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Friday, April 28, 1989

Vaisakha 8, 1911 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Thirteenth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. XLIX contains Nos. 31 to 40)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, April 28, 1989/ Vaisakha 8, 1911
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at

Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Position of External Debt

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

(a) what was the position of the external debt including the deposits by the non-resident Indians during the financial year 1988-89;

(b) what are the interest liabilities on these debts and deposits;

(c) what was the debt service ratio in 1988-89 taking into account external debts as well as NRI deposits; and

(d) whether Government propose to invoke provisions of the Constitution to fix ceiling on external debts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The external debt outstanding including the deposits by the non-resident Indians are estimated to be Rs. 64779 crores at the end of financial year 1987-88. Information as at the end of financial year 1988-89 is not available as the accounts for the period are not yet finalised.

(b) The interest to be paid on external debts outstanding excluding NRI deposits during 1988-89 is estimated to be about Rs. 2700 crores. The information regarding interest to be paid during 1988-89 on NRI deposits is not available.

(c) The debt service payments (i.e. repayment of principal and payment of interest) on external debt excluding NRI deposits, as a percentage to exports plus gross invisible earnings in 1988-89 is estimated to be around 23-24 percent. The information regarding NRI deposits is not available.

(d) No, Sir.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had sought from the hon. Minister the information concerning financial year 1988-89 and up to that. Of course, he has expressed his inability to furnish that information because he says the accounts are not closed, but estimates could have been given. Anyway, even the information that he has given in part (a) and part (c)

is alarming enough. He has admitted that including the outstanding deposits of the non-resident Indians, the external debt figures are Rs. 64,779 crores, and further, at a later stage he has said that excluding the non-resident Indians deposits, the debt service ratio has been accepted as 23 to 24 per cent. Firstly, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will admit the widely acknowledged fact by all economists that the safe limit for debt service ratio is twenty per cent. So, 23 to 24 per cent itself is dangerous and alarming enough. I would like to know whether it is or not. Secondly, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether through economic journal he has come across the findings of the Institute of Finance set up by international banks to monitor debt crisis in various countries and whether they have estimated that including the non-resident Indians' deposits in Indian banks, the total liability of external debts, including the deposits, are of the order of Rs. 90,000 crores, and correspondingly, the debt service ratio would not be 23% to 24%, but it would be 30% and whether this would not mean that whatever exports we are able to have, 30% of our net earnings through our exports will be spent up in only repayment of, the principal and repayment of the interest and if this is going to be so, is it not going to be a constraint on our developmental activities?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, it is my duty to disabuse the mind of the hon. Member about the fear that he has expressed. Firstly, the debt service ratio is not alarming though we are very attentive to control it. Secondly, the debts that we have incurred, the foreign credits that we have obtained, have gone to projects, specifically in every case for projects, to build up the infrastructure of our economy. As a result of the general economic policy, our economy, at this point of time is set for an unprecedented growth.

The debt has been used for a good cause, for extremely good and productive cause and therefore, there is an unprecedented strength of economy at this point of time. I must elaborate on this question of the

NRI deposits. The figures which have been given officially are the figures that we maintain and no other. But on the Non-Resident Indian deposits, I would like to make this point that even when this money is repatriable under, for instance, FONRI account of repatriable, the depositors by and large, with very very few exceptions have not repatriated their money. They have preferred to keep them in India and plough them back. Therefore, the question of adding this to our debt repayment is not a really the question because the Non-Resident Indians have shown that they have not repatriated the amount, which again shows their confidence in our economy. They have preferred to have their money here because the economy is strong and that is the position.

Let me again elaborate a bit further on this question of the fear which is unfounded and why I have said that it is unfounded is because the debt service ratio is not beyond the prudent limit. I would like to compare this with some of the neighbouring countries. As far as Pakistan is concerned, 47.1 is the percentage of debt to GNP while our own percentage is 18.8. The House would like to know that with such a strong economy of South Korea, the percentage of debt of GNP is 34.3. As far as our own economy is concerned, it is just 18.8% which I have mentioned. In the case of Indonesia, it is 79.7% and so on and so forth.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You can quote Cuba also.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: No, no. We want to quote these countries to impress upon the hon. Members including the hon. Member who has asked the question, the countries that share our economic interests, our economic environments and countries with strong economy like the South Korean Republic. So, in this context, I would like to reiterate that there is nothing to be alarmed about the debt service ratio, while at the same time, it has been the tradition of our economic management. We maintain this

tradition that we must control our external borrowing, we must use that for building up the infrastructure, we must avoid at all costs imports that are not strictly necessary. That is what we are doing and I would submit that it is a great matter of interest to the Members.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am surprised about the complacency of the Minister of State for Finance. I would like to know in this connection, after listening to his reply, whether it is not a fact that as far as last years' performance is concerned, that means, all our liabilities regarding repayments of principal and payment of interests are concerned, they constitute 70% of deficit financing. Is it not an alarming indicator? You have still not replied to my question. Is it not the accepted norm the world over that 20% especially in the developing countries, is supposed to be the safe limit for this ratio and it has gone according to your admission upto 23 to 24% and if you add the deposits of the Non-Resident Indians, it will definitely go up. You may not accept 30 per cent, but is above that. In view of this, I came to the last part of the question which is regarding the constitutional provision. Is it not a fact that Article 292 of the Constitution says the following about the borrowings by the Government of India?

"The executive power of the Union extends to borrowing upon the security of the Consolidated Fund of India within such limits, if any, as may from time to time be fixed by Parliament by law and to the giving of guarantees within such limits, if any, as may be so fixed."

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since the framers of the Constitution including Prof. Ranga have already provided Article 292 imagining some severe debt trap and the need to fix up the ceiling on our external borrowing, why is it that you do not even think in terms of trying to invoke the provisions of Article 292 and think of putting a ceiling on external borrowings so that you will concentrate more on self-reliance and building up internal resources in the country?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, self-reliance is the cornerstone of our economic management and it will always be. Now, about Article 292, it is an enabling provision which is neither necessary to invoke nor....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You take advantage of that provision.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: It is neither necessary to take advantage of that provision nor is it feasible to take advantage of that provision. It is not necessary, Sir, because we are discussing, this Parliament and particularly this House controls all receipts of the Government which include loans. We have this in our budgetary documents, we have the budget debates. You see, the budgetary papers show what are the receipts and the sources of receipts including loans. Apart from this, every year we circulate a publication which shows the foreign assistance countrywise. It is open to the hon. Members and it is the right of this House to discuss this in any manner it likes. Therefore, it is not necessary, it is not for the first time that it is being said on the floor of the House, it has been said many many times before, in 1982 this was specifically said by the Government and Sir, it is not feasible also because in view of the exchange rates which are internationally fluctuating all the time about fixing a limit, either it will have to be a very high limit which is not realistic at the point of time or it will have to be a limit which will have to be changed again and again because the rates change so much. Now, we know what is the rate of rupee today as compared to US Dollar. It is much less compared to the Dollar. We even know what is the rate of the Deutsche mark and yen and the Pound Sterling which have devalued substantially as against the Dollar. So, these are the type of things which are not necessary and which are also not feasible. The purpose is to control.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, what is the reply? My question is different. Sometimes in the examination we set one question and the student gives a different answer. That is what he is doing, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a Professor.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: That is right, Sir. He is a Professor and I am speaking as a Member of Parliament and Minister.

Therefore, it is not feasible, the purpose is to control the Government borrowings and Government expenditure. This purpose is amply served by the devices which are at the moment available to the hon. Members and to the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Does the Finance Minister fully share this view of the other State Minister? Will you kindly apply your mind?

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Sir, most of the economists have stated that India is on the threshold of a debt trap. Now, what is the amount, what is the total percentage of revenue that is necessary for debt servicing, both internal and external? Is it not more than 30 per cent of the revenue for debt servicing, internal and external, and has the Government any specific plan chalked out or thought about for redeeming our debts? Is any time limit fixed—10 years or 15 years—when we will be free from debt servicing? Have you got any specific plan for getting out of this debt servicing?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, the international agencies like the World Bank—and I mention the World Bank specifically because studies in this regard have mentioned in their reports the countries which are highly indebted, in other words those countries which we say are in the debt trap. I would say they are not even remotely related to the debt servicing trap and so on and so forth. However, I have just now mentioned the beginning, some of the Asian countries where the percentage of GNP is much higher than India are not in the debt trap or not highly indebted as per the international agencies.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Sir, what is the percentage of revenue that is necessary to answer this debt servicing. That is what I

specifically asked. Is it 30% of our revenue which has to go for debt servicing or is less or more?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, when we say 23 to 24% is the debt service ratio, it means 23 to 24% is the percentage of our earnings from our exports and invisibles that go for debt servicing. Now, I would like to say this and I would like to repeat again. Even other countries which I have mentioned like South Korea Pakistan and Sri Lanka where debt servicing is in much greater proportion of the GNP than India are not in the debt trap, they are not highly indebted as per the World Bank and other international agencies' reports. When I say this thing I do not say this with a sense of complacency. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, we went a central intervention from the Chair.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any specific proposal or a thought at least to get out of the debt servicing to free the country from the debt servicing fire.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I will come to that. I have said this. Though we are not at all complacent we are taking action in the matter. We have a specific plan for the turn-about or turn-around of BOP, balance of payment. The plan is being implemented and is being monitored regularly and it has started yielding positive results.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, we are talking about latitude, he talks about platitude! (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the member has raised the question about this external debt—you have also raised this point mainly—he has answered for that. It is better for you to put a specific question according to the specific subject. That is what he is answering.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Sir, I do not want

to develop a debate over this as my hon. friend has tried to do—possibly they have got the next election in their mind. May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that our own Finance Minister has told the World Bank as well as other authorities, that we do not want to ask for any debts, any loans, any longer; whereas all other countries have been there as applicants for further loans. Is it not also a fact that these NRI deposits which are supposed to be debts are not external debts. They are not liabilities so far as foreign exchange is concerned. Their money is to come some day or the other into India and they have been good enough to strengthen our finances by lending their money, by placing their money and deposits to our Government. May I have a clear answer to this question, Sir?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, that is an external debt. Non-Resident Indians are outside India.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, the Finance Minister made it very clear more than once in the context of IMF loans and the fears expressed, that we have not approached IMF for any loans and we do not intend to take loan. However, we are a developing country and there is no developing country in the world which does not require borrowing at a point of time. That is why it is inherent in the very concept of a developing country that an aid is necessary, borrowing is necessary what is also necessary is to use this borrowing and aid for productive purposes. That is what we are doing.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Sir, I would like to supplement my hon. colleague's reply. That is about the assistance which was being talked about—that India has approached both the World Bank and IMF for special assistance. Normal assistance is available to us.

I have said that we will be able to manage; We do not require any assistance.

SHRI H.M. PATEL: Sir, the hon. Minis-

ter mentioned that we are not facing an alarming situation. I would like him to be more specific in saying at what point of time, i.e. to say that would be the percentage of ratio which he would regard as alarming.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, what the World Bank or international agencies find alarming is when the economy is unable to sustain the payment of the debt. It would be found alarming, specifically when the debt payment impinges strongly on our economic development. I have made this point and let me make it clear since Mr. Patel has raised this question.

The point is that our economy is not at all in debt situation. Our economy is extremely strong economy and has unprecedented strength. I would just like to mention some indicators to satisfy the hon. House. The increase in GNP in 1987-88, in spite of severe drought was 3.6%.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: That is not the question he is asking. The simple question is, what percentage is safe for our country, in respect of debt ratio.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: There is no such fixed figure, no particular number, no magic number in which this percentage is to be there. There are a series of indicators. This is one of them, i.e. so long as economy is strong, there is no problem and our economy is gaining unprecedented strength. (*Interruptions.*)

Financial Constraints in Gujarat

*780. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Government of Gujarat is experiencing tremendous financial constraints and that State's annual plan is likely to be affected greatly;

(b) whether the State Government had sent detailed representation to increase

Central assistance to enable to finance larger annual plan;

(c) if so, the actual financial assistance to be given to State Government of Gujarat against the demand for the year 1989-90 and during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the reasons for not providing the assistance in full?

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 Annual Plan of Gujarat for 1989-90 has been approved after duly considering the suggestions and views expressed by the State Government and keeping in view the resources available. The Plan is fully funded with the states resources and Central assistance of Rs. 298.09 crores. The Eighth plan is yet to be finalised. In the light of the above, the question of not providing Central assistance in full does not arise.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: Before I put my supplementary, I would like to warn the hon. Minister, through you, that some well meaning Member, my colleague has warned me that the Ministry would not allow more financial aid to the State of Gujarat.

During the three years of server drought in the State, the Gujarat Government has already spent Rs. 1500 crores on relief work itself. As against that, Rs. 299.9 crores is the only amount allotted in the current plan. The Government has spent Rs. 1500 crores mainly on drought affected farmers including deferred payment of electricity dues and exemption from payment of revenue. Looking to this fact, I would like to tell the Minister, specially as Mr. Gadhvi is from Gujarat also, he knows the difficulties the State has gone through. I would like to know whether he can persuade the Government to allot more funds to overcome this difficulty.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: Sir, the Government of India has already given large assis-

tance for Plan as well as for the drought relief. So far as the 7th Plan was concerned, the total outlay for the 7th Plan was Rs. 6,000 crores and the Central assistance was Rs. 151.67 crores which was 75.7% greater than the Sixth Plan. In 1988-89, for the annual plan, the Central Assistance was Rs. 253.05 crores which was 5.29% greater than 1987-88. In 1989-90, the Central assistance is Rs. 298.09 crores which is 17.8% more than 1988-89.

Thus it would be appreciated that so far as the Central assistance is concerned, every year it has been stepped up and also in respect of drought and other Central assistance, from the point of view of market borrowings and other loans and small savings, the 7th Plan original target was Rs. 1220 crores and it was revised to Rs. 1760 crores, out of which you are getting 75% loan. The market borrowing was Rs. 791 crores and we have allowed it to Rs. 997 crores. The Central assistance totalled was Rs. 1052 crores which has now been raised—and the latest estimate is Rs. 1294 crores. Therefore, it is not proper to say that the Central Government is not assisting the Government of Gujarat. So far as the drought is concerned, it is agreed that Gujarat and Rajasthan face a very serious drought situation. Gujarat is the second State to get the maximum assistance in the whole country.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: The Central assistance to Gujarat is very low.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: In 1987-88, Gujarat got 20% assistance of the total amount which was meant for the country.

In 1988-89, Gujarat get 25% of the total amount meant for the entire country.

The drought was serious but the Centre was equally generous.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: Looking to the escalation in prices and also as the Eighth Plan has not been finalised, can I get an assurance from the Government

that more allotment will be done in the Eighth Plan.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: The Eighth Plan has not been finalised. But it has been assured by the Minister of Finance and it is our stance that so far as the developmental activities all over the country are concerned, we are very keen and more attentive to see that they are spread over properly throughout the country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL: The hon. Minister said that Gujarat has been given more assistance and the economic condition of the State is good. Last month the Government of Gujarat has taken a long of Rs. 100 crores from the Public undertakings just to pay their officers. They cannot even make the payment of salary also. It has been stated in the press reports that the Government of Gujarat cannot make payment of more than Rs 10 lakhs to anybody. The economic condition of Gujarat has become so bad that you cannot do anything. There is no control over the economy. The Chief Minister is not in a position to do anything. Almost all the Central Ministers, who go there assure central assistance to the State for drought relief measures in view of the deteriorating economic condition of the State. But the money does not reach the State. Even the hon. Prime Minister visited various parts of the State recently, like Rajkot and Kutch. Even then funds are not released. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much money has so far been given to the State against the demand made by them.

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: I may not like to comment upon the fiscal management of Gujarat State but I would certainly say that whatever the Centre has to give, Centre has given in more generous and liberal way. Of course, every State also has to make its own efforts and in this respect I would say that so far as Seventh Plan original target is con-

cerned, the State's own resources were to be of the order of Rs. 1,243 crores. The additional resource mobilisation was to the tune of Rs. 1,259 crores. Unfortunately, for reasons not known, the State's own resources fell short by Rs. 580 crores and the total which they were to raise to the tune of Rs. 2,938 crores came only to Rs. 1,249 crores and then Centre's contribution including small savings loans, market borrowing, Central assistance etc., which we give came to the tune of Rs. 3,062 crores and, therefore, in the total plan the shortage was about Rs. 700 crores and, thus, I would very much wish that not only Gujarat but all the State Governments should also play their very role in resource generation and handle their economy well. If they resort to any economic drive, then it is a welcome sign and I have nothing to comment upon that.

DA Instalment to Central Government Employees

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

(a) whether another Dearness Allowance instalment has fallen due to the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the rate of Dearness Allowance that has become due; and

(c) by what time the same is likely to be sanctioned?

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

(b) Additional amount of Dearness Allowance has become due w.e.f. 1.1.1989 at the rates of 6%, 5% and 4% of basic pay upto Rs. 3500/- over Rs. 3500/- and upto Rs. 6000/- and over Rs. 6000/- respectively.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

SHRI S. M. GURADDI: Mr. Deputy -

Speaker, Sir, on the earlier occasion also, the same answer was given by the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will have to be satisfied that there is no contradiction.

SHRIS.M. GURADDI: It has been stated that the DA instalment has fallen due and it is under the consideration of the Government. What is the reason for the delay in announcing and releasing the instalment of DA even after four month had lapsed? May I know what is the difficulty in paying the DA instalment for the employees?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: Sir, it is not correct to say that four months have lapsed. Actually, when the DA is due in July, we are paying it in September and when it is due in January we are paying it in March. So, there is a lapse of one month only. I would like to say that the matter is under very active consideration of the Government.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI: It is very difficult to understand the principle. The Fourth Pay Commission had recommended that whenever the price Index rises, the Government should automatically announce the DA instalment and pay the same to the employees twice a year. When it is so, why the Government has not been releasing the DA instalment in time to avoid accumulating of arrears? If accumulation of arrears is continuing it is also difficult for the Government to pay to same. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government proposes at least in future to announce the same from the month in which it falls due and whether any action has been taken by the Government.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: The point is that the month in which it falls due, it cannot be given in that very month because it has to be worked out and given after one or two months. This is the natural practice of accounting. But as to what is the percentage of rise in the Dearness Allowance, we have already declared that it is 6 per cent, 5 per cent and 4 per cent respectively. DA would be worked

out accordingly and it will be paid. No two instalments of DA are accumulated. We have to pay two instalment of DA in a year. We would not like and we would not see that the two instalments are clubbed together, accumulating the arrears. That is why I have stated that it is under very active consideration of the Government.

SHRI M.Y. GHORPADE: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. When the Central Government sanctions or approves the DA at the Central level, does it take into account the effect which inevitably has at the State level and the very upsetting effect it has on its developmental efforts? If it agree with the proposition, would this Government consider it desirable to have a national policy so far as DA is concerned and decisions are taken regarding DA keeping the national view in mind? This matter is so important even from the point of view of fiscal management that it deserves to be discussed at the level of National Development Council.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: As a matter of fact, pay scales and Dearness allowance pertaining to the State Government employees are within their domain. The State Governments go on appointing their own Pay Commission and quite often. For the Central Government employees, it would be appreciated that the Forth pay Commission was appointed only after the lapse of 11-12 years. But during this period, almost most of the States appointed three or four Pay Commissions. Therefore, we cannot link it up. We know that the totally circulation of money in the market has got an impact on the price side and inflation. That is the reason why we are considering the whole aspect even in the release of Dearness Allowance instalment of our own Government employees. We certainly take care of our own employees. It is for the State Governments to manage their own affairs.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Sir, the type of question which the hon. Member has asked is very relevant that if the Central Government were to grant to their employees it does have an effect on

the State Government employees also.

