial. That is where your motives become suspect, not otherwise. Prof. Dandavate, please do not get angry. This is the reason.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: This appears to be a new brand of politics.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: The new brand is being given by the Opposition.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: I have been trying to rack my mind all these days to understand why the Opposition did not join and I could not get a satisfactory answer. I have put the whole thing to you..... (*Interruptions*) I very much hope that the inquiry in Sweden will give us the information we need and the Swedish Government will send it to us. And it will go to the Joint Committee which has been set up for this purpose.

Now, Sir, one last word I want to add. On the Joint Committee, almost all the editorials advised the Opposition to join it. They cannot all be motivated. All papers minus the *Indian Express*.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Since you have referred to editorials, may I say that the Statesman had advised the Opposition to join the Joint Committee, but only three days back they wrote an editorial to say that in the light of the developments in the last three days, they have come to the conclusion that the Opposition boycott was justifiable.

SHRI K.C. PANT: *The Statesman* against the rest. You accept the rest.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: No.

SHRI K.C. PANT: What is the use of quoting one? Almost every newspaper supported editorially on that day; that, I saw.

Sir, now, on the question of Official Secrets Act, any authorised supply of information even in respect of classified matters is possible. Only unauthorised leakage is an offence.

Now on the question which was raised by my Hon. friend Shri Indrajit Gupta, I would like to tell him about the main features of the Licence Agreement signed with M/s Bofors, Sweden:

Scope: Transfer of technology of gun, amunition vehicle for items covered in the Purchase Contract. The fire arms system being proprietary items are not covered, but the Licensor has undertaken to assist the Licensee for entering into agreement with the manufacturers of these systems.

On the question of *Financial Package*:

(1) Right to manufacture free of charge subject to minimum purchase quantity. This is covered by the supply Contract.

(2) Documentation is free.

(3) Technical assistance and training up to 50 million SEK will be given free. Beyond that, rate for technical assistance will be 2250 SEK per man day and for training 15000 SEK per week for up to 4 trainees.

(4) The Feasibility Report free and DPR free.

Then for supply of product-support items, there are other conditions It is a long list. If you are interested I can pass the whole thing on to you and you can see.

Now right at the end of the speech, I think, Shri Dandavate talked of fresh mandate that now the Government should take fresh mandate from the people. That is what somebody else also said. Somebody else also made this point. I forget now who it was.

Sir, so the whole object is that somehow the Government should be ousted. The whole object is now not to get up the truth. But the whole object is that somehow this Government must be ousted. It is legitimate in itself. But it is more legitimate for an elected Government to remain. It is far more legitimate. We are an elected Govt. We are a democratically elected Government.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Even elected assemblies were dissolved.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We are an elected opposition.

SHRI K.C. PANT: You will remain an elected opposition. I will assure you.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: So far as I am concerned, I am left with one year. I would like to remain in opposition.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT: Sir, all I would like to say is that the people of this country have reposed faith in this Government. People of this country have reposed faith in this party.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Now erosion has started.

SHRI K.C. PANT: I would be the last person, in any way, to go by the wishful thinking. It keeps us going. It is one of the

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things which keeps human beings going. So if you have speculative thought, if you have wishful thinking, well, by all means, have them. I do not mind. But we are not here because you have put us here. The people have put us here and the peoples' confidence is what we want. Your confidence in that respect is immaterial to us. Therefore, we are getting at the truth not because of you, not because of your pressures.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why are you afraid of elections?

SHRI K.C. PANT: Why don't you have an election in West Bengal? I am not stopping you. Why are you afraid? Have an election in West Bengal by all means. Am I stopping you to announce the date soon? Are you afraid?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: There the election was held only four months back.

SHRI K.C. PANT: These childish remarks should not take you any further.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: All over the world, it is the accepted democratic practice.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: We are not Janata Government that we will get away after three years. We will have full five years.

SHRI K.C. PANT: Anyway I do not want to enter into or close on a note of controversy. I would like to end on the note which Shri Indrajit Gupta ended on, namely, that even now we will enlarge our areas of cooperation and understanding and that this we have passed through a phase in which we had to confront each other on this issue. But there are large areas in the country which require our cooperation. We are facing difficult times economically in terms of drought and so on and, therefore, even the extent of bitterness in this matter should not come in the way of our cooperation in other areas of national construction. (*Interruptions*)

I speak in this tone because I believe that there is a better part in all of us and that can respond to each other and the fact that we have had a debate which became bitter sometimes I still think we have enough capacity to work together, to cooperate and, therefore, I would like to end by appealing to you to cooperate in areas of national construction and, I think, this House owes to the country to do so.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: The Minister has told the House that Bofors is a private company and the Government of India has an agreement with the Bofors company. May I know who has signed this agreement? At least his name should come. I want to know the name as to who has signed the agreement on behalf of the Indian Government?

Secondly Mr. V.P. Singh is speaking all over the country over this Bofors deal. Why don't you ask him to explain the entire thing in the House itself?

Thirdly we have come to know that Shri Narasimha Rao has been to Sweden. What

for he had gone to Sweden?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would the Minister like to say any-thing?

SHRI K.C. PANT: No.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 A.M.

22.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 27, 1987/Bhadra 5, 1909 (Saka).

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