The hon. Member has said that some kind of policy needs to be evolved. Certainly, we are applying our mind. But still we have not been able to come to any definite conclusion. Certainly, we are at it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Where there is President's rule, DA will be available directly.

[Translation]

Export Cargo Backlog

*783. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the 'The Hindustan Times' dated 4 April, 1989 captioned "Exporters forced to cancel 20 cr. orders" wherein it is stated that over 2000 tones of cargo is lying at the cargo complex uncleared:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the facts in this regard and the extent of loss likely to be suffered by export trade; and

(d) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

[English]

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

STATEMENT

(a) Yes Sir. However, no cancellation of export orders have been reported to the Government.

(b) to (d). During the peak season from January to June, due to spurt in export activity, there is pressure on the air cargo export infrastructure and capacity. However, concerted measures have been taken with the assistance of the Ministries and agencies including Director General of Civil Aviation, Customs, International Airports Authority of India and the Airlines to arrange for additional flights and clear the cargo backlog. These measures include the adoption of an open skies policy involving grant of permission to scheduled and non-scheduled freighter operators to provide additional flights with inward loading rights, creation of increased holding capacity in the Goods Terminals at Gateway Airports, permitting tourist charter operators to carry export consignments on their return flights from India, extension of the demurrage free period for export consignments in the IAAI warehouse from 6 days to 11 days and extension of garment quota quota expire date from 17th to 30th April, 1989 etc.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: My Question is that the export orders of worth Rs. 20 crores had been cancelled due to non-lifting of air cargo at Delhi Airport Cargo Complex. The fact is that this is not only for the first time that the order has been cancelled but this has resulted in continued cancellation of export orders. Not only the orders of worth Rs. 20 crores have been cancelled but the cargo of worth Rs. 30 crores is lying in the godowns of private exporters and agents for shipment. It is a very serious situation. The whole country is striving for more and more export earnings. But on the other hand, orders are being cancelled and we fail to have an arrangement for shipment. In the reply, the hon. Minister has stated that no cancellation of export orders have been reported. I stick to my view-point that they were cancelled. The Minister should clarify it and he should not try to put the reply to our side that they were not cancelled.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI: Officially, no reports either by the exporters or by the Export promotion Council called the Apparel

Export Promotion Council had been reported to the Ministry that due to non-availability of cargo, orders had been cancelled. However, we do share the concern of the hon. Member that there is a problem. And this problem, in one way, is being tackled by the Ministry of Civil aviation with the help of the Customs and our Department. If any specific exporter or any specific consignment which is in the knowledge of the hon. Member, is reported to us, we assure him that we will take it up very seriously. But in general, I would like to explain the position that the fact remains that the air cargo operation for export in the country is 35 per cent of the total operation of which Bombay and Delhi Airports contribute mainly. Delhi being the Gateway, from the end of February, that is, from March to June, which is the peak period of export, these kind of backlog do concentrate in the airports and we do handle it from time to time with the concerned agencies. But we are now thinking very seriously, apart from the cargo that is within our hands, whether we can think of a long term strategy for this. Our Ministry is very actively considering this matter and it will be taken up very shortly. From time to time, as a short-term measure we are monitoring it. And because of the daily storing facilities there and because of the backlog there, with the assistance of the International Airports Authority of India, the demurrage charge which was to be counted after six days has been extended to 11 days and the quota of expire period which was supposed to expire on 17th April for readymade garments has been extended to 30th April. These are the measures which we have taken. You will appreciate that we are not keeping silent and we are in touch with them because they are contributing for the country. We are trying to sort out the problem as much as possible.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: The International Airports Authority of India is sending heavy bills of worth lakhs of rupees to the airlines because of the failure to air lift the cargo by the airlines. Now, I am thankful to the hon. Minister that in his reply the hon. Minister—after putting the question by me has extended the period from six days

to 11 days. But according to the latest position, this extension is not helpful. The situation is that there is complete, chaos, confusion and uncertainty prevailing.

I would like to know whether the Minister will consider further extending the period from six days to eleven days—at least two weeks—for airlifting so that the Airlines do not get heavy bills from the International Airports Authority.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: I would like to inform the Hon. Member first that it is not a fact that no improvement has been made and we have not taken care of the situation. The fact remains that whereas from January to April 1987 the capacity of cargo operation in extra load was only to the tune of 4709 tonnes, we have been able to create extra capacity from January to April 1988 to the tune of 9308 tonnes. This year it is more than that. The Hon. Member will appreciate that we have increased the extra capacity by about 100% by this time.

In so far as the flight operations are concerned, apart from the regular cargo operations, we have cleared extra special flights. The growth rate actually is; in 1986—143; in 1987—159 thereby 11% growth; in 1988—2251 extra flights thereby 58% growth; and during January-March 1989—231 ad-hoc charters we have cleared thereby adding some more. However, the problem of providing more exemption cannot be solved by the Ministry of Commerce. We are prepared to take it up once again with the Airports authority from time to time on the basis of the wishes of the concerned parties.

I would like to again assure the Hon. Member that we keep regular track of the exporters' problems and we do take it up on daily monitoring basis. If some specific seriousness is there of a specific party, the Hon. Member can refer the matter specifically to us. We shall certainly look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, it is not for the first time that Cargo are lying uncleared. Last year also it had happened and earlier to that also this thing had happened. Today commendable steps are being taken to boost exports. However, from January to March it often so happens that cargo lies uncleared and the exporters bear the consequences. Due to this they do not get bank loan and they are not able to get the next cargo ready. For this, their next L.C. is not cleared and the L.C. which has since expired cannot be renewed. In this way they have to face lots of difficulties. I would like to know as to what steps have been taken keeping in view the past experience and even then if any difficulty was experienced what were the reasons therefor?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: So far as the question of cargo export is concerned, it is a fact that our export has gone up. By and large export has been going up by 100 per cent every year. But the difficulty is that the exports consist mostly of perishable goods and finished goods like leather goods. There are mandatory freight orders for this under which these goods are transported on low freight charges. As such the cargo operators who undertake commercial operation do not want that goods should be transported on so low freight charges. Where the freight charges are high and the Government has a share in the exports, share of the cargo operators is less than 50 per cent. It is a problem. The second problem is that we operate 20 per cent cargo by Air India and the remaining cargo is operated by non-scheduled and scheduled chartered flights. Keeping in view the increasing exports we are sorting out the short term problems by chartering the freights. We are preparing a comprehensive Civil Aviation Plan in Eighth Five Year Plan and we are formulating it keeping in view the future requirements. We try to ensure that there are concrete programmes in the Ministry of Commerce for this purpose so that there are opportunities to sort out their difficulties on short term basis. Steps are being taken to see that cargo operation in the country is boosted further keeping in view the long term needs also. In the context of

tourism also we are thinking of plans to see that the tourist carry the cargo with them. I agree with the hon. Member that if we do not make arrangements for cargo while boosting exports it will cause loss and the export will come to a stand still. The Government is taking action to take suitable measures in this regard.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a number of items that the exporters send consist of raw materials. If these goods are not sent they suffer losses to the tune of lakhs and crores of rupees. As such, are you taking any measures to see that these goods are sent specially through all the airports at the earliest? We have come to know from the exporters that a lot of irregularities take place there. There is favouritism. They send goods of some persons and delay others goods. Please let us know if there is anything irregular in it. I do not want to make a comparative assessment, but I want to know if you had received any such complaints? If so, did you hold any enquiry into it and are you going to do the same now. Are you thinking of any measures for the goods being exported through Hyderabad?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI: I have already said in my reply that the quantity of unfinished goods is very low. We want that they should carry more and more unfinished goods. We have not received any specific complaints about consignments. If any such complaint is received by us we will definitely take action. So far as raw material is concerned, I would like to say that its quantity of export is not high. Apart from our cargo complex, the cargo complexes belonging to other countries also give preference to other items and they do not prefer to carry raw materials. They give priority to textile good because they get large quantity of goods in it. We have constituted an Agricultural Export Authority for raw material. We are consulting them. Particular attention is being paid to ensure that cargo and warehouse facilities are available near the airports so that the exporters get maximum facilities.

[English]

Rail Roko Agitation in Kerala

*784. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial loss suffered by the Railways due to the Rail Roko agitation in Kerala on 28 March, 1989;

(b) whether any railway property was damaged or destroyed during the agitation, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many train services were cancelled or paralysed due to this agitation?

[Translation]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Precise quantification is not possible.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 39 passenger carrying and 21 freight trains were fully cancelled. 44 passenger carrying trains were cancelled partially.

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, the Rail Roko agitation in Kerala on 28th March, 1989 was a political tornado of the Marxist Party and the LDF Government to paralysed the railway system in Kerala. During 1982-1987, when the Congress Party was in power in that State, the Marxist Party led an agitation that the... (*Interruptions*)

I am going to help him. He will become unemployed, after sometime. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Please put the question.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, I am putting the question. During 1982-1987, when the Congress Party was in power in Kerala State, the Marxist Party led an agitation that the

State Government should give employment to the unemployed youth or the unemployment wages. Now they have come back to power in that State. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I am putting the relevant question. Now the State Government and the Marxist Party say that the Central Government has to give employment or the unemployment wages and it is in this context that this Rail Roko agitation took place. (*Interruptions*) Why should he interrupt? I want to help him. He will become unemployed after sometime. Now the State Government and the Marxist Party led an agitation against the Central Government by paralysing the railway system in Kerala. Kerala entirely depends on railway system for getting the food-grains, fuel and other things. Whenever there are political agitations in this country, it is the railway system that is being hit. On the one side our Opposition people are telling that there should be development but when they are having these political agitations which affect the rail system which is the main artery of development in the country how it is possible. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will call a meeting of the political parties to see that when there are political agitations this main artery of development of the country is left alone.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): The hon. Member is absolutely correct in saying that whenever such agitations take place in the name of the people they end up causing untold harm to the areas where these agitations had taken place. They disrupt the public distribution system, supply of essential commodities to those areas and causes tremendous inconvenience to the middle and lower income group people who use these trains. The 'rail roko' agitation which the hon. Member has asked about caused cancellation or partial cancellation of 104 trains. It is unfortunate that some political parties want to use the Railways as a whipping boy because it is very easy to attract attention when you go and squat on the track but it cannot but have a disastrous effect on the conditions of

the people which these so-called political parties are saying that they are attempting to serve.

I have made appeal after appeal both in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha that the political parties should try and desist especially on issues which do not concern the Railways directly, they should try and desist from 'rail roko' agitations. During the months of January to April in Assam area as many as 947 trains have been disrupted. At the same time I keep getting complaints from the State Governments concerned about shortage of essential commodities like kerosene and foodgrains. I must say though it is not totally relevant to this particular question yet I must express my appreciation to the Railway officers and staff who made an herculean effort to serve Assam to see that there is no shortage of essential commodities. In fact, a number of our staff have been kidnapped and some of them have been murdered. This is the service they are trying to render amidst grave risks. I cannot but agree with Prof. Thomas in that such agitations though ostensibly launched for the people actually result in harming them; yet, because there is no other issue to pick up it is very easy to go and squat on the track they are resorted to. In Kanpur we think the loss would be between Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 crores.

Those political parties which are resorting to 'rail roko' agitations are acting against the interests of the common man and the middle and the lower middle income groups of that particular area.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: It is only the desperate people who have no interest in life that jump in front of the running trains. Similarly those political parties which are affecting the Railway system they have become desperate and have no belief in the democratic system. With your permission I would ask an indirect question. After the Perumal accident the Commissioner made a report and it is said that it is due to tornado. Nobody in Kerala believes this. Will the Minister appoint another independent and efficient body to see what has actually happened and

also what is actually happening in other accidents. These types of reports are not of much help.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: This is not relevant to this particular question but since the hon. Member has raised it I would like to say that I have no authority over the Commissioner of Railway Safety. He is under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. It is a technical report. 99.99 per cent times the Commissioner of Railways Safety has laid the fault at the door-step of Railways and we have always owned it up. Now, when he has made such a report, we are studying that report and there are some technical aspects in it. Before you throw it out of the window, I would suggest that whoever wants to comment on it, even those who are in the highest positions in Kerala, should at least kindly read the report and try to get engineers to study it and see if there is some sense in it and then make comments on it. In any case, it is not under my Ministry. This question should be addressed to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I would like to know from the Minister the number of trains cancelled during the last one year in Kerala due to the frequent derailments. I would also like to know whether the Railways has made any assessment regarding the losses suffered due to these derailments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you referring to 'rail roko'?

SHRI SURESH KURUP: No.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you ask about 'rail roko', then it is all right. Otherwise, I cannot allow it.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, it is related to this. Why are you not allowing? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Derailment is not 'rail roko'. Your question is irrelevant.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: How can it be

irrelevant? I have asked the Minister a relevant question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It may be relevant for you. But it does not relate to this question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, I have asked about the losses suffered due to the derailments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you ask about the 'rail roko', then it is OK.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: The Minister is ready to answer. Why don't you allow?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you are asking a question relevant to 'rail roko', I can allow. But if you go to some other things, I cannot allow.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: How can you disallow this question?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can you ask? It is not connected with this. Please don't pressurise. This is not the way... *(Interruptions)*... If you ask about 'rail roko', I can allow but not about derailments. Your question is entirely different. This is not connected with this question... *(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat. Don't waste the time. When I have given the ruling, please take your seat. You cannot insist. Don't insist like this.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, this is summer season. Minister has quoted a representation from the people about an agitation. I suppose he has got it. During the summer season, if he does not allow for a new train because of the heavy traffic towards Kerala and the southern region, there can be an-

other agitation. I would like to know from the Minister regarding this...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No; I cannot allow this question.

Exemption of some Organisations from Corporate and other Taxes

*786. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHODHARY:
SHRI R.P. DAST:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to exempt some organisations from corporate and other taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of such organisations and the amount of tax exemption in each case;

(c) whether Government have received any requests/representations for exemption of corporate tax; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether some of the organisations were also given exemption from this tax in the recent past, if so, the details of such organisations?

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

STATEMENT

A number of organisations have been exempted from payment of corporate tax or income-tax, either in exercise of the powers conferred under the provisions of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, or by directly providing for exemption from tax in the rele-

vant Act, by which the organisation is established.

A number of representations have been received from various organisations engaged in charitable activities, scientific research, promotion of sports and mutual fund activities, for exemption from corporate tax and income-tax. The process of granting exemption to the organisation from corporate tax or income-tax is a continuous exercise and the exemptions are granted subject to the conditions specified in the relevant provisions of the Income-tax Act, for a specified period after which they lapse, unless renewed for further period. The notifications granting the exemptions are published in the Official Gazette.

The Government had received a request from the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), New Delhi, for exemption from corporate tax, and the same has not been found to be acceptable.

Some of the organisations which have been granted exemption from corporate tax under their own statute in the recent past are:—

- (i) The National Housing Bank (NHB)
- (ii) The Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Sir, since there is no time, I want to have a pointed answer from the Minister to my supplementaries. He has admitted that so many organisations have been granted tax exemption under the law or under their direct decision. The nature of the organisations for this tax exemption should be explicitly made clear as to whether they are charitable organisations or some other organisations. I also want to know as to how many such organisations are enjoying this facility and how many of them are connected in one way or the other with the industrial houses in our country.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Since the hon. Member has said that I should give a pointed answer, all over India, a little over 110 organisations are enjoying these exemptions, if my memory has not failed. The second part of the question is difficult to answer at the present moment.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Will you answer the second part later on?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: if the hon. Member writes a letter to me, I will certainly collect the information and give it to him.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Why I am asking the second supplementary is because the background is clear from the C&AG Report that when we compare the position in 1950-51 to 1987-88, while the total tax revenue is multiplied by 90 times, the direct tax revenue is multiplied by only 32 times. On account of so many relaxations in the fiscal laws, though the companies are prospering, the tax collections are not being made properly. A number of references about irregularise have been given in the latest report. Are you going to have proper monitoring mechanism in the case of those companies where you allow certain exemptions, to see whether they are not misusing them?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: The law as it stands after amendment of the Finance Bill, which is under discussion now—previously it was for specified period or for indefinite period—now it has been laid down that it will be for a period of three years. Every time after the period is over, it is examined whether they are functioning within the conditions which have to be complied with for getting exemptions. If against any particular institution, or a religious body, a specific complaint comes, then we have inherent power of withdrawing that exemption, if they do not satisfy the conditions laid down in the particular Statute or the Income Tax Act.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Export of Kudremukh Iron Ore to Romania

*781. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Romania is keen to import iron ore from Kudremukh;

(b) if so, the details of the order placed by Romania; and

(c) the quantity of iron ore proposed to be exported to that country from Kudremukh during 89-90?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c). M/s. Mineral Import-Export (MIE) of Romania had signed a long term contract in 1988 with M/s. Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, for purchase of 0.5 million tonnes each of iron ore concentrate and pellets per year for 3 years commencing from 1988. However, Romania did not buy any quantity in 1988. There is no proposal to supply iron ore concentrate or pellets to Romania in 1989-90.

Protection to Wild Life and Plants

*787: SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-
WARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the World Bank report, as many as six million species of plants and animals face extinction if their natural areas are not protected;

(b) whether according to the report, rapid population growth and poor planned

economic development programmes are leading to the destruction of forest lands;

(e) whether Government have examined the report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Government are not aware of a specific report of the World Bank to this effect.

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

Ten Plantation in Orissa

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

(a) whether there is a big scope for tea plantation in Orissa and an experiment has also been made in this regard;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the area famous for tea plantation in Orissa; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production of tea in Orissa to boost the trade and to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c). Tea Board, in consultation with the State Government of Orissa, has set up a Joint Venture company to implement a project covering about 400 hectares of tea plantation in Keonjhar district of Orissa. In the first phase of the programme so far 170 hectares of land in Keonjhar district has been brought under tea plantation. During the year 1989-90 an additional area of 100 hectares is expected to be added to the already planted area of

170 hectare in the district. Besides, Tea Board has identified 1640 hectares of land in Kalahandi district and 805 hectares in Phulbani district suitable for tea plantation.

Tea Board, amongst other schemes, has been operating a Scheme namely the New Tea Unit Financing Scheme comprising both loan and subsidy components exclusively for non-traditional areas like Orissa, etc. of the country. The rate of loan under this scheme is Rs. 40,000/- per hectare and of the subsidy is Rs. 25,000/- per hectare. In addition to this, Tea Board has sanctioned Rs. 20 lakhs for setting up of nurseries with a capacity of 25 lakhs plants in Kalahandi district and 10 lakhs plants in Phulbani districts.

Rail Yatri Niwas at New Delhi Railway Station

*789. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the construction of the 8 storey Rail Yatri Niwas at New Delhi Railway Station and its average occupancy since it was opened;

(b) whether the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has served a notice on the Railway Administration for the demolition of this building stating it to be unauthorised; and

(c) if so, the facts of the case and the action taken or contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The total expenditure incurred on the construction of Rail Yatri Niwas at New Delhi Railway Station upto March, 1989 was Rs. 2.79 crores. Average occupancy during 1988-89 was 99.9%.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Railway undertook construction of Rail Yatri Niwas, New Delhi in October, 1985 as an "Operational" building, for which approval of local authorities was not required, in terms of extant rules, issued by the erstwhile Works and Housing Ministry. Proposals were also submitted to local authorities for obtaining water and power connections. The proposal was cleared by D.D.A. in May, 1987. M.C.D. Standing Committee cleared the Lay Out Plan in July, 1987. However, Building Plan Committee of M.C.D. cleared the proposal in September 1987, subject to certain observations. The Railways complied with most of the observations and efforts are being made by the Railway administration to settle the matter through discussions with M.C.D. authorities on other matters.

[Translation]

Export of Oil Seeds

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

(a) whether keeping in view the bumper crop of oil seeds during 1988-89, Government have decided to promote its export; and

(b) if so, the quantity of oil seeds exported by January, 1989 and the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Export Safflower/Kardi seeds has been permitted within a ceiling during 1989-90 in view of the good crop of oil seeds. Export of groundnuts, sesame seeds and niger seeds is permitted without any restriction.

(b) Export of HPS groundnut, sesame seeds and niger seeds during April, 1988-January, 1989 is provisionally placed at 25,740 tonnes valued at Rs. 26.47 crores.

[English]

LIC Business in Rural Areas

*791. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has been able to exploit fully the rural potential for its activities; and

(b) if not, what steps are contemplated to boost its business in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Over the years, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has been making strenuous efforts to tap the rural potential for its activities. In particular, during the year 1987-88, the LIC has made good progress in new business in rural areas by securing 32.1% of its total new business and selling 38.9% of total new policies in rural areas. The important steps taken by the Corporation to expand its business in rural areas are summarised below:—

(1) LIC is opening more and more branches located in mofussil centres with large rural areas under their jurisdiction. Out of 256 new branch offices opened during the last 3 years namely, 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88, 182 branches have been opened in mofussil centres with large rural territory under their jurisdiction.

(2) LIC is appointing more and more Development Officers in rural areas. During the last 3 years, more than 50% of the new Development Officers were recruited in rural areas.

(3) LIC has framed a special stipendary scheme of rural career agents under which persons with rural background who want to

make insurance as their career are recruited and a monthly stipend of Rs. 125/- for the first year and Rs. 100/- for the 2nd year during training is paid so as to provide them with some financial support till they are able to build some amount of commission income; and

(4) LIC has introduced a special plan called "New Jana Raksha Policy" specially suited for people in rural areas. Under this plan, if, after payment of premiums for 2 years, the policy-holder is not able to pay any future premium, the policy is kept in full force for a further period of 3 years.

Bank Charges

*792. SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of bill discount, cheque commission and demand draft commission collected by banks before nationalisation;

(b) the differences in percentage of the commissions collected by banks after nationalisation;

(c) whether small and medium traders and industrialists whose number is more in commercial circle are unable to cope up with the present bank charges;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to redress the grievances of small and medium traders and industrialists; and

(e) if no steps have been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). Prior to nationalisation of major banks, levy of service charges such as rate of bill discount,

commission on cheques and drafts, etc. varied from bank to bank. During 1985-86, public sector banks adopted a uniform schedule of charges for different items taking into account the cost of inputs and other related factors. The uniform charges fixed are in slab system providing comparatively lower rates for smaller transactions. A representa-

tive chart of rates charged for above services prior to 1985 and subsequently is given in the statement below. Reserve Bank of India has reported that considering the rising costs relating to the services rendered, banks are not in a position to make any downward change in these charges.

STATEMENT

		After Revision in 1985-86	
		1	2
Rate of Bill Discounting		Prior to Revision in 1985	
Rate of Bill Discounting	Demand Bills purchased Cheques & Drafts.		
	— Local	25p % with a min. of Rs. 2.50	a) DD Purchase (Bills) . — 35p% plus collection charges for bills as applicable for respective slab.
	— Outstation	35p% with a min. of Rs. 50	
	— Other clean & docy. DDs	40p % with a min. of Rs. 4.50	b) DD Purchase (Cheques) 35p% plus collection charges for cheques as applicable for the respective slab.
	— Overdue int. where CC a/c is maintained.	25p% over CC rate	
	— Overdue int. where no CC a/c is maintained	19.50%	Note:-
	Bills discounted.	25p% with a min. of Rs. 6.00 intt. as in respect of CC a/c or 17.50% where no CC a/c is	1. While the hundian for collection charges for the amounts of bill/cheque will be subject to max. of Rs. 1000/- the int. component @ 35p% shall be calculated for the actual amount.
			2. If the cheque/bill is returned unpaid, interest @ 17 1/2% should be charged for the period in excess of 7 days

Prior to Revision in 1985	After Revision in 1985-86
1	2

maintained.

from the date of purchase till the date of actual reimbursement

3. Postages telegram charges and other out of pocket expenses have to be recovered in full.
4. In case of bills discounted, apart from the collection charges for bills as applicable for the respective slab prescribed by the bank interest at the stipulated rate shall also be charged from the date of discount to the date of realisation.

Commission on cheques	—	20p with a min. of Rs. 2/- upto Rs. 5000/-	For amt. Upto Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 3 per cheque
—	15p% with a min. of Rs. 10/- for Rs. 5000/- and above	above Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 5000/-;	Rs. 10 /- per cheque
—	At stations where clearing houses exist, charged at a rate not less than Rs. 1/- per cheque to be levied on cheques drawn on non-clearing on banks.	above Rs. 1000/-"	Rs. 1000/- ;	Rs. 20/- per cheque
		above Rs. 1000/-"	Rs. 1 lac.;	Rs. 2.50 per thousand or part thereof subject to min. of Rs. 250/- and max. of Rs. 1000/-.

Note:- Postages, telegram charges and out of pocket expenses have to be recovered in full.

Prior to Revision in 1985		After Revision in 1985-86	
1		2	
Commission on drafts	On stations where RBI is established	—	For amt. upto Rs. 5000/- Rs. 2/- per draft above Rs. 500/- " Rs. 1000/- Rs. 5/- per draft
	—	3p% with a min. of Rs. 1/- below Rs. 20000/-	above Rs. 1000/- " Rs. 5000/- Rs. 10 per draft
	—	2 p% with a min. of Rs. 6/- for amt. of Rs. 2000/- & above	above Rs. 5000/- " Rs. 1000/- Rs. 20/- per draft
	Where SBI & other nationalised banks are established	10p% with a min of Rs. 1/- for amount below Rs. 5000/-	above Rs. 1000/- " Rs. Rs. 2/- per thousand or part thereof subject to max of Rs. 1000/-
	—	8p% with a min. of Rs. 6/- for Rs. 5000/- and upto Rs. 10000/-	
	—	6p% with a min. or Rs. 8/- above Rs. 10000/-	Note:- Out of pocket expenses like telegram and telex charges for TTs and registration charges for sending drafts on customers behalf must be recovered in full.
		Plus actual out of pocket expenses.	

Deraiment of Goods Train at Quilon

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two wagons of a goods train derailed on 22 January 1989 in Quilon district;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the derailment;

(c) the number of persons killed and injured in this incident; and

(d) the steps taken to check such derailments in future?

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

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

Ganga Water Utilisation in Bihar

*794. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any scheme to utilise Ganga Water for irrigation in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme will be

finalised?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Seven schemes for utilising Ganga waters by pumping are already under implementation while three pump canal schemes namely, Barari, Sukhsenaghat and Zamania have been returned to the State Government with comments for submitting modified reports.

Exports by Bofors Nominated Firms

*795. SHRIC. JANGAREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the firms nominated by Bofors for counter trade under the Memorandum of Understanding with the State Trading Corporation;

(b) the items exported or proposed to be exported by each one of them separately; and

(c) the exports made so far by each of them in the case of each item?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) The current list of the nominees under the counter trade Memorandum of Understandings between Bofors and State Trading Corporation is given in statement-I below.

(b) and (c). The list of items exported, together with the FOB value of exports in respect of each of the nominees is given in statement-II below.

STATEMENT-I**Current List of Nominees under the MOU with Bofors**

S. No.	Name
1	2

1. AB Bofors with subsidiaries and subcontractors
2. Nobel industries of Sweden with subsidiaries

1	2
3.	Carnegie with subsidiaries
4.	Saab Scania with subsidiaries
5.	Swedish Government Purchasing Agencies
6.	AB Elof Hansson
7.	Alexander Crichton
8.	Boo Brasta AB
9.	Mantra international
10.	Linum AB
11.	G.L. Beijer Import & Export AB
12.	Smith & Stensson AB
13.	Kayel AB
14.	AB Sukab
15.	Hab Mercator
16.	Barex World Trade AB
17.	Temu Inter Actor AB
18.	Fond Metall
19.	Scanind Trade Development KB
20.	Andre & CIE
21.	Helfm AG
22.	Goldman Trading Subsidiary
23.	Bank of America World Trade
24.	Centro Bank

STATEMENT-II**Exports under MOU with Bofors****Nominee/itemwise details as on 31.03.1989****(Cumulative figures)****(Rs. Crores)**

Helm AG	Chem/Pharms	46.54
AB Sukab	Tobacco	10.77
	Jute Goods	6.05
	Polypropylene Bags	0.60
	Carpets/Rugs	0.08
	Molasses	1.62
	Drugs	0.48
		19.60
Elof Hansson	Yarn/Drill	0.30
	Terry Towels	0.03
	Hand Tools	0.31
	Black Pepper	0.19
		0.83
Hab Mercator	Galvanised Pipes	0.42
	Mango Kernel Oil	3.11
	Guargum	5.67
	Chem/Pharms	0.37
	Psyllium Husk	0.82
	Niger Seeds	0.17

	Soyabean Meal	1.02
	Pressure Stoves	0.01
	Bicycle spares	0.06
	Sewing Thread	0.03
	Green Cardamom	0.05
	Rice	12.13
	Towels	0.03
	Papads	0.04
	Split Chick/Peas Matpe	0.35
	Spices	0.04
	Magnesium/Aluminium Hydroxide	0.02
	Water Filter Candles	0.01
	Monofilament Bags	0.01
		24.36
Barex World Trade Corpn.	Black Pepper	4.43
	Coffee	2.85
	Packet Tea	0.33
	Jute Goods	0.14
	Computer Compn.	5.64
	Hand Tools	0.11
	Steel Tubes	0.68
	Ferro-Maganese	0.30
	Seeds	0.51
	Meat	0.92

53	Written Answers	VAISAKHA 8, 1911 (SAKA)	Written Answers	54
		Molasses	0.98	
		Wire Ropes	4.92	
		Soyabean Meal	0.31	
		Rice	0.20	
		Jowar & Bajra	0.80	
			23.12	
Scanind		Shaving Blades	0.18	
		Soyabean Meal	3.78	
			3.96	
Alexender Crichton		Cashew Kernels	16.91	
		Cotton Sheeting	0.26	
		Guargum	1.29	
		Soyabean Meal	5.52	
		Frozen Shrimps	0.40	
		Steel Wires	0.32	
		Men's Shirts	0.10	
		Crushed Tomatos	0.49	
		Groundnut Kernels	0.09	
		Seeds	0.42	
		Castor Oil	7.40	
			33.20	
Andre & Cie		Tobacco	0.18	
		Jute Goods	2.77	
		PP Bags	0.46	
		Black Pepper	0.69	
		Leather	0.27	

Spices	0.31
Rice	2.06
Cashew Kernels	0.01
Mango Pulp	0.01
Pickles	0.01
Computer Compn.	0.26
Seeds	0.07
	7.10
Grand Total	158.71

[Translation]

**Diversion of 27 Maurya Express via
Katrasgarh and Gomoh**

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

(a) whether Government are aware that Katrasgarh being an industrial area, there are thousands of commuters who travel to Dhanbad, Chandrapura etc. who are facing much difficulty in the absence of express trains;

(b) whether he has received any letters or representations in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to run 27 Maurya Express on four days a week via Katrasgarh and for the remaining three days via Gomoh; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR

PRASAD): (a) and (b). Representations to this effect have been received.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not found operationally feasible.

[English]

Regularisation of Casual Workers

*797. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual workers in Railways, zone-wise;

(b) whether a decision has been taken to regularise all casual workers; and

(c) if so, the time by which such workers would be regularised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR
PRASAD): (a) The approximate numbers of casual labour on Zonal Railways as on 1.10.1988, were as under:—

<i>Railway</i>	<i>Number of Casual Labour</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
Central	36133
Eastern	18608
Northern	43929
North Eastern	14245
Northeast Frontier	6674
Northeast Frontier (Construction)	3249
Southern	17712
South Central	18382
South Eastern	13660
Western	20618
Total	193210

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir; gradually in a phased manner depending upon vacancies subject to eligibility and suitability.

Issues raised by India at IMF Meeting in Washington

*798. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the issues raised and demands made on behalf of India at the policy setting body of the International Monetary Fund at Washington on 3 April, 1989; and

(b) the response of the policy setting body and the other participating nations thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the IMF met at Washington DC on April 3-4, 1989 and deliberated on the world economic outlook, debt situation & strategy, the ninth general review of quotas, overdue financial obligations to the Fund and the question of SDR allocation. The conclusions reached at the meeting of the Interim Committee are set out in the form of a press communique are given in the statement below.

India emphasised inter-alia the need for improvement in the international environ-

ment, more particularly in the areas of reduction in large external imbalances among major countries and improvement in the access of developing country exports to the markets of developed countries. We also emphasised the need for an increase in the quota shares of developing and low income countries, the immediate allocation of SDRs, reduction in the rate of charge and the importance of accelerating growth and investment through adequate transfer of resources to developing countries on appropriate terms.

STATEMENT

Communique of the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund

The Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund held its thirty-second meeting in Washington, DC on April 3-4, 1989 under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Onno Ruding, Minister of Finance of the Netherlands. Mr. Michel Camdessus, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, participated in the meeting, which was also attended by observers from a number of international and regional organizations and from Switzerland.

The Committee noted that over the last year output and investment in the industrial countries have expanded strongly, employment gains have been significant and more widespread than in earlier periods, and the larger external imbalances have narrowed, especially in real terms. The rapid expansion of world trade has helped to ease the debt position of a number of developing countries, particularly the exporters of manufactures.

There have also been developments, however, that require close attention and action. In the industrial world, the pace of external adjustment recently has slowed,

there are signs of intensifying inflationary pressures in some countries, and interest rates have risen sharply in some countries; and, in many heavily indebted developing countries, growth has slackened, debt-servicing burdens have worsened, and inflation has accelerated.

The Committee agreed that it was essential to deal promptly and effectively with emerging price pressures in order to ensure the sustainability of the current expansion, and it noted that action in this direction had been taken in many industrial countries. The evolving process of economic policy coordination provides an appropriate framework for these countries to develop an adequate mix of fiscal and monetary policies, supported by structural policies, in order to maintain non-inflationary growth and reduce external imbalances. In the deficit countries, measures to increase national saving are urgently needed. In particular, early action to reduce the U.S. federal budget deficit is essential as well as steps to improve the external position of the United States without pushing up interest rates. Germany and Japan should pursue macro-economic and structural policies that will sustain non-inflationary growth of domestic demand and facilitate external adjustment. Other surplus countries, including some of the newly industrializing economies of Asia, could both enhance their standard of living and contribute further to the process of international adjustment through stepped up domestic deregulation, external liberalisation and exchange rates which reflect fundamentals.

In view of the vital importance of saving behavior for macro-economic stability, economic growth and external balances, the Committee thought it important that the Executive Board undertake a study of developments in national saving and of the policy measures needed to foster saving formation conducive to sustained economic expansion.

The failure of growth and investment to recover adequately in most countries with debt servicing difficulties suggests that these countries need to intensify their efforts to raise domestic saving, encourage investment, promote efficiency, control inflation, and encourage the repatriation of flight capital. For their part, creditors need to ensure that determined reform efforts are met with appropriate and timely financial support.

Efforts in industrial countries to achieve sustained growth with low inflation, a reduction in world interest rates, and a more open trading system, including agriculture, remain of vital importance not only to themselves but also to the developing countries and would also contribute to improving the debt situation. In this regard, the Committee underscored the continuing need to resist protectionist pressures and emphasized that a successful completion of the discussions currently in progress on the midterm review of the Uruguay Round was critical.

Intensified economic policy coordination has made an important contribution to greater stability of exchange rates and to more consistent policy implementation. The Committee urged the Executive Board to continue to strengthen the analytical framework underlying multilateral surveillance, examining the effects of structural measures, and developing criteria for identifying desirable and sustainable policies in a medium term perspective.

In the context of the Fund's responsibility for overseeing the operation of the international monetary system, the Committee welcomed the recent examination by the Executive Board of key issues in the functioning of the system, and of the questions related to the concept, measurement, and distribution of international liquidity. It also noted the discussion of various approaches to enhancing the role of the SDR as a monetary asset. The Committee encouraged the

Executive Board to continue work on these matters. It agreed that the question of a resumption of SDR allocations during the remainder of the fifth basic period from 1989-91 should be kept under consideration and reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee welcomed the fact that new proposals had been made by several countries—including France and Japan, and most recently by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury—designed to strengthen the debt strategy and to place greater emphasis on debt and debt service reduction. These proposals build on the basic principles of the collaborative debt strategy as it has evolved over the past few years. The Committee thus reaffirmed the validity of the case by case approach and the central importance of sustained implementation of growth-oriented policy reforms and improvement in the investment climate in debtor countries. New financing flows from private and official sources—which will remain crucially important—and reflows of flight capital depend on appropriate debtor countries' policies. However, official and private lenders must make a determined effort to accelerate their financial support.

The Committee emphasized the central part that continued to be played by the Fund in finding solutions to the debt problem, and stressed in particular its role in assisting countries to adopt and sustain sound economic policies.

The Committee requested the Executive Board to consider as a matter of urgency the issues and actions involved in the proposals that had been put forward. The Committee agreed that the Fund should provide resources in appropriate amounts to members to facilitate debt reduction operations for countries undertaking such sound economic reforms, by setting aside a portion of member's purchases under Fund sup-

ported arrangements. The question of provision of resources for limited interest support for transactions involving significant debt or debt service reduction should be examined. Particular attention should be given to the qualification criteria for such operations. In clarifying and elaborating those issues and action due account would have to be taken of the mandate of the Fund under the Articles of Agreement and of the need to preserve the financial integrity of the institution. The Committee also stressed that official creditors should not substitute for private lenders and that Fund financial participation in debt alleviation operations should be accompanied by strong financial support, including new money, from commercial banks. The Committee emphasized the importance of proceeding promptly with implementation in cases where members were embarking on strong adjustment programmes. In this connection, the Committee warmly welcomed the intention of Japan to extend additional finance in parallel to Fund arrangements within the framework of the strengthened debt strategy. The Committee also considered it important that the World Bank play its commensurate role in the strategy and that the two institutions work in close collaboration on these matters.

The prospect of an improvement in the quality of their claims should encourage commercial banks to move expeditiously in negotiating the necessary waivers to existing contract provisions that may act as impediments to debt alleviation operations. The Committee encouraged the creditor governments to review the extent to which members' tax, regulatory and accounting systems might unnecessarily constrain the participation of commercial banks in such operations.

The Committee pointed out that it was also essential for countries that have maintained market access, but continue to face the challenge of sustaining high growth rates

through steadfast adjustment efforts, to be given adequate support. The Fund has an important role to play in such cases, by making available its policy advice, catalyzing foreign financing and offering its own financial assistance.

With regard to low-income countries, the Committee warmly welcomed the rapid implementation of the Berlin agreement on Paris Club reschedulings to provide concessional assistance to the poorest countries, as well as the additional concessional resources made available through international financial institutions. The Committee noted that particular problems remain for those countries that are not benefiting from access to exceptional debt relief, yet cannot afford to finance themselves on market terms. The Committee urged that the policy framework paper (PFP) process be used to improve coordination of policy advice and to mobilize additional external assistance in support of growth oriented adjustment programmes by SAF and ESAF eligible countries.

At the same time, the Committee urged all parties concerned—eligible countries, donors and international institutions—to seize upon the opportunity offered by the ESAF and to move rapidly toward the conclusion of related arrangements. Committee members also stressed that members should ensure that their full contributions be made available to the ESAF Trust, and they emphasized the importance of additional subsidy contributions to the Trust.

The Committee welcomed the progress made since its last meeting in developing and implementing the Fund's cooperative approach to reducing and eliminating overdue financial obligations. It noted, in particular, that the number of countries with overdue obligations had tended to decline although the overall amount of arrears had continued to rise. It was further noted that several members had made progress in

strengthening economic policies that should provide a basis for the mobilization through Support Groups of the external assistance needed to address the problem. The Committee called upon all members with overdue obligations to take strong action to adjust their economies and regularize their relations with the Fund, and urged creditors and donors to provide adequate financing in support of genuine collaborative efforts on the part of these members. To attain this objective, the cooperative approach will need to be implemented forthrightly in all of its three main elements—preventive, collaborative and remedial. In this endeavor, the Fund, whose preferred creditor status was reaffirmed by the Interim Committee meeting in Berlin (West), must permanently enjoy the full support of the entire membership.

The Committee agreed that the size and distribution of any quota increase should take into account changes in the world economy since the last review of quotas as well as members' relative positions in the world economy and the need to maintain a balance between different groups of countries, the Fund's effectiveness in fulfilling its systemic responsibilities, including its role in the strengthened debt strategy, and reduce the Fund's reliance on borrowing. The Committee urged the Executive Board to complete its work on the Ninth Review with a view to a decision on this matter by the Board of Governors before the end of this year.

The Committee agreed to hold its next meeting in Washington, D.C. on September 24, 1989.

Projects to Protect North Bihar from Floods

*799. SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are consider-

ing any proposal to construct dams and hydro-electric projects on Andhwar Samoh, Bagmati and Kamla Balan to protect the North Bihar from regular floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these projects will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

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

RRB Staff Service Rules

7363. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has declared regulation 10(2)(a) of RRB Staff Service Rules as arbitrary and unconstitutional; and

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

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

(b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has instructed all the Regional Rural Banks to keep the judgement of the Supreme Court in view while dealing with the cases involving termination of services of employees.

Changes in CCS

7364. SHRI H.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the applicability of Cash Compensatory Support (CCS) scheme and other benefits to contracts registered under a separate scheme formulated for the purpose for 1988-89 has been affected following several changes made under the scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). The policy of Registration of Export Contracts as outlined in Chapter XVII of Import Export Policy April 88-March 91 (Vol I) has been made applicable to cases of Cash Compensatory Support with a few modifications of the benefit given in para 208 of Chapter XVII of the above said Policy. For example, the benefit of para 208 will not be applicable where CCS rates are applicable upto a specific terminal date.

LIC Agents in Kanpur

7365. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some over-ambitious agents of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in Kanpur have been procuring business in irregular ways;

(b) whether as a result thereof rate of surrendering of insurance policies has been increasing by leaps and bounds in City Branch Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of the LIC, Kanpur;

(c) whether the agents are getting new insurance policies issued to those policyholders immediately after their surrendering earlier policies;

(d) if so, the facts thereof and expenses being incurred by the LIC on such policies;

and

(e) the steps contemplated to be taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) No, Sir. The surrenders in the three branches namely City Branch Nos. 1, 2 & 3 of Kanpur Division have not increased during the current year but have, in fact, come down.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India does not encourage any policyholder either to take a new policy in lieu of his existing lapsed policy or to surrender any existing policy. If a policy is lapsed by non-payment of premiums within the last 3 years and in case of surrender within 6 months, the Corporation does not issue a new policy unless such lapsed/surrendered policy is revived/reinstated. In fact, when it came to the notice of the Corporation that one agent attached to the City Branch No. 1 in Kanpur was persuading policyholders to discontinue old policies and take new policies under different plans, immediate action was initiated and the concerned agent was suspended and was directed not to solicit any new business.

Legal Expenses Incurred by MTP

7366. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of legal expenses incurred by the Metro Rail (MTP), Calcutta, for contesting different cases in different courts of law or legal bodies during the last three years;

(b) the issues involved in these cases;

(c) whether some of these cases pertain to the awards made by different Arbitrators appointed by the concerned parties; and

(d) the action being taken to resolve the issues of Arbitration awards out of the courts to avoid further liabilities of the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Rs. 3,67,000/

(b) Acquisition of land, claims for compensation for damages caused to buildings due to Metro construction, cases filed by staff in Central Administrative Tribunal regarding service matters, disputes regarding contracts, Arbitration awards, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Out of courts settlement is considered on the merits of each case.

Tax Arrears against Gannon Dunkerley and Company Ltd. Calcutta

7367. SHRIM.V.CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge tax arrears have been determined by the Income tax authorities against the Gannon Dunkerley and Company Limited, Calcutta and also against its associate associated companies viz., Gannon Pressure Vessels Limited and Test Steels Limited etc.;

(b) whether the Income tax department had also conducted raids and seized huge amounts of undisclosed wealth;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) what action is proposed to be taken

against the Directors of the aforesaid companies for realisation of Government dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) In the case of Gannon Dunkerley & Co. Ltd., Calcutta, income tax arrears were Rs. 7.66 crores as on 31.1.89. In the cases of Gannon Pressure Vessels Limited and Test Steels Limited there are no income tax arrears.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The demand in the case of Gannon Dunkerley & Co. is disputed in appeal and recovery thereof has been stayed till the disposal of appeal. The CIT (A) has been requested to dispose of the appeal on priority.

Electrification of Tracks in A.P.

7368. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway track sections brought under electrified locomotion during the last three years; and

(b) the tracks proposed to be electrified in railway zones covering Andhra Pradesh during Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

(a) *Sections energised during the last three years*

1. Gwalior-Itarsi

2. Madhira-Nagpur

3. Bhusawal-Nandura
4. Krishna Canal-Guntur-Tenali
5. Berawaniya-Bayana-Rupbas
6. Champa-Gevra Road
7. Koraput-Damanjodi
8. Tundla-Yamuna Bridge
9. Chandrapura Complex comprising of the following sections:
 - 9.1 Gomoh-Chandrapura-Bokaro Steel City
 - 9.2 Mahuda-Chandrapura-Phusro
 - 9.3 Bhandaridah-Rajabera
 - 9.4 Gomoh-Mahuda-Bhojidi
 - 9.5 Pukadih-Talgaria
- (b) *Sections proposed to be Electrified in Andhra Pradesh in Eighth Plan*
 1. Kazipet-Sanatnagar
 2. Ratchur-Bisanattam aspart of electrification of Jolarpettai-Bangalore section.

Floating of Debentures by Multinational Firms

7369. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the multinational firms that were allowed to float debentures during 1989; and

(b) the amount of non-resident Indians investment permitted in these debentures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). M/s. George Williamson (Assam) Ltd., a FERA company having 70% non-resident equity, has been allowed to float debentures during 1988 for an amount of Rs. 100 lakhs on private placement basis with a domestic organisation.

Over bridge at Ulundurpet (Tamil Nadu)

7370. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of road over-bridge near Ulundurpet on National Highway No. 45 in Tamil Nadu; and

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

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

(b) Proposal for construction of a road-over-bridge in replacement of level crossing at Km. 198/14-15 at Ulundurpet is being developed by the State Government, in consultation with the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Railway. On receipt of firm proposal from the State Government in this regard, it will be considered for inclusion in Railways' Works Programme.

Application of FERA to EPZ Units

7371. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) regarding foreign share holdings is not applicable to Export

Processing Zone (EPZ) Units, especially when 25 per cent of their production can be sold in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) is not applicable to Export Promotion Zone Units in regard to foreign share holding. The permission to sell 25% of the production in the DTA is a facility that is accorded on a case by case basis subject to the exclusion of certain sensitive items and to the payment of appropriate duties. The objective in granting this facility is to improve the viability of the zone units, afford them a measure of protection against the uncertainties of the export market and serve as an incentive to attract investments in the Zones.

Holding of Seminars by Indian Investment Centre

7372. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Investment Centre has planned a series of seminars in India and abroad as part of programme and collaboration in India;

(b) if so, the objective behind it;

(c) the estimated cost for conducting the seminars; and

(d) the number of countries likely to participate in the seminars?

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

(b) to (d). The seminars are being organised to familiarise foreign companies and non-Resident Indians with the latest policies of the Govt. and the facilities and opportunities available for investment in India. The seminars are proposed to be held in various countries like USA, UK, South Korea, Federal Republic of Germany, Australia and New Zealand for the target audience in those countries. The total estimated cost for these seminars is Rs. 3.0 lakhs.

Acceptance of Deposits by Co-operative Land Development Banks

7373. SHRI PALAS BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the co-operative land development banks are permitted to accept deposits from the public as is done by the commercial banks, the Central Co-operative banks, the regional rural banks, etc.; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India has reported that Land Development Banks are allowed to accept deposits for periods not less than one year and not exceeding two years.

Veli Vikram Sarabhai Railway Station

7374. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Veli Vikram Sarabhai Railway Station in Trivandrum district; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present to develop Veli railway station. The facilities available at this halt station are considered adequate for the level of traffic dealt with.

Advancing of Loans by Kisan Grameen Bank, Budaun (Uttar Pradesh)

7375. SHRIPURNACHANDRAMALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kisan Grameen Bank, Budaun (Uttar Pradesh) is facing shortage of funds;

(b) whether the managers of the Bank were directed on 30 January, 1989 to keep all loaning powers in abeyance; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard so that poor rural people do not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the Chairman of Kisan Gramin Bank (U.P.) had instructed all Branch Managers in January 1989 to stop further loaning in view of poor fund position of the bank to avoid continuous default in CRR/SLR. Subsequently, the Chairman advised the branches that in cases where part payment of loans have been made, the balance amount of loans be released by the bank. As regards AAP/IRDP targets, lead bank in consultation with the sponsor bank allocated the balance to sponsor bank branches and branches of State Bank of India to ensure that Government programmes do not suffer for want of credit.

Punjab National Bank, the sponsor bank has advised the Gramin Bank to step up its

efforts for improvement in recovery as also deposit mobilisation for improving its own funds position.

Proposal for setting up of Educational Institutions by Tea Board

7376. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board proposes to establish its own schools and colleges in the tea garden areas of North Bengal; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 provides for the creation of Educational facilities in respect of tea plantation labourers which are to be implemented by tea garden owners and respective State Governments

Representation regarding Remunerative Prices for Tobacco Growers

7377. SHRI B.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received representations on March 28, 1989 regarding remunerative prices for the tobacco growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). Some representations were received on 28th March, 1989 regarding remunerative prices to the Tobacco Growers.

A meeting was held with representa-

tives of growers, exporters, and manufacturers on 30.3.89 at New Delhi. In the meeting the traders and manufacturers agreed to pay Rs. 20.50 per Kg. for F1 grade and Rs. 19.50 per Kg. for F2 grade of VFC tobacco. From 4th April, 1989 onwards the traders started implementing the agreement in respect of only the best graded tobacco. Slightly inferior quality tobacco fetched prices between Rs. 18 to 20 per Kg. for F1 grade and Rs. 17 to 19 per Kg. for F2 grade of VFC tobacco.

The situation was reviewed by the Chairman, Tobacco Board on 7th & 8th April, 1989 with the representatives of exporters and manufacturers and the need to honour the commitment was impressed upon them. The exporters have not been active in the market particularly from 9th April, 1989 onwards and this had led to lesser competition in black soil auction platforms. Consequently the prices have further dropped, and now are around Rs. 15 to Rs. 17 per Kg. for F1 and F2 grades. The prices for other grades have also declined. However, the brighter varieties of F1 & F2 grades tobacco bales are still fetching Rs. 20.50 per Kg. and Rs. 19.50 per Kg. respectively but the trade is very selective in paying these prices.

As on 23.4.89, a crop of about 77.32 M. Kgs. has been marketed leaving a balance of around 11 M. Kgs. As on 18.4.89 the farmers have realised an average price of Rs. 18.52 per Kg. as against Rs. 16.33 per Kg. realised last year which is Rs. 2.19 per Kg. more than last year.

The farmers are however still dissatisfied with the prices realised. Continuous efforts are being made to arrest the declining trend in the prices. The State Trading Corpo-

ration of India (STC) has been requested to step into the market immediately and buy grades of tobacco as a part of their commercial operations.

World Bank Loan to Town Development Authorities

7378. SHRIV. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantum of World Bank loan to different town development authorities for developmental projects and purposes has increased during the last five years;

(b) whether the Kanpur and Lucknow Development Authorities have received World Bank loan at a much increased rates;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has received reports about misuse and diversion of such loan/assistance by the Kanpur Development Authority and audit wing has also pointed out the lapses;

(e) if so, whether any high-powered enquiry has been ordered; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Commitments of World Bank group assistance for projects in the urban development sector have increased in the last few years. The details of such assistance are as follows:

Year	Name of the Project	Date of Agreement	(\$ Million)
			Amount of Assistance
1984-85	Bombay Urban Development	1.3.1985	138.0
1986-87	Gujarat Urban Development	15.4.1986	62.0
1987-88	U.P. Urban Development	21.12.1987	150.0
1988-89	T.N. Urban Development	16.9.1988	300.2

(b) and (c). Developmental projects are being taken up in Lucknow and Kanpur Cities under the U.P. Urban Development Project, which provides for assistance for sites and services development, slum improvement, traffic management, strengthening of municipal services, solid waste management, storm water drainage, sewerage and water supply.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Does not arise.

Ticketless Travelling

7379. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ticketless passengers caught during the years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89, zone-wise;

(b) the total amount of fines realized from them during the above period; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Railways to educate the public particularly the rural people against this evil?

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

(c) The hazards and consequences of ticketless travelling are highlighted by display of posters/notices at Railway stations, through information published in railway time-tables and advertisements in Newspapers, by display of short films in cinema halls and on television and by making frequent announcements on public address system at important stations.

STATEMENT

The number of ticketless passengers detected and the amount of excess charge and fines realised from them during the years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 (upto February, 89) were as under:—

1986-87

<i>Railways</i>	<i>No. of ticketless passengers detected (in lakhs)</i>	<i>Amount of Excess charge (in lakhs)</i>	<i>Amount of judicial fine realised (in lakhs)</i>
		<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1	2	3	4
Central	8.06	90.75	7.51
Eastern	11.47	110.79	7.78
Northern	8.22	107.40	9.29
North Eastern	3.50	35.01	7.72

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Northeast Frontier	1.64	16.63	0.32
Southern	3.79	46.72	1.11
South Central	4.24	52.29	2.71
South Eastern	9.23	67.62	2.26
Western	9.44	100.41	3.95
Total	59.59	627.62	42.65

1987-88

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Central	9.61	108.76	8.55
Eastern	12.19	119.65	7.40
Northern	9.35	117.68	9.69
North Eastern	4.72	46.96	10.56
Northeast Frontier	1.79	18.48	0.09
Southern	4.08	51.40	1.34
South Central	4.49	54.75	4.12
South Eastern	10.57	81.50	3.31
Western	10.25	111.05	4.33
Total	67.05	710.23	49.39

1988-89 (Upto February 1989)

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Central	10.60	127.62	7.47
Eastern	11.27	112.38	8.39
Northern	9.46	115.13	11.93

1	2	3	4
North Eastern	4.79	48.16	9.17
Northeast Frontier	1.68	17.60	1.03
Southern	3.45	46.18	0.48
South Central	4.31	55.55	4.53
South Eastern	10.11	79.84	1.39
Western	9.97	112.55	5.33
Total	65.64	715.01	49.72

**Opening of extension counters by
Banks in Himachal Pradesh**

7380. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines and procedure for the allotment of licences for the opening of extension counters of the existing branches of the nationalised banks;

(b) whether any extension counters of the banks have been opened during the past three years in Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the banks and the districts concerned and the number of licences issued for the extension counters for places where the licences have been given, but

extension counters are yet to be opened alongwith the names of the banks concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no guidelines as such have been issued to banks for opening of extension counters. However, the extension counters are intended for such centres which do not have banking facilities within easy reach. While applying for an extension counter, banks have to ensure about their viability and submit relevant information for consideration of proposal by RBI on merits.

(b) and (c). Bankwise names of extension counters allowed by RBI to banks in Himachal Pradesh during the year 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989 are indicated below:—

Name of Bank	Name of extension counter
1	2
State Bank of India	AMB Camp, Jawalamukhi, District Kangra.
—do—	Regional Engineering College, District Hamirpur.
State Bank of Patiala	Mini Secretariat, District Una.

1	2
—do—	H.P. Agro Industries Corporation Ltd. Khalini, District Shimla.
—do—	Government Polytechnic College, Sundarnagar, District Mandi.
Punjab National Bank	Jutogarh Cantonment, District Shimla.
—do—	Tibetan Children's village, District Dharamsala.
UCO Bank	Baba Balak Nath Temple, District Hamirpur.
—do—	Central Tibetan Secretariate, Dharamsala, District Kangra.
—do—	Market Committee Yard, Nihal, District Bilaspur.
Union Bank of India	S.D. Vishnu College, village Bhatoli, District Una.

Out of the centres indicated above extension counters have been opened at all places except at Regional Engineering College, Hamirpur.

Frauds in Branches of Nationalised Banks in West Bengal

7381. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been recently a racket in some of the nationalised banks in West Bengal resulting in lakhs of rupees being defrauded particularly in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the modus operandi of the racket and total amount involved; and

(c) the effective measures taken to prevent this not only in the banks in Calcutta but elsewhere also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not received any report of rackets in public sector banks operating in West Bengal. RBI has, however, received a report from Vijaya Bank about a fraud involving an amount of Rs. 1.20 crores approximately, out of which Rs. 19.36 lakhs pertain to the Bank's Calcutta (Burra Bazar) Branch and the balance amount relates to its Bhuleshwar Branch, Bombay. Further details of this case cannot be divulged at this stage as such disclosure may prejudice CBI's investigation with whom Vijaya Bank has lodged a complaint.

(c) By and large frauds have occurred in banks not on account of any 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 or recurrence of frauds. Banks are also taking steps to strengthen the control mechanisms, including the internal au-

dit/inspection machinery, and to make them effective, so as to eliminate the scope for frauds and malpractices. They have been taking steps to ensure quicker disposal of departmental enquiries. Banks have reviewed and revamped their vigilance machinery, taken steps to tone up control and supervision, strengthen management information system, follow-up and inspection/audit arrangements and for clearing the arrears in balancing of books and reconciliation of inter-branch and other accounts on a continuous basis so as to prevent frauds in these areas.

Central Assistance for Water Resources Development to Kerala

7382. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation made to the State of Kerala under Water Resources Development Scheme during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) whether any report on utilisation of funds by the State during 1988-89 has been received by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). The allocation approved by the Planning Commission for the State during 1988-89 for Water Resources Development is Rs. 6989 lakhs. The allocation for 1989-90 has not yet been finalised. The anticipated expenditure reported by the State Government during 1988-89 is Rs. 7316 lakhs.

Joint Commission with Thailand

7383. SHRI PARASRAMBHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Thailand and India have recently signed agreements for cooperation in exploration of natural gas and oil and setting up of a joint commission that will have political, trade economic and cultural dimensions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 29.3.89 between P.T.T. Exploration and Production Company Ltd. of Thailand and Oil and Natural Gas Commission of India to identify areas of cooperation and package services like consultancy/training which will be beneficial and acceptable to both the parties.

An agreement was also signed between the two Governments on 29.3.1989 with the intention to set up a Joint Commission to consider ways and means to promote the bilateral cooperation and to ensure the proper coordination and implementation of its decisions.

Study on Environmental Impacts of Dams in Orissa

7384. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study was conducted on environmental impact of dams in Orissa;

(b) whether several dams are likely to trigger off tremors and have led to climatic aberrations in their respective regions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures taken by Government to meet the adverse fall outs from the dams; and

(e) whether any such study has been made in respect of the dams in other States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (e). Studies conducted by the India Meteorological Department in Orissa conclude that there is no possibility of triggering of tremors on account of construction of dams which can cause any significant damages to the dams and appurtenant works. Besides, as per I.M.D. the data on droughts and floods in the region near Hirakud Dam does not reveal any evidence to suggest that the climatic aberrations have occurred due to creation of reservoir. The safety of dams is taken care of at the design stage as well as during construction by adopting appropriate design parameters. Moreover, inspections are carried out by the dam safety organisations in various States to take care of any distress caused to the dams on account of reservoir filling or otherwise.

Assistance for Water Supply Schemes by L.I.C.

7385. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is funding some water supply schemes in some States;

(b) if so, the details of these schemes

and the States where these schemes are being implemented; and

(c) the total amount financed by LIC to implement these schemes during 1986, 1987 and 1988?

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

(b) and (c). There is a large number of water supply schemes in each State against which loans have been advanced by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). As many as 1525 Urban Local Bodies in 20 States and in the Union Territory (Chandigarh) have benefitted under the Corporation's scheme of loans to Municipalities and other Urban Local Bodies for their water supply schemes. In addition, the Corporation has extended assistance to 122 Zilla Parishads in 6 States for their Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes as at 31st March, 1988. The total amount of loan advanced to the Urban Local Bodies is Rs. 65,975 lakhs and to Zilla Parishads Rs. 15,135 lakhs as at 31st March, 1988. LIC has also released loans at commercial rate of interest for certain water supply schemes in Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

Within the overall allocation of the Planning Commission, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has made total disbursement of loans to the various States for their water supply/sewerage schemes during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 as under:—

<i>(Rupees in Lakhs)</i>		
1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
4047.00	7898.00	8230.05

Special Foreign Loan to tide over Foreign Exchange crisis

7386. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI:
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is facing presently acute foreign exchange crisis;

(b) if so, whether India had approached any foreign country for special loan so as to tide over the crisis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir. However keeping in view the strain on country's balance of payment situation primarily because of widening trade gap, fall in net aid receipts and increased IMF repayments, the government is taking steps to strengthen the balance of payment position. This aims at measures to step up exports, contain imports, augment foreign exchange earnings through investments and remittances including tourism receipts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Bank Credit to Andhra Pradesh for Industrial Development

7387. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total bank credit made available to Andhra Pradesh for industrial development during the last three years:

(b) the corresponding figure for Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar; and

(c) the steps taken to augment it for Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The outstanding advances of scheduled commercial banks to Industry in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar as at the end of December 1984, December 1985 and December 1986 (latest available) are given below:-

(Amount in Rs. crores)

(Outstanding advances to Industry)

States	December 1984	December 1985*	December 1986*
Andhra Pradesh	1006.52	1195.30	1702.88
Uttar Pradesh	1159.06	1465.09	1857.99
Maharashtra	4661.00	6094.84	8177.28
Gujarat	1376.12	2191.59	
Madhya Pradesh	563.15	681.75	867.16
Bihar	439.52	562.31	604.11

* Date provisional

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised the banks to ensure that wide disparities among various States in credit deployment are avoided and to take effective step to increase the flow of credit to deficient areas.

Cashew Prices

7388. SHRI K. MOHANDAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of raw cashew per kg. given to the farmers by the Government of Kerala under its monopoly procurement scheme;

and

(b) the market rate of cashew in Kerala and Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). As per information received from the Govt. of Kerala, dated 18.4.89 taking into consideration the prevalent international market prices of cashew kernels and as advised by the State Advisory Committee on monopoly procurement of raw cashew nuts the present prices are as follows:-

Localities	Prices Rs. Per Kg
Kasargode, Cannanore	13.00
Wayanad, Calicut, Malappuram, Palghat, Trichur	12.50
Ernakulam, Kottayam, Idukki	12.00
Alleppey, Pathanamthitta, Quilon, Trivandrum	11.50

Kerala Govt. has also reported that the Committee consisting of representatives of farmers, and processors meets periodically and reviews the price.

According to report from the Cashew Export Promotion Council, Cochin based on information gathered from Mangalore area, the prices in Karnataka on 19.5.89 were:

1. Mangalore Taluk Ordinary quality : Rs. 12.50 — Rs. 13.50 per Kg.
2. Puttur Taluk : Rs. 13.50 per Kg.
3. Sullya Taluk : Rs. 13.80 - Rs. 14.00 per Kg.
4. Other Centres between : Rs. 13.50 - Rs. 14.00 per Kg.

Very high quality and high kernel yield nuts are bought at Rs. 15.00 to Rs. 15.50 per Kg.

[Translation]

Express Train Between Rajgrh and Delhi

7389. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD

SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce an Express train from Rajgrh to Delhi to promote tourism and to facilitate visits to places of pilgrimage of international importance such as Rajgrh, Nalanda and Pawapuri:

(b) if so the details thereof ;and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) Operational and resources constraints.

[English]

Suggestions made on Control of Floods by Brahmaputra Board

7390. SHRI RAJ KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board has suggested any measure to control the fury of Brahmaputra River floods in Dibrugarh area of Assam and if so, the salient features thereof; and

(b) the Government's reaction thereon and the time by which the measures are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). The Brahmaputra Board has in their master plan for the main Brahmaputra term suggested construction of embankments, drainage project and bank protection works as immediate short-term measures and construction of storage reservoirs in the upper catchments as a long-term measure. The report has been sent to the appraising agencies.

Promotion Policy of MMTC

7391. DR P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether maintenance of forty point roster in promotion was discontinued in the Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) with effect from 1 January, 1987;

(b) whether the directives of Bureau of Public Enterprises to MMTC to continue maintenance of forty point roster within the framework of the promotion policy is being implemented by the MMTC; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b)and (c). MMTC is following the Bureau of Public Enterprises instructions of 1988 that so long as the following two conditions are met, the question of maintenance of reservation roster would not arise:

- i) That promotion under time bound promotion schemes should be completely delinked from vacancies; and
- ii) There should be no element of merit judgement or inter-personal comparison of merit in such promotions.

USA Finance to Third-World Newspapers

7392. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that USA extend finance to Third World newspapers and news agencies

(b) if so, which of the Indian newspapers and news agencies are receiving such finance; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) It has been ascertained from the US Government that they do not give financial or any other type of direct assistance to news papers of news agencies in developing countries.

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

Staff in SBI Branches in Hill Areas

7393. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the branches of the State Bank of India in plains are having surplus staff;

(b) whether staff in branches of the Bank located in hill areas is short of their requirements;

(c) If so, the reasons for this anomaly and the corrective steps taken or proposed;

(d) whether Government propose to provide one additional officer capable of undertaking local language to help the branch manager to undertake development activities in the hill areas effectively; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). State Bank of India has reported that the bank's branches both in plains and hill areas are adequately staffed to meet their present requirements.

(d) and (e). The issue regarding structuring/manning of different branches falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the respective banks, and no proposal to post an additional officer in hill areas is under Gov-

ernment's consideration.

Income Tax Raids on Diamond Exporters in Bombay

7394. SHRI ANOOP CHAND SHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether raids were conducted by Income-tax department in Bombay on diamond exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the representatives of diamond exporters met Director General (Admn). at Bombay on 13.3.89

(d) if so, the assurance given to diamond exporters by Income-tax department during their discussion;

(e) whether the diamond industry in Bombay went on strike because of these raids; and

(f) if so, the Government's stand in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Income-tax Department has not conducted any searches recently, at the premises of diamond exporters at Bombay. However, searches were conducted at the premises of five Angadias on the 22nd of February 1989 at Bombay. During these searches, diamonds worth Rs. 11 crores were found and out of these diamonds worth Rs. 2.01 crores, were seized. Cash of Rs. 10.45 lakhs was also seized.

(c) and (d) The representatives of the diamond exporters met the Director General of Income-tax (Inv) (South) Bombay. They were informed that the Income-tax Department has no intention to cause any harass-

ment to the diamond trade.

(e) and (f) The diamond industry went on strike for a short period as a sequel to the detention of diamonds from some Angadias by the CBI on 6-3-1989. They also protested against the earlier search by the Income-tax Department. The Government is of the view that there is no justification for the agitational approach adopted by the diamond industry. The diamond trade has not been earmarked for special attention in respect of surveys and searches. No searches were conducted in respect of the diamond trade since July 1988, except for the specific and selected action on the five Angadias on 22-2-1989 as mentioned above. The diamond trade cannot have any objection to the normal investigation work of the Income-tax Department.

Seizure of Heroin

7395. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated 13 March, 1989 wherein it has been stated that Heroin (15 kg.) worth Rs. 15 crore has been seized by the Policy and Customs officials near Bagheke village in the border district of Ferozepur on 12 March, 1989:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any arrest has been made;

(d) whether any inquiry has since been conducted;

(e) the number of cases which have come into light during the last four years, year-wise; and

(f) the action taken by Government to stop this evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA): (a) to (f). Yes, Sir. No precise value of the drug seized can be estimated as this is dependent upon various factors like purity, place of origin, local demand and supply, etc.

Action on specific prior information, the Customs and Policy officials seized 15 packets of brown powder (believed to be heroin) weighing 14.880 kg. along with two country-made pistols and 5 cartridges from 2 persons riding on a moped, namely Satnam Singh and Amar Singh, both of Ghurka Bhaini village in Ferozepur district of Punjab, on the night of 11/12th March, 1989, near Baggeke Mod in Faziika-Jalalabad road. Both the above name persons had been arrested for appropriate action under the law after completion of necessary inquiry.

The number of cases booked during the last four years (year-wise and drug-wise) are as under:-

Name of drug	Number of cases booked during			
	1985	1986	1987	1988
1. Opium	489	1,692	433	431
2. Morphine	78	45	38	18

Name of drug	Number of cases booked during			
	1985	1986	1987	1988
3. Heroin	131	405	351	420
4. Hashish	192	374	301	366
5. Ganja	254	684	635	497
6. Cocaine	1	9	6	1
7. Methaqualone	42	19	59	36
8. Amphetamine	..	..	6	1

A number of strong counter-measures have been launched by the Government of India which, *inter-alia*, include provision of deterrent punishment against drug traffickers, strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery (especially in and around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for both the officers and informers, strengthening of bilateral co-operation between neighboring countries (including regional co-operation under the aegis of SAARC). The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto a maximum period of 2 years for drug related crimes. 279 persons have so far been detained under the said Act.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 has also been amended to strengthen it further. The amendments, *inter-alia* include provisions for forfeiture of illegally acquired property derived from or used in illicit drug trafficking; criminalising the activity of financing drug trafficking and for death penalty on second conviction for specified offences.

The matter is also kept under constant

watch for appropriate follow-up action.

Acceptance of Illegal Gratification by Officials of Punjab National Bank

7396. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officials of the Punjab National Bank who were found guilty of accepting illegal gratification are still continuing in service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these officials were awarded penalty commensurate with the gravity of their misconduct; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Punjab National Bank has reported that in all cases wherein charges have been proved either in departmental proceedings or in Court cases, the Bank invariably imposes punishment

commensurate with the gravity of the misconduct/charge. The Bank has stated, however, that in one case an officer, on whom the penalty of dismissal from the Bank's service was imposed for having allegedly accepted illegal gratification from a borrower, had to be reinstated under the direction of the Patna High Court whilst in another case the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission for imposing the penalty of dismissal on the charge of alleged acceptance of bribe while sanctioning an advance could not ultimately be implemented because of legal recourse taken by the concerned officer.

Import Duty on Glazed Newsprint

7397. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN:
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newspapers and magazine publishers have represented to Government against imposition of thirty per cent import duty on glazed newsprint; and

(b) if so, the measures Government propose to take to mitigate their hardship because of the steep rise of import duty on glazed newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA): (a) and (b). Representations have received against the increase in import duty on glazed newsprint to thirty per cent valorem. These have been carefully considered but Government does not find adequate justification to reduce the import duty on glazed newsprint.

Appointment of Messengers in State Bank of India

7398. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 13 May, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 10904 regarding appointment of messengers in State Bank of India and state:

(a) the total number of candidates demanded by the Bank from employment exchange for recruitment to the post of peon/messengers;

(b) the total number of candidates called for the interview;

(c) the number of candidates empanelled for the post:

(d) the total number of candidates actually appointed since the date of interview and number of those among them appointed from the panel;

(e) whether all the empanelled candidates have been appointed;

(f) if not, whether persons from outside the panel have been appointed in the Bank;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken by Govt. in this regard; and

(h) the time by which all the candidates empanelled for recruitment to the post are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIOR): (a) to (c). Information as received from State Bank of India is as follows:-

Number of candidates demanded by the bank from the Employment Exchange for recruitment.	: 230
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Number of candidates called for interview.	: 241
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(Including 19 temporary employees and menial category Departmental employees)

Number of candidates empanelled .

: 94

(including 19 temporary employees and menial category departmental employees)

(d) to (h) The bank has advised that so far 14 candidates - all from the panel-have since been appointed. Due to non-availability of vacancies the panel could not be utilised fully and no time frame can be indicated by the bank for full utilisation of the panel.

Central Bills pending for President's Assent

7399. SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bills passed by the Parliament pending President's assent as on 31 March, 1989 and the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when these Bills would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Enrollment of voters

7400. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether enrollment of voters of 18 years or above has been completed; and

(b) if not, the present stage of enumera-

tion work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. House to house enumeration to enroll electors of 18 years and above as on 1st April, 1989 has since been completed in respect of all States and Union territories except Assam where the tentative date for completion of enumeration is 30.4.1989.

(b) Does not arise.

Amendment of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985

7401. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

SHRI RAMKRISHNA MORE:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has urged Government to make suitable amendments in the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 to empower the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction to take adequate measures for tackling industrial sickness in the country.

(b) if so, whether Government have since examined the recommendations of the FICCI, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). FICCI's suggestions, inter alia, regarding modifications in the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 are under consideration of the Government.

BIFR Recommendations for Winding up of Industrial Units

7402. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units recommended for winding up by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) upto 31 December, 1988; and

(b) the total liabilities in these units and the number of workers involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that as on 31.12.1988 it had opined in favour of winding up in 16 cases.

(b) BIFR has reported that information on total liabilities and number of workers involved is not being compiled by them.

National Housing Bank

7403. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the initial investment done by the National Housing Bank;

(b) whether it is proposed to open branches of the Bank in all the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The primary function of National Housing Bank is to provide refinance facilities to eligible scheduled commercial banks/housing finance institutions for extending housing finance to individual borrowers and not to make investments.

(b) and (c) The National Housing Bank has been established with its Head Office at New Delhi and has opened one branch office at Bombay. National Housing Bank has reported that no decision has so far been taken to open offices of the Bank in all the States.

[Translation]

Poppy cultivation

7404. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the area under poppy cultivation in view of smuggling of opium;

(b) if so, whether smuggling of opium and smack, a product of opium, is going on in full swing despite the above step;

(c) if so, the efforts being made by Government to control increasing addiction to the poison of smack due to its smuggling; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (d).

The production of opium in India being mainly export oriented, the area under poppy cultivation has been progressively reduced having regard to the fall in international demand for opium for medical purposes and the stocks of opium lying in the Government factories, etc. Therefore, while there has been reduction in the area under poppy cultivation, the same is not because of smuggling of opium.

India continues to face a serious problem of transit traffic in drugs, particularly heroin and hashish. This is also evidenced by the significant quantities of these drugs seized in illicit traffic originating mainly from the Near and Middle East and destined to the Western Countries.

Government have taken a number of steps against drug traffic and drug abuse. These steps include strengthening the laws by providing deterrent punishment for drug trafficking (including provision for capital punishment in certain cases) making the offences cognizable and non-bailable and forfeiture of property derived or obtained from illicit traffic in drugs and for preventive detention of persons involved in illicit traffic. Liberalised reward scheme for officers/informers has also been introduced. The preventive machinery has been strengthened.

The Ministry of Welfare have been providing financial assistance to voluntary organisations for setting up of counselling and deaddiction centres. In 1988, 91 such centres were set up. Educational campaigns to create public awareness about harmful effects of drug abuse are also carried out by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Ministry of Education and other Government as well as voluntary bodies.

The matter is also kept under constant watch for appropriate follow-up action.

[English]

Embezzlements in State Bank of Indore

7405. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH:
SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers/employees found guilty for embezzlements in the State Bank of Indore against whom action has been taken during the last three years;

(b) the number of such cases in which suspension orders were issued but the orders have not been complied with so far and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of officers/employees of the Bank whose cases of embezzlements are still ending for the last three years but charge-sheets has not been issued to them and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). State Bank of Indore has reported that during the last three years i.e. 1986, 1987 and 1988 no case of embezzlement in the Bank has come to light and, therefore, the question of initiating and disciplinary action against any official during this period did not arise.

Monitoring of Legal Expenses of Nationalised Banks

7406. SHRI D.P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the legal expenses incurred by the nationalised banks for recovery of loans advanced by them;

(b) whether any monitoring is done of the legal expenses of these banks;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have issued a direction to the nationalised banks to strive for negotiated settlement or compromise with parties than to enter into litigation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). Data relating to legal expenses incurred by nationalised banks exclusively for recovery of loans is not readily available. However, the consolidated expenditure of law charge incurred by 20 nationalised banks increased by Rs. 2.10 crores in 1987 as compared to 1986.

The increase in the legal expenses of public sector banks is mainly attributable to increased volume of operations, increase in the number of suits for recovery of their dues and upward revision of lawyers' fees and other legal charges. To avoid litigation vis-a-vis legal expenses, the banks try persuasion and all other possible methods for recovery of their dues. Recourse to litigation is taken by banks as a last resort to protect their interest. The Reserve Bank of India have advised banks from time to time to exercise close supervision and control over advances and monitor the sticky advances so as to reduce the incidence of litigation.

[Translation]

Writ petitions and other cases pending in High Courts

7407. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of writ petitions and other cases pending in High Courts is constantly increasing and the number of pending writ petitions is more than civil and criminal cases at present;

(b) whether decisions of all the cases in High Courts are inordinately delayed due to the excessive number of writ petitions;

(c) whether writs are admitted even in those cases where alternative remedy is available; and

(d) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The number of Writ Petitions and other cases pending in High Courts is increasing. It cannot be said that the number of pending Writ Petitions is more than Civil and Criminal cases in all the High Courts.

(b) The delay is on account of various factors.

(c) Writs are not generally admitted in cases where an alternative remedy is available.

(d) A Committee of 3 Chief Justices has recently been constituted by the Government to study the problem of arrears in Courts and the suggest remedial measures.

[English]

Bank Loans to Women

7408. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether husband's liability is a bar for the wife to have financial accommodation

from the nationalised banks to earn her livelihood pursuing her own independent effort;

(b) whether some cases have come to the knowledge of Government in which the nationalised banks refused loans to the wives of the defaulters; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that there is no bar for the wife to have financial accommodation from the nationalised banks, if the husband has a loan liability in the bank. Women borrowers like any other borrowers can approach banks for financial assistance for any viable productive endeavour. However, under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), if a member of family is already a wilful defaulter in respect of an earlier loan, the family is not eligible for further assistance. Thus, in case husband is a wilful defaulter, his wife or any other member of his family will not be eligible for assistance under IRDP.

Members Contribution to IMF

7409. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the executive board of the International Monetary Fund has asked member nations for substantially higher contributions than their normal subscription because of the additional responsibility that would be placed on it and the World Bank under the Brady Plan for debt reduction of developing countries; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government

with regard thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Demand of Income Tax Employees

7410. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of employees of Income Tax Department would be declared surplus as a result of computerisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No, Sir. The computerisation in the Income-tax Department would not render its employees surplus.

(b) Does not arise.

100% EOUs Permitted to Sell In Domestic Market

7411. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 100% foreign owned companies of 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) which have been allowed to sell 25% of their production in the domestic market; and

(b) the details of the companies and the products being made by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.

DASMUNSI): (a) No foreign owned company has so far been granted approval for sale of products in the Domestic Tariff Area, under REP Circular No. 17/88 dt. 2-5-88.

(b) Does not arise.

Insurance Scheme for Hamlets

7412. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have floated a scheme of providing insurance to the hamlets against fire at nominal cost;

(b) the details of the scheme; and

(c) the number of districts in Maharashtra so far adopted under the scheme and the steps being taken to cover the remaining districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Hut Insurance Scheme for poor families in rural areas was introduced in the country w.e.f. 1st May, 1988. The Scheme provides relief to poor families in rural areas when their huts and belongings are destroyed by fire. Poor families whose annual family income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 4,800/- are eligible under the Scheme. In the event of loss due to fire, the insurance company will pay to the insured an amount of Rs. 1,000/- for hut and Rs. 500/- for belongings in the hut destroyed by fire. The Scheme is administered through the General Insurance Corporation of India and its four subsidiaries viz. (i) National Insurance Company Ltd., (ii) New India Assurance Company Ltd., (iii) Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. and (iv) United India Insurance Company Ltd. with active collaboration of the State Governments/Union Territories. The

entire premium cost in respect of the Scheme is borne by the Central Government.

(c) The Scheme is in operation in all the districts in the country including all districts of Maharashtra since its introduction 1st May, 1988.

Diesel Engine Unit at Mysore

7413. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the establishment of a diesel engine manufacturing unit at Mysore;

(b) if so, the year by which the plant would be able to start commercial production;

(c) the cost of the plant; and

(d) the steps taken so far to set up that plant?

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

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

Slow Execution of CAD Projects in M.P.

7414. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Command Area Development (CAD) works of Barna-Halali and Kolar irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh are very slow and much behind the targeted time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what effective steps are being

taken by Government for fast implementation of various works during next years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) While command area development works at Barna-Halali projects are behind schedule, the Kolar Irrigation Project is still under construction. Hence no CAD works have yet been taken up on the project.

(b) Slow progress in Barna Halali projects is reported to be due to inadequate funding by the State Government and shortage of technical staff.

(c) The State Government is making efforts to provide adequate funds and technical staff for timely execution of the works.

Irregularities in Branches of State Bank of Indore in Raipur District in Madhya Pradesh

7415. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the State Bank of Indore operating in Raipur district in Madhya Pradesh and the number of cases of bungalings/irregularities in these branches which have come to light during the past three years;

(b) the insurance of cases where bank employees themselves were involved in such frauds;

(c) the action taken by his Ministry in such cases and the stage at which the enquiry or prosecutions are, if any conducted; and

(d) the other effective steps taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such frauds and involvement of employees in these frauds?

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

Encroachment of Railway land at Nalhati Station

7416. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway land has been under unauthorised occupation at Nalhati Station area;

(b) if so, the steps taken to evict the unauthorised occupants from railway land there; and

(c) if no steps have been taken in this direction, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Eviction of encroachments was done on several occasions in the past, but the encroachments have been coming up again. Efforts to evict the encroachments are being continued.

(c) Does not arise.

Late running of 915/916 and 175/176 New Delhi - Puri Trains

7417. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 915/916 and 175/176 Express trains running between New Delhi and Puri and vice-versa are reaching Delhi

and Puri very late;

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

(c) the steps taken to maintain punctuality of these trains?

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

Free complimentary card passes

7418. SHRIG. DEVARAYANAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for grant of free complimentary card passes; and

(b) the number of such passes issued during last one year category-wise along with zone-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Complimentary Card Passes are granted by the Ministry of Railways to eminent persons, organisations devoted to social, cultural, scientific, literacy, sports and educational activities of 'All India' character etc. These Passes are issued based on the guidelines and on the justification/merits of each case.

(b) A total of 51 Complimentary Card Passes have been issued during the year 1988-89. Since these Card Passes are issued by the Ministry of Railways based on justification/merits of each case and are generally valid over All Indian Railways, the issue of categorywise/Zone-wise lists to cover the Passes granted, does not arise.

Book Entitled "Damming the Narmada"

7419. SHRI H.A. DORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs Department had withheld copies of the book entitled 'Damming the Narmada';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). A consignment of six parcels containing the book entitled 'DAMMING THE NARMADA' written by Claude Alvares and Ramesh Billorey Jointly published by Third World Network and Asia-Pacific Peoples' Environment Network Malaysia, imported by M/s. Natraj publishers of Dehradun, was detained by the Customs Authorities at the Foreign Post Office, New Delhi, as the Customs authorities felt that the import of the book would attract the provisions of Sub-Sections (t) & (v) of Section 11 of the Customs Act, 1962. It was proposed for consideration that a notification be issued banning the import of the book. After careful consideration of the proposal, the Government decide that no restriction need be placed on the import of the book and the books were accordingly released.

[Translation]

Railway Projects in Bihar

7421. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing projects of construction/expansion in Bihar during the year ending 31st March, 1989;

(b) the names of these projects and the

cost thereof;

(c) the present stage of progress; and

(d) the names of other projects proposed to be taken up during the remaining period of the Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). Details of on-going construction projects in Bihar are given the statement below.

(d) The following projects in Bihar have been included in the Budget for 1989-90, the last year of Seventh Plan:

Gauge Conversion

1. Conversion of Chhapra-Aunrihar MG section into BG (171 km) (partly in Bihar)

Doublings

1. Doubling of Siho-Ramdayalunagar.

Traffic Facilities

1. Gaya-Mughalsarai Section - Facing Cross Overs.
2. Kiul-Gaya Section - Std. III interlocking.
3. Sahibganj-Bhagalpur Section - Augmentation of Sectional Capacity.
4. Bokaro-Rajabera - Twin Single Line working.
5. Hatia - Shifting of Goods shed from Ranchi.

STATEMENT

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Estimated cost (Rs. in crores)	Progress (%)
1	2	3	4
<i>Doublings</i>			
1.	Pitaujia-Ujarpur and Bachhwara-Barauni	23.43	54
2.	Ujarpur-Bachhwara	16.19	5
3.	Kiul-Bhagalpur	26.19	60
4.	Sahibganj Link Cabin-Malda Town (partly in West Bengal)	37.73	1
5.	Sigigi-Bagha Bishnupur	50.28	20
6.	Garwa Road-Sigigi and Sonnagar-Bagha Bishnupur	7.49	85
7.	Bokara-Pundag	6.24	99
8.	Bokara Steel City Station and Bokaro Steel City (A Cabin)	2.20	96
9.	Kandra-Gamharria	8.53	79
10.	Kumedpur-Barsoi and Dhulabari- New Jalpaiguri (partly in West Bengal)	56.85	55
11.	Barsoi-Dalkhola and Dhulabari Aluabari (partly in West Bengal)	24.39	25

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Estimated cost (Rs. in crores)		Progress (%)
1	2	3	4	
<i>Traffic Facilities</i>				
1.	Gaya-Moghalsarai Section: Augmentation of Sectional Capacity.	8.41	35	
2.	Sannagar-Mughalsarai Section : Up & Dn Loops	3.01	80	
3.	Barwadih — Development of Depot Yard.	31.44	7	
4.	Mokamah-Patna-Ara-Buxar Section: Augmentation of Sectional Capacity.	11.99	1	
5.	Patna-Gaya Section: Augmentation to Sectional Capacity	6.35	1	
6.	Sonnagar-Mughalsarai Section: C.T.C.	7.13	1	
7.	Gaya-Sonnagar Section: Up Long Loops	2.07	13	
8.	Garwa Road-Chopan Section: Tokenless Block Working	2.24	1	
9.	Byepass lines at Thawe and Chhapra Katchery.	2.60	10	

[English]

Replacement of Steam Locomotives

7422. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal saved by the Railways during the last three years by replacing the steam locomotives to diesel or electric engines, Zone-wise;

(b) the details of expenditure increased Zone-wise as a result of introducing diesel and electric engines; and

(c) the steps being taken to make up the loss or to provide additional facilities to the general public in cases there has been a gain to the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A statement showing the consumption of coal for traction for the years 1985-86 to 1987-88 on Zonal Railways is given below. The decreasing trend represents savings due to replacement of steam locomotives and other energy conservation measures taken.

(b) The expenditure incurred on fuel/energy consumed for traction on Zonal Railways for 3 years from 1985-86 to 1987-88 is shown in the statement attached. The increase in expenditure is due to increase in prices of coal, diesel and electric power and more consumption of diesel & electric power on account of additional traffic and change over from Steam to Diesel and Electric Traction.

(c) The change of traction from steam to diesel/electric does not result in a loss. Diesel/Electric traction has helped in providing trains running with higher loads and at faster speeds.

STATEMENT*Coal Consumption for Traction Purposes**(in Tonnes)*

<i>Railways</i>	<i>1985-86</i>	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Central	963,336	893,983	794,886
Eastern	1,233,562	1,142,690	1,042,626
Northern	1,741,025	1,457,788	1,428,071
N. Eastern	966,557	914,219	870,007
N. Frontier	309,890	274,677	219,165
Southern	389,733	340,276	261,677
S. Central	783,725	672,433	646,561
S. Eastern	702,194	626,753	597,134

1	2	3	4
Western	1,021,391	948,248	857,393
Total	8,111,413	7,271,067	6,717,520

Details of expenditure on Fuel/Energy for traction purposes.

(In thousands of Rupees)

Railways	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
1	2	3	4
Central	187,95,44	212,94,79	215,49,21
Eastern	142,03,49	158,97,25	162,44,11
Northern	183,63,28	203,30,44	215,76,78
N.Eastern	53,34,05	63,88,52	60,41,57
N. Frontier	29,96,64	37,30,93	36,27,86
Southern	91,39,04	90,31,73	93,71,28
S. Central	109,81,38	117,05,47	127,45,40
S. Eastern	145,64,37	162,67,32	180,25,72
Western	143,05,11	158,61,22	167,83,99
Total	10,86,82,80	12,05,07,67	12,59,65,92

**Conversion of Latur-Kurudwadi via
Osmanabad line**

7423. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for conversion of narrow gauge line into broad gauge from Latur to Kurudwadi via Osmanabad has been completed and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the progress made so far in the

matter; and

(c) the time by which the conversion work of this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). A survey for conversion from NG to BG of the Miraj-Latur line via Kurudwadi and Osmanabad, and its extension to Latur Road, totalling 359 km was undertaken in 1975-76. The project was then estimated to cost Rs. 43.12

crores, and it was found to be financially unremunerative. As such, there has been no proposal to take up conversion of this line.

Irrigation Potential from Lift Irrigation in Andhra Pradesh

7424. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total lift irrigation potential in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of schemes exploited in the State as on 31 March, 1989;

(c) the guidelines issued by Union Government to harness the remaining lift irrigation potential;

(d) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has approached Union Government for financial help and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). Against 42 lakhs ha. of ultimate minor irrigation potential including lift irrigation schemes in Andhra Pradesh irrigation potential of 27.07 lakhs ha. is likely to be created by March, 1989. Under Surface water minor lift irrigation schemes the irrigation potential created upto 1986-87 is 1.11 lakhs ha.

(c) to (e). Minor irrigation schemes are funded and implemented by the State Government from their own budgetary resources. These are not referred to Central Government for any section. However to accelerate the pace of development of minor irrigation, Central Government provides assistance to States including Andhra Pradesh through

Centrally Sponsored Schemes, like Small & Marginal Farmers Scheme, Special Foodgrain Production Programme, NREP, RLFGP.

[Translation]

Out Agency at Pauri and Srinagar

7425. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway out agencies in Pauri and Srinagar in Garhwal division of Uttar Pradesh have been closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to reopen these agencies;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Cut agencies at Pauri and Srinagar in Garhwal were closed due to resignation of contractors.

(c) to (e). These out agencies could be opened as soon as suitable contractors are found to operate them on the standard terms and conditions.

[English]

Business by STC.

7426. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation (STC) has been losing substantial business abroad due to stiff competition from

other countries recently;

(b) whether operational cost of the STC has also increased thereby raising the export prices;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE* (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The international trading environment has always been very competitive and STC obviously procures export orders in competition with the countries. STC, sometimes, loses significant business in certain goods in view of competition from other countries.

(b) and (c). The overheads of the Corporation increased from Rs. 28 crores in 1987-88 to Rs. 30 crores (prov.) in 1988-89 due to general inflating and wage increases. However, STC earns most of its trading profit from imports and to the extent possible, most competitive offers are made for exports.

(d) STC prepares various schemes from time to time to effectively face the competition in the international market, such

as loss sharing with the industry, extending loan on easy terms to the manufacturers, etc.

Book Stalls at Saharanpur, Rajpura and Pathankot Railway Stations

7427. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates of starting the work on book-stalls at Saharanpur, Rajpura and Pathankot stations which were allotted after the 31 May, 1988 on those platforms which were previously held by M/s. Gulab Singh and Sons, after proper verification and as per existing procedure;

(b) whether the competent authority of Northern Railway executed agreements with associations/partnership of unemployed graduates who were allotted book-stalls on these stations; and

(c) if so, the dates of execution thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The dates of starting the work of bookstalls at Saharanpur, Rajpura and Pathankot after 31st May, 1988 are as under:—

Saharanpur	...	05.9.1988
Rajpura	...	10.9.1988
Pathankot	...	05.9.1988

(b) and (c). The dates of execution of bookstall agreements at Saharanpur and

Pathankot are as under:—

Saharanpur	...	06.02.1989
Pathankot	...	12.10.1988

Agreement in respect of bookstall contract at Rajpura has not yet been executed.

Implementation of Service Area Concept

7428. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Service Area Concept for rural credit has been implemented by the commercial banks;

(b) if so, whether there was any delay in its implementation;

(c) whether the lead banks have set up computerised data information centres regarding rural credit needs in their respective service area; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per the instructions issued to banks earlier, the Service Area Approach to rural lending was to become operational with effect from 1.1.1989. However, in view of the amendment made to the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act in December, 1988 changing the accounting year of commercial banks from calendar year to financial year, RBI has advised the banks to implement the Service Area Approach to rural lending from 1.4.1989.

(c) and (d). Computerisation/mechanisation in the banking industry is being introduced in a phased manner. As per the existing arrangements, Advanced Ledger Posting Machines (ALPMs) are being installed at the branch level, mini computers at the Zonal/Regional office level, and main-frame computers at the Head Office level. A high level committee has already been set up by RBI

for preparing a 'vision plan' of computerisation in the banking industry during the period 1990-1994.

Income Tax Exemption to professional artists

7429. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of 'Professional Artists' for purposes of getting Income-tax relief/exemption;

(b) whether cinex artists are covered in this definition;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, the reasons for their not getting Income-tax relief/exemption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The term "Professional Artists" has not been referred to in the Income-tax Act, 1961. However, the term "Artist" has been referred to section 80C and section 80RR of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(b) The term "Artist", as referred to in section 80C and section 80RR of the Income-tax Act, 1961 covers 'ciné artists' also.

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

Export of Cashew Nuts

7430. SHRI VAKKOMPURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of processed cashew nuts exported during 1988-89;

(b) the targets set for export of cashew nuts for 1989-90; and

(c) the quota fixed for export from Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The quantity and value of processed cashew kernels exported during 1988-89 were 34462 MT (provisional) and Rs. 279.41 crores (provisional) respectively.

(Source: Cashew Export Promotion Council)

(b) No target for export of cashew kernels for 1989-90 has yet been fixed.

(c) There are no quotas in regard to export of cashew, which is freely allowed.

[Translation]

Shortage of Staff in Nationalised Banks Branches in Bihar

7431. SHRIMATIMANORAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the nationalised banks in Bihar;

(b) the number of such branches out of them where there are no officers for some years and the number of such branches which are under-staffed;

(c) the time by which this shortage will be met; and

(d) the arrangements being made by the Government to ensure appointment of senior officers in these branches without much delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of

India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of December, 1988, there were 2577 branches of Public Sector Banks in the State of Bihar.

(b) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

[English]

Health Scheme for Retired Railway Employees

7432. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding grades and categories of employees to be covered under the Retired Employees Liberalised health Scheme; and

(b) funds earmarked for this scheme for the year 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) All grades and categories of retired railway employees, opting to join the Scheme, will be covered. In addition, all grades and categories of employees in service before 1.1.89 wishing to join the Scheme and those joining the service on or after that date, will also be covered, after their retirement.

(b) No separate funds have so far been earmarked.

Export of Leather Goods

7433. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the export of leather goods during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) the details of leather goods being

exported; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to develop this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI): (a) Exports of leather goods, including garments (excluding leather footwear and components) have been as follows:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Export in Rs. crores</i>
1986-87	156
1987-88	234
1988-89 (upto Feb., 1989)	277 (Provisional)

(Source: Council for Leather Exports)

(b) Handbags, wallets, purses, belts, garments, saddler and harness are the main leather goods which are being exported.

(c) The Steps taken to encourage development of the industry, particularly for export production, among others, include laying emphasis on creation of additional capacities, liberalisation of industrial licensing policy, facilitating easy access to imported inputs, grant of concessions customs duties on an enlarged list of machinery items, marketing assistance under MDA, training of manpower etc.

Demands of N.E. Railway Employees

7434. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway workers observed "Demand Week" on 22 February, 1989 and demonstrated on the same day before the

Divisional Railway Manager Offices, Sonapur in the North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the demands of the said demonstrating workers; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government on the said demands?

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

(b) A statement giving the demands is given below.

(c) All such demands received are looked into by the concerned authorities and appropriate action taken wherever necessary.

STATEMENT

Demands

1. A move to amend Laws, Trade Union Act and the Industrial Disputes Act and also passing other black laws curtailing the Trade Union Rights may be stopped.
2. Articles 311 (2) (b) (c) of the Constitution may be amended and the railway employees belonging to loco, carriage, signal and other departments, who were removed from service under rule 14 (ii) of the Discipline and Appeal Rules, may be reinstated.
3. There is a move to curtail the total number of Railway staff due to rapid computerisation, mechanisation and dieselisation and it should be stopped. The Ministry of Railways' plan to remove the railway employees from service may also be stopped.

4. Jobs to the children/wards to retired/retiring railway employees may be given.
5. The process of retrenchment of surplus staff on a large scale should be discontinued. The surplus staff may be absorbed against appropriate posts after giving them necessary training.
6. The ban on creation of new posts and new recruitment may be lifted soon.
7. All posts of higher grades in Loco, Carriage, Signal, Electrical, Traffic, Engineering departments may be filled by promotions and upgradation orders may be implemented in toto.
8. All retrenched casual workers of all departments including carriage loco department may be provided job and the process of screening may be completed early.
9. All working or retrenched casual and substitute workers who have completed service of 120 days may be given temporary status.
10. Reduction of overtime allowance to the loco, fitting staff and staff in other deptts. may be discontinued. Gatemen, Chowkidars and all Class-IV employees of Traffic Deptt. who perform 12 hours duty and who are not provided residential accommodation may be given two days rest or overtime allowance.
11. Gangmen may be redesignated as train Maintainer and pay scale of Rs. 950-1500/- applicable to skilled artisan may be allotted to them. The vacant posts of D.W.M. may be filled early by promotion. The gatemen may be provided uniforms for all seasons separately. The temporary workers of Engineering Department, who go to work in P.W.I. offices at a distance of B.K>M. away from their residences may be granted travelling allowance.
12. The temporary employees of B.G. Deptt. may be made permanent. The retrenched workers may be provided job according to the rulings of Supreme Court.
13. Workers belonging to T.P.T. Garhara, who have been declared surplus may be sent to other departments and divisions for absorption. Retired/deceased workers of T.P.T. and Ex. temporary employees of Dump who had completed 10-15-20 years service, may be given the facility of Pension, Gratuity and Family pension.
14. The practice of getting the departmental works executed by contractor through retrenched workers on E.L.R. basis, may be discontinued.
15. Arrears of HRA, Night duty allowance, transfer allowance and other arrears to the tune of lacs of rupees may be paid immediately.
16. Construction of Carriage washing line and diesel shed at Sonapur may be completed shortly. Joint Office Building at Garhara may be constructed.
17. Uniform and protective dress may be supplied regularly.
18. Screening and medical examination of seasonal watermen may be

conducted immediately.

19. All dues of retired railway employees may be paid early. Corruption may be stopped.
20. The conspiracy of shifting Zonal Training school, Muzaffarpur, and Railway Recruitment Board, Muzaffarpur may be stopped.
21. Reservation quota for S.C./S.T. communities may be filled fully in recruitment and promotion.
22. The shortage of doctors and medicines in Divisional Railway Hospitals may be met fully. Muzaffarpur Railway Hospital may be expanded.
23. All commodities may be provided to railway employees at cheaper rates through fair price shops.
24. The number of residential accommodation at all stations of Sonapur Divisional may be increased and proper arrangement may be made for the repairs of railway accommodations and colonies.

Financing of Equipment for Fishing Vessels of Small Entrepreneurs by SCICI

7435. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India (S.C.I.C.I.) is financing fishing vessels;

(b) whether loans are released by the S.C.I.C.I. even when small buyers of fishing vessels are having disputes with yards over quality of machinery and equipment;

(c) if so, whether the S.C.I.C.I. will take

responsibility for performance of machinery and equipment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d). SCICI has reported that construction of fishing vessels is according to the building contract executed between a Shipyard and a Buyer, which also normally provides for remedies in case a dispute develops between them. In so far as instalments of loan released to Shipyards on behalf of SDFC/Government assisted companies is concerned, such disbursements are made in accordance with the provisions of the tripartite agreements entered into between Shipyards, Fishing Companies and SDFC/Government. In other cases where acquisition of trawlers has been financed directly by SCICI, it has been reported by SCICI that payments are released to Shipyards in accordance with the conditions stipulated in loan agreements executed between the Fishing Companies and SCICI.

Cold Storage of MPEDA

7436. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cold storage of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is not functioning;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether M.P.E.D.A. intend to transfer this to any private agency;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.

DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). The cold storage of Marine Products Export Development Authority is functioning from 7.2.89. Government is considering various options for its disposal in the meantime, the storage has been handed over to the Seafood Export Association of India, Cochin for operation and management from 7.2.1989, on loan basis, for a period of six months, on certain terms and conditions, to tide over the difficult situation being faced by the Industry for want of adequate frozen storage facilities in and around Cochin in the context of a general slump in demand for seafood particularly in Japan and consequent accumulation of stocks.

New Train on Bombay-Ratlam-Dohad-Vadodra-Delhi Route

7437. SHRI SOMJIBHAIDAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a new express train between Bombay and Delhi via Vadodara, Dahod and Ratlam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Ramagundam-Nizamabad Railway Line

7438. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to undertake the construction of railway line linking Ramagundam and Nizamabad touching Karimnagar town during 1989-90; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and when

Government propose to take up this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). A survey was carried out for BG railway lines Nizamabad-Jagtial-Ramagundam, Pedapalli-Jagtial via Karimnagar and Uppal-Jagtial via Karimnagar, in 1985. The project was found to be financially unremunerative. As such, there is no proposal to take up its construction.

Insurance claims in respect of Riots in Andhra Pradesh

7439. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA ROA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the insurance companies have been given instructions to help December, 1988 Andhra Pradesh disturbances victims just on the same line as the November, 1984 Delhi riot victims were helped;

(b) if so, the detailed thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO): (a) to (c). Following instructions from the Government for quick settlement of the claims arising out of riots in Andhra Pradesh, the general insurance industry has given various relaxations for handling these claims, such as, acceptance of the certificate from the district officials in lieu of regular F.I.R./Police Report/Fire Brigade Report, acceptance of the extracts from the records of Regional Transport Authorities in case of loss of R.C. Book and resultant delay in obtaining duplicate R.C. Book, acceptance of evidence from sources like Commercial Tax Returns/Damage Certificate by district authorities in cases where

accounts books are not available, enhancement of the financial authority of the Regional Managers by one step higher to expedite disposal of claims at that level etc. Where insurance policies could not be renewed in time due to riotous conditions and where claims have been reported, such claims can be considered on expiring terms and conditions provided renewal advices alongwith premium were received immediately after normalisation of the situation. In addition to the above relaxations, the GIC has asked the companies to appoint large number of surveyors including surveyors from outside the State of Andhra Pradesh in order to expedite finalisation of survey reports.

Similar relaxations, as given for dealing with the claims arising out of riots in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, were given for handling claims arising out of Delhi Riots in October/November, 1984. However, at that time, the Riot Risk was not covered as a standard peril but it was to be included as an extraneous peril on payment of additional premium. This consideration does not apply in the case of Andhra Pradesh Riots as Riot, Strike and Malicious Damage Risks have since been included in the standard cover under Fire and Motor Policies.

[Translation]

Accidents and Thefts on Damoh-Katni Section

7440. SHRIDALCHANDERJAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of goods train accidents that took place last year between Damoh and Katni section and the extent of loss suffered in terms of bogies of goods trains and goods;

(b) whether Government are aware of repeated accidents and theft of goods on this section and if so, the action taken to prevent these accidents;

(c) whether similar accidents also took place between Sagar and Damoh and if so, the extent of loss suffered in terms of bogies and goods; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent them?

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

World Bank Assistance for Bihar Projects

7441. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of on-going projects with World Bank assistance in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): The details of on-going projects in Bihar with World Bank assistance are furnished in the statement given below.

STATEMENT

List of on-going projects in Bihar World Bank assistance

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount of loan/credit in US million	Date of agreement
1.	Subarnarekha Irrigation project	127.0	9.11.1982
2.	Bihar Public Tubewells project.	68.0	13.1.1987
3.	Third National Agricultural Extension Project. (A multi-State project covering Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Punjab).	85.0	29.6.1987
4.	States Road project. (A multi-State project covering Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.)	250.0	17.11.1988

[English]

**Additional Lines on Santragachi-
Panskura and Panskura-Kharagpur
Routes**

7442. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work undertaken for construction of fourth railway line between Santragachi and Panskura and third line between Panskura and Kharagpur sections of South Eastern Railway has been completed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Survey for the third line between Panskura and Kharagpur has since been completed and the report is under examination. The survey for the fourth line between Santragachi and Panskura has also been completed and the report is under compilation.

(b) The third line between Panskura and Kharagpur (45 km) is estimated to cost Rs. 77.44 crores. The delay in compilation of the report for the fourth line was due to the fact that exhaustive data had to be collected. Moreover, certain other important surveys had also to be done concurrently.

[Translation]

**Clearance of Irrigation Project of
Madhya Pradesh**

7443. SHRI KAMMODI LAL JATAV:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya

Pradesh has sent Kuno-Aisah and Beretha irrigation projects of Morena district to Union Government for approval; and

(b) if so, the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). No such projects have been received at the Centre for technical appraisal.

Catering and mending contracts

7444. SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for allocation of work to a Cooperative Society regarding allotment of catering and mending and other contracts in the Railways;

(b) whether area of operation of a local cooperative society can be deemed to operate in the entire Indian Railways or in two or more zones;

(c) whether a similar local cooperative society of Muzaffarpur (Bihar) has been awarded contract of operating Pantry Car in Gorakhpur-Bombay-V.T. Train in violation of rules;

(d) if so, whether enquiries have been made in this regard; and

(e) if so, further action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The general criterion for a Cooperative Society to be considered for allotment of work on Railways is that it should be a registered, genuine and bonafide Cooperative Society.

(b) A local Cooperative Society shall not ordinarily have its area of operation beyond the State in which it is registered. Unless otherwise provided in the bye-laws, a local Cooperative Society shall operate within the local jurisdiction.

(c) to (e). The pantry car contract of 115/116 Gorakhpur-Bombay-V.T. Express has been awarded by North Eastern Railway to a Cooperative Society of actual workers after due verification and after following the prescribed procedure in this regard.

[English]

Concession to Entertainment Companies

7445. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended some travel concession to the entertainment companies or groups;

(b) if so, whether definition of entertainment companies/groups has been laid down and whether the minimum number of artist forming a group has been specified;

(c) the travel concession to be granted and whether the number of trips per year has been fixed for each group; and

(d) the measures adopted to check the misuse of such trips by rail by the parties?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The extent of concession is 50 per cent in Second Class. The number of trips per year not been stipulated.

(d) The concession is admissible only on fulfilment of the conditions prescribed by the Railways and on production of the requisite certificate from the nominated authorities.

Joint Ventures with Ethiopia

7446. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up joint ventures with Ethiopia; and

(b) if so, the fields in which the joint ventures have been established in last three years?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Vacancies on account of retirement of Supreme Court Judges

7447. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the vacancies in Supreme Court which will arise on account of retirement of the Judges during 1989; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to fill up all such vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) During 1989, five vacancies will arise in the Supreme Court on account of retirement.

(b) Steps have been taken to fill up the vacancies in the Supreme Court.

Trade with Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen

7448. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into a trade pact with the People Democratic Republic of Yemen; and

(b) if so, the fields in which the trade ties have been established or proposed to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Under the Trade Agreement between Government of India and Government of Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) signed in April, 1979, there is provision for setting up of a Joint Committee. A joint Committee has been set up for considering suggestions for the improvement and expansion of trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Demarcation of Land for Tea and Coffee Plantation in Orissa

7450. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demarcation of land for tea and coffee plantation in Kalahandi and Phulabani districts in Orissa is likely to render local people homeless and jobless;

(b) if so, the steps taken to select the sites in a manner that the people are not rendered homeless; and

(c) the rehabilitation measure proposed to be adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No such information has been received.

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

Road-over bridge at level crossing between Jalandhar Cantt. and Jalandhar City Station

7451. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties faced by the travelling public going to and coming from Hoshiarpur side because of the frequent vehicular traffic Jam on account of frequent closure of railway level crossing near Rama Mandi Chowk between Jalandhar Cantt. and Jalandhar City Railway Stations;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for the construction of a road-over bridge at the said railway level crossing;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There is some detention to the road traffic at the location during passage of trains.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Proposal for construction of a road-over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 68-A at Rama Mandi Chowk near Jalandhar Cantt. Railway Station is being developed by the State Government, jointly with the Railway. After receipt of a firm proposal from the State Government in this regard, it will be considered for inclusion in

Railways' Works Programme.

(d) Does not arise.

Payment of HRA and CCA to Nationalised Banks and LIC Employees at Gurgaon in Haryana

7452. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees at Gurgaon (Haryana) are paid city compensatory allowance (CCA) and house rent allowance (HRA);

(b) whether the nationalised banks employees and the employees of the LIC at Gurgaon are not being paid these allowances; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the discrimination in the payment of CCA and HRA to nationalised banks and LIC employees and the steps contemplated by Government to remove the anomaly?

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

(b) Employees of LIC and Banks at Gurgaon are paid HRA but no CCA is payable to them, as per the provisions of their respective service rules/bipartite settlement.

(c) Employees of Central Government, Public Sector Banks and LIC are governed by separate sets of service conditions. Their pay, perks and allowances including HRA and CCA are payable in terms of their respective service rules-bipartite settlement and, therefore the question of discrimination in the matter of payment of such allowances in isolation of total packages available to them and without reference to their service conditions would not arise.

Beneficiaries under SEPUP

7453. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 10 March, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 2067 regarding loans advanced under SEPUP and state:

(a) the cumulative number of actual beneficiaries under SEPUP (Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor), State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of actual beneficiaries per thousand of population on the basis of 1981 census, State-wise;

(c) cumulative amount sanctioned and disbursed, State-wise and the average amount disbursed per beneficiary; and

(d) the maximum and minimum amounts sanctioned and disbursed to a particular beneficiary, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). A statement showing the State/Union Territory-wise population of the cumulative number of actual beneficiaries who have been disbursed loans, number of actual beneficiaries per thousand of population as per 1981 census, cumulative amount sanctioned and disbursed and average amount disbursed per beneficiary for the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 under the Self Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) is given in the statement below.

(d) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the present data reporting system from banks does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, a loan upto the maximum of Rs. 5,000/- under SEPUP can be sanctioned and disbursed to an individual beneficiary depending upon the cost of the project and need based requirement.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of beneficiaries (Cumulative)	No. of actual beneficiaries per thousand of population on the basis of 1981 Census	Amount sanctioned (Cumulative)	Amount Disbursed (Cumulative)	Average Amount Disbursed per beneficiary Rs. in thousand)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	51281	4.10	1969.55	1754.64	3.4
Assam	7090	3.45	324.48	273.91	3.8
Bihar	23657	2.71	1191.17	930.45	3.9
Gujarat	30986	2.91	1052.74	915.22	2.9
Haryana	14870	5.25	637.23	559.66	3.7
Himachal Pradesh	999	3.06	44.25	41.46	4.1
Jammu & Kashmir	1565	1.24	64.81	48.52	3.1
Karnataka	49042	4.57	2068.82	1940.51	3.9
Kerala	19927	4.17	915.50	855.40	4.2
Madhya Pradesh	46820	4.42	1955.42	1543.97	3.2

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of beneficiaries (Cumulative)	No. of actual beneficiaries per thousand of population on the basis of 1981 Census	Amount sanctioned (Cumulative)	Amount Disbursed (Cumulative)	Average Amount Disbursed per beneficiary Rs. in thousand)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	64096	2.94	2561.79	2264.34	3.4
Manipur	832	2.21	37.75	33.24	3.9
Meghalaya	632	2.61	33.48	28.93	4.5
Nagaland	337	2.80	16.60	16.34	4.8
Orissa	15493	4.97	690.12	610.74	3.9
Punjab	22000	4.79	1042.78	993.83	4.0
Rajasthan	32561	4.51	1548.77	1176.76	3.6
Tamil Nadu	70484	4.41	2128.23	1962.07	2.7
Tripura	804	3.56	35.34	30.15	3.7
Uttar Pradesh	72215	3.62	3501.22	2304.49	3.8
West Bengal	40157	3.40	1914.89	1519.81	3.0

(Rs. in Lakhs)					
Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of beneficiaries (Cumulative)	No. of actual beneficiaries per thousand of population on the basis of 1981 Census	Amount sanctioned (Cumulative)	Amount Disbursed (Cumulative)	Average Amount Disbursed per beneficiary Rs. in thousand)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	307	6.18	13.17	12.94	4.2
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Goa, Daman & Diu	946	2.68	40.84	38.61	4.0
Mizoram	105	0.86	6.00	5.12	4.8
Pondicherry	189	0.59	6.04	5.63	2.9
Delhi	32753	5.67	800.27	696.57	2.1

Data Provisional

Source : Reserve Bank of India.

**Assistance by Nationalised Banks
Under A.E.P. in Murshidabad District,
West Bengal**

7454. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications seeking credit under Additional Employment Programme (A.E.P.) towards transport financing by the nationalised banks in Murshidabad district in West Bengal; and

(b) the amount of credit extended towards transport financing by the nationalised banks in the said district during the last three years, branch-wise of each nationalised bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). United Bank of India, the bank having lead responsibility for Murshidabad District in West Bengal has reported that under Additional Employment Programme (A.E.P.) of the State Government, all the 10 application sponsored to the banks during the years 1986, 1987 and 1988 were sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 22.34 lakhs.

**Impounding of Aircraft by Customs
Department, Bombay**

7455. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs Department, Bombay impounded two newly purchased aircraft by the Air India on account of non-

payment of duties by the Air India;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to release the aircraft?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The aircraft have already been duly delivered.

**Operation of Pantry Car Service by
Contractors**

7456. SHRI KAILASH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on some trains' pantry cars are running by private contractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of caterers getting the job on pantry cars; and

(c) the reasons for awarding these services to private contractors?

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

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) The catering on Railways has not been departmentalised at all places or trains.

STATEMENT

The details of the trains on which Pantry Car service is being managed through licensees are given below:

911/912	-	Cochin Gorakhpur Express
921/922	-	N.E. Express

155/156	-	Tinsukia Mail
509/510	-	Avadh-Assam Express
945/946	-	Guwahati-Bombay Express
56/60	-	Kamrup Express
5/6	-	Kamrup Express (MG)
15 Dn/16 Up	-	Guwahati-Varanasi Express (MG)
11 Dn//12 Up	-	Gujarat Express
23 Dn/24 Up	-	FZR Janta Express
15 Up/16 Dn	-	Saurashtra Express
31 Up/32 Dn	-	Aravali Express
167/168	-	Malwa Express
1 Up/2 Dn	-	Kalka Mail
801/802	-	Moori Express
907/908	-	Himsagar Express linked with rake No. 131 Up/132 Dn Madras-Jammu Tawi Express
265/266	-	Jodhpur-Ahmedabad Express
93/94	-	Jodhpur Mail
513/514	-	Marudhar Express
1/2	-	Samdari-Bhildi Express
209/210	-	Link Express
251/252	-	Phulera-Jodhpur Express
1/2 RM	-	Ratangarh-Merta Road
89/90	-	Bikaner Express
1/2 BM	-	Barmer-Munnabao
947/948	-	Gorakhpur-Howrah Express

There are 26 licensees who manage these services.

Promotion Policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Bank of India

7457. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI:
DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) the selection area-wise, year-wise and category-wise, backlog of Schedule Castes/Scheduled Tribes vacancies under State Service in Chandigarh and Patna Zones for the Central Bank of India during the last three years;

(b) whether the Bank implemented the clause 1.14 of the Promotion Policy Agreement in order to invite and include sufficient number SC/ST candidates for completing reserved vacancies while conducting the State Service Tests in the aforesaid Zones;

if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken so far by the Bank to complete the backlog;

(c) the selection area-wise, year-wise and category-wise backlog of SC/ST vacancies under State Service in the Bank as on date; and

(d) the names of other zones where Clause 1.14 of the Promotion Policy Agreement can be applied to fill the present and the backlog vacancies of SC/ST categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The backlog position under Selection area-wise in respect of Patna and Chandigarh zones under State Service for the last three years as reported by Central Bank of India, is as under:-

Selection Area		Data Provisional									
		1986					1987				
		S.Accts.		Chief Casshier		S.Acctt.	Chief Casshier		S.Acctt.	Chief Casshier	
		SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	SC	ST	SC	SC	ST
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
										12	13
PATNA ZONE											
Patna	—	4	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	—	2
Ranchi	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	2
Muzafarpur	8	5	3	6	6	13	6	3	6	12	5
CHANDIGARH ZONE											
Chandigarh	1	4	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3
Ambala	2	2	1	1	1	—	3	1	1	—	3
Amritsar	1	2	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	2

(b) and (d). The Bank has reported that Clause 1.14 of the Promotion Policy Agreement of the bank is being complied with in all zones as and when required.

(c) While area-wise details are not

readily available, the total backlog under State Service, as on 31.12.1988, in respect of Sub-Accountants and Chief Cashiers as reported by the Bank was as under:-

	<i>Scheduled Caste</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribe</i>
Sub-Accountant	28	75
Chief Cashier	47	43

Strength of Class-I Officers

7458. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Class I officers on Indian Railways grade-wise, department-wise and Railway/Unit-wise and promote vs. direct recruits-wise;

(b) the total number of officers promoted from Grade-B in the above grade-wise, department-wise and Railway/Unit-wise;

(c) the quota of intake of promotee officers vs. direct officers, as per rules in Class I cadre; and

(d) whether this quota is being adhered to, if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Bank Loans for Housing Purposes

7459. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the public sector banks advancing loans to the people for purchase of a housing unit, construction of a house and for carrying out alternations for existing housing units;

(b) the total number of people given such loans, State-wise during 1988; and

(c) the formalities required to be complied with by the seekers of loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that all commercial banks have been directed to provide financial assistance for constructing houses/ carrying out repairs and alterations of houses. The main terms and conditions for obtaining housing loans from banks are as under:

- i) The maximum period of repayment of housing loan has been enhanced from 10 years to 15 years.
- ii) The maximum margin on the loan has been reduced from 50% to 35%.
- iii) The rate of interest on housing loan has been altered as under:

<i>Amount of Loan</i>	<i>Rate of Interest (% per annum)</i>
Upto Rs. 20,000	12.5
Above Rs. 20,000 & upto Rs. 50,000	13.5
Above Rs. 50,000 & upto Rs. 1 lakh	14.0
Above Rs. 1 lakh	14.5 - 16.0

The rate of interest for housing loan for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes upto and inclusive of Rs. 5,000 is at 4% per annum.

- iv) Where mortgage of property or Government guarantee is not feasible, banks have been permitted to accept other forms of securities.
- v) The banks will also have the discretion to fix the repayment instalments in such a way that housing loans become more affordable by the lower income groups and repayment instalments may not exceed normally 30% of the income of the borrower.
- vi) In the case of individuals who might have raised funds from other sources, banks have been permitted to provide supplementary finance.
- vii) Credit will also be extended for additions, repairs and alterations to house.
- viii) The total loan for individual for housing from the bank is not to exceed Rs. 3 lakhs.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the information relating to the total

number of people given such loans State-wise during 1988 is not available. However, during the year 1987 the scheduled commercial banks provided financial assistance under housing to the extent of Rs. 194.43 crores. During half year ending June, 1988 assistance to the tune of Rs. 111.54 crores has been provided. The allocation fixed by Reserve Bank of India for all scheduled commercial banks under "housing finance" was Rs. 225 crores for the year ending December, 1988. This amount has been raised to Rs. 300 crores for the year ending December, 1989.

Bank Deposits

7460. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) bank deposits of top 50 urban cities of India as on 31 December 1986, 1987 and 1988;

(b) what percentage is accounted for by the four large metropolitan cities, namely, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras; and

(c) advances made and loans disbursed in the same cities in the corresponding period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) As per the information received from RBI, aggregate

deposits of scheduled commercial banks in top 50 centres as at the end of December 1986, December 1987 and September 1988 (latest available) were Rs. 55452 crores, Rs. 62775 crores and Rs. 69570 crores respectively.

(b) The percentage of deposits of scheduled commercial banks in four metropolitan cities namely Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras in the aggregate deposits of top 50 cities as at the end of December 1986, December 1987 and September 1988 was 59.5 percent, 59.4 percent and 60.4 percent respectively.

(c) The outstanding advances of scheduled commercial banks in top 50 centres as at the end of December 1986, December 1987 and September 1988 (latest available) were Rs. 38811 crores, Rs. 42224 crores and Rs. 46283 crores respectively.

Daily Allowance Facility to Employeees of Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank

7461. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank has withdrawn the existing facilities of daily allowance on transfer; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the said management has reduced the rate of mileage allowance; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the said management has not yet paid arrears of Tribal Area Allowance for the period from 1 January, 1987 to 1 August, 1988; if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the same will be allowed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). State Bank of India, the sponsor bank, has reported that the Bilaspur-Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank had followed the practice of granting daily allowance for the period of joining time on transfer on the pattern it was payable to the employees of sponsor bank. The same had to be withdrawn as this was not provided in the Staff Service Regulations of 1980 applicable to the Gramin Bank. Similarly the mileage allowance of 40 paise per K.M. was reduced to 35 paise per K.M. to be in line with the rate applicable to the State Government employees.

(c) It has been reported that the arrears on account of tribal area allowance will be paid to the employees of the Gramin Bank as early as possible.

Foreign Equity of Multinational Firms

7462. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign multinational firms in India with foreign equity as on date; and

(b) the percentage of equity held by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). There is no accepted definition of a multinational company. However, for practical purposes, a company having more than 40% non-resident interest (popularly known as a FERA company) is treated as a multinational company. As on 30th November, 1988, there were 102 FERA companies operating in India. A list of these companies is given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

FERA Companies Covered under Section 29 of FERA 1973 (As on 30th November, 1988)

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Percentage of non-resident equity
1	2	3
1.	Audco India Limited, Bombay	50.00
2.	APE Bellis India Limited, Calcutta (Formerly known as Bellis & Merroom (I) Ltd).	49.00
3.	Apollo Chain Zips Pvt. Ltd.	100.00
4.	Associated Bearing Co. Ltd. Bombay	51.00
5.	Atic Industries Ltd., Atul	50.00
6.	Ark Investment Ltd, Madras	99.90
7.	Angus Company Ltd., Calcutta	97.54
8.	The Assam Frontier Tea Ltd., Calcutta	74.00
9.	The Assamy Company (India)Ltd., Calcutta	74.00
10.	Brakes India Ltd. Madras	49.00
11.	Bayer India Ltd, Bombay	51.00
12.	Bengal Linn (Industrial Finance) Ltd. Calcutta	50.00
13.	Dr. Beck & Co. (I) Ltd., Poona	49.00

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Percentage of non-resident equity		
		1	2	3
14.	Backau Wolf New India Engg. Works, Ltd., Poona			49.87
15.	BASF (India) Ltd. Bombay			50.00
16.	Craigmore Plantations (India) Ltd.			73.99
17.	Chloride India Ltd., Calcutta			50.00
18.	Cominco Binani Zinc Ltd., Bombay			40.02
19.	Coromandel Fertilizers Ltd., Secunderabad			47.00
20.	C.A. Willner & Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore			99.20
21.	Cemindia Company Ltd., Bombay			51.00
22.	Drayton Greaves Ltd. Bombay			51.00
23.	Doom Dooma India Ltd., Calcutta			74.00
24.	Darjeeling Plantation Industries Ltd., Calcutta			74.00
25.	E. Hill & Co. Pvt. Ltd., Mirzapur			74.00
26.	English Electric Company of India Ltd., Madras			66.67
27.	Everest Building Products Ltd., New Delhi (Formerly known as Asbestos Cement Ltd.)			49.46

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Percentage of non-resident equity
1	2	3
28.	Ennore Foundries Ltd., Madras	59.08
29.	Eyre Smelting Pvt. Ltd. Calcutta	74.00
30.	Empire Plantations (India) Ltd., Calcutta	73.33
31.	Flender Macneil Gas Ltd., Calcutta	50.00
32.	Frick India Ltd., Faridabad	51.00
33.	Flakt India Ltd., Calcutta (Formerly known as S.F. India Ltd.)	51.00
34.	Garg Associates Pvt. Ltd., Ghaziabad	50.00
35.	Gedore Tools (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	51.00
36.	Groz-Beckert Sabbo Ltd., Chandigarh	60.00
37.	Guest Keen Williams Ltd., Howrah	46.82
38.	General Electric Co. of India Ltd., Calcutta	66.66
39.	Greaves Foseco Ltd., Bombay	50.00
40.	Goodyear India Ltd., New Delhi	59.93
41.	Gannon Norton Metal & Diamond Dies Ltd., Bombay	41.60

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Percentage of non-resident equity
1	2	3
42.	Goodricke Group Ltd., Calcutta	74.00
43.	George Williamson (Assam) Ltd., Calcutta	70.00
44.	Hindustan Ferrodo Ltd., Bombay	60.00
45.	Hein Lehmann (I) Ltd, Calcutta	49.00
46.	Hindustan Lever Ltd., Bombay	51.00
47.	hindustan Gum & Chemicals Ltd., Bhiwani(HR)	50.00
48.	Hindustan Door-Oliver, Bombay	66.67
49.	Indian Card clothing Co. Ltd. Poona	74.00
50.	Indian Explosives Ltd., Calcutta	83.10
51.	Ingersoll-Band (I) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay	73.99
52.	Indian Xerographic Systems Pvt. Ltd, Bombay	49.00
53.	Johnson & Johnson Ltd, Bombay	75.00
54.	Jokai (India) Ltd, Calcutta	74.00
55.	Kirloskar Cummins Ltd., Poona	50.00

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Percentage of non-resident equity
1	2	3
56.	Kerala Balers Ltd., Kerala	49.00
57.	Lucas TVs, Madras	51.00
58.	L.M. Van Moppes Diamond Tools I) Ltd., Cooroor	49.00
59.	Lakshman Isola Ltd., Bangalore	50.00
60.	Monsanto Chemicals of India Pvt. Ltd. Bombay	73.97
61.	Motor Industries Co. Ltd. , Bangalore	51.00
62.	Mahinder Sintared Products Ltd., Poona	49.00
63.	Mather & Platt (I) Ltd., Bombay	60.00
64.	Malcha Proporties Ltd, Calcutta	50.00
65.	Moran Tea Co (I) Calcutta	74.00
66.	Norindia ltd., Bombay	50.00
67.	Newrosiee Wadia & Sons Pvt. Ltd., Bombay	95.72
68.	NGEF-AFG Engineering Co. Ltd., Bangalore	50.00
69.	O.E.N. India Ltd, Cochlin	45.00

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Percentage of non-resident equity
1	2	3
70.	Otis Elevator Co. (I) Ltd., Bombay	56.00
71.	Porriss & Spencer (Asia) Ltd., New Delhi	59.20
72.	Pashtany Tenjarathy Co. (India) Pvt. Ltd Amritsar	100.00
73.	Plaser (India) Ltd., New Delhi	74.00
74.	R.H. Windsor (I) Ltd., Bombay	49.00
75.	Roche Products Ltd., Bombay	74.00
76.	Stone Plat Electrical (I) Ltd., Calcutta (Formerly known as J. Stone & Co Ltd.)	60.00
77.	Spirax Marshall Ltd., Poona	51.00
78.	Saurashtra Cement & Chemicals Industries Ltd., Ranavar.	50.25
79.	Sandvik Asia Ltd., Poona	54.86
80.	Singlo (India) Tea Co.Ltd, Calcutta	73.33

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Percentage of non-resident equity		
1	2	3		
81.	Stewart Holl (India) Ltd., Calcutta	74.00		
82.	Scharder Scovill Duncan Ltd., Bombay	50.00		
83.	Siemens India Ltd., Bombay	51.00		
84.	Sansar Machines Ltd., New Delhi	49.55		
85.	Sandoz (India) Ltd, Bombay	60.00		
86.	Tata Klockner Industrial Plants Ltd., Bombay	50.00		
87.	Tribeni Tissue Ltd., Calcutta	51.00		
88.	Tractors Engineers Ltd, Bombay	50.00		
89.	Tea Estates (I) Pvt. Ltd. Coonoor	74.00		
90.	Toyo Engineering India Ltd., New Delhi	50.00		
91.	Union Carbide India Ltd., Calcutta	50.92		
92.	Udhə India Ltd., Bombay	74.00		
93.	Western Thomson (India) Ltd., Madras	49.00		

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Percentage of non-resident equity
1	2	3
94.	Widia India Ltd., Bangalore	50.99
95.	Warren Tea Ltd., Calcutta	73.47
96.	Wyeth Laboratories Ltd., Bombay	74.00
	<i>Partnorship Concerns</i>	
1.	Metallics India, Calcutta	74.00
	<i>Branches</i>	
1.	Oxford University Press	Branches do not have any capital base as such in India: hence no information is furnished against these.
*2.	Samnugger Jute Factory Co. Ltd., Cal.	
3.	Travel World Inc.	
*4.	Titaghur Jute Factory Co Calcutta	
*5.	Victoria Jute Co. Ltd. Calcutta	

Note: This list gives the position as on 30th November, 1988.

2. This does not include the following categories of Cos:-

- i) where companies have ceased their activities and are in the process of winding-up.
- ii) Where permission under Section 29 (2) (a) of FERA, 1973 have ben granted on non-repatriation of capital and income basis.
- iii) where non-resident interest to excess of 40% is held by persons of Indian origin.
- iv) Companies established in the Free Trade Zone.

* Indicates companies to whom directives have been issued under Section 29 (2) (a) of FERA, 1973 for dilution on non-resident interest to 40%.

World Bank Aid for Madras Metropolitan Development Authority

7463. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madras Metropolitan Development Authority in Tamil Nadu is receiving World Bank aid; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The World Bank group has provided assistance for three urban development projects in Tamil Nadu. The Madras Metropolitan Development Authority is one of the implementing agencies participating in these projects. The First and Second Madras Urban Development projects have been completed, and the assistance from the World Bank fully disbursed. The T.N. Urban Development Project is currently under implementation. Details of the projects are as follows:

(in \$ Million)

Name of the Project	Amount of Assistance	Date of Agreement
First Madras Urban Development	24.0	1.4.1977
Second Madras Urban Development	42.0	14.1.1981
Tamil Nadu Urban Development	300.2	16.9.1988

Profits earned by LIC

7464. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of profits made by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) the total amount of investments made by the LIC on loans to the Government and non-Government institutions by the end of 1988; and

(c) whether the LIC also invests money on private housing societies; if so, the details thereof and on what terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) It is not possible

to determine profits in respect of Life Insurance Companies. However, surplus, that is difference between Life Fund and Liabilities to the Policy-holders is determined by Actuarial Valuation. Surplus as on 31.3.87 was Rs. 786.77 crores and that on 31.3.88 was Rs. 956.51 crores. The surplus as on 31.3.89 will depend on the Actuarial Valuation results in September, 1989.

(b) Loans advanced by LIC upto 31.3.1989 to the Govt. and Non-Govt. institutions are given below:-

(Rupees in Crores)

Govt. Institutions	5087.73
Non-Govt. Institutions	2483.74

(c) LIC has invested on Private Housing Societies as on 30th September, 1988 as under:-

	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Amount invested in Crores</i>
1.	Coop. Hsg. Societies formed by employees of LIC	23.90
2.	Coop. Hsg. Societies formed by employees of Public Ltd. Companies	2.35
3.	Coop. Hsg. Societies formed by employees of Public Sector Undertaking	0.11

Life Insurance Corporation of India grants housing loans of Co-operative Housing Societies formed by employees of LIC, as also employees of Public Limited Companies/Public Sector Undertakings.

In the case of employees of Public Limited Companies/Public Sector Undertakings, loan is sanctioned to the society on the guarantee of the employer. Rate of interest is twelve and half percent per annum. Loan is to be repaid by equated monthly instalments within a maximum period of fifteen years. Maximum amount of loan is Rs. 40 lakhs in aggregate for all the employees' societies of any one employer and maximum loan per individual employee will not exceed Rs. 1 lakh.

Non Sanction of Foreign Exchange to Steel Authority of India Limited

7465. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have rejected further sanction of foreign exchange to the Steel Authority of India Limited for its additional import of steel items;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) further steps to be taken to tighten the foreign exchange expenditure in view of

difficult trade deficit?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The necessary foreign exchange for SAIL's requirement of imported steel items is released as per the relevant provisions of Import Export Policy after careful assessment of demand and domestic availability.

Revival of Policies by Central Zone of LIC

7466. DR. V. VENKATESH:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI SODE RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of policy-holders under the jurisdiction of Central Zone and various other offices of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) have been suffering badly due to refusal by these offices to revive their lapsed policies under the special revival campaign;

(b) whether the Central Zone of LIC has even sent back cheques of huge amounts to

those policy-holders who wished to have the benefit of revival of their insurance policies under the scheme of the LIC;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(d) the amount of cheques which have been refused to be accepted by the Central Zone of LIC;

(e) the reasons for discriminating the policy-holders under the special revival campaign; and

(f) whether the LIC propose to announce a fresh scheme for revival of lapsed policies so that more policy-holders could get their policies revived?

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

(c) to (e). Does not arise. A special campaign for revival of lapsed policies was organised by the Life Insurance Corporation of India from 1st December, 1988 to 31st March, 1989. The policy-holders were not refused revival of their lapsed policies, provided they had complied with the necessary requirements and the policy was otherwise eligible for revival.

(f) As the Life Insurance Corporation of India had only recently launched a special revival campaign from 1st December, 1988 to 28th February, 1989 which was further extended upto 31st March, 1989, it is not proposed to announce any fresh scheme to this effect for the present.

IMF Quota for Developing Countries

7467. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently

suggested the International Monetary Fund's Policy Setting Body to increase the quota for developing countries;

(b) whether the suggestions in this regard did not find favour from the concerned body;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total amount of IMF loan received by India during the past five years and amounts of repayments made, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The IMF Quotas are due for revision from April, 1988. The matter is still being discussed by the Executive Board of IMF.

(d) SDR 3900 million were borrowed from IMF under the Extended Fund Facility during the period November 1981 to April 1984. Out of this SDR 2070.85 million has been repaid till 31.3.89.

New Accounting System

7468. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the special features of the uniform accounting year which became effective on 31st March, 1989;

(b) the financial reforms ushered in by this new accounting system particularly in the sphere of banking, stock exchange markets, tax collection, joint stock companies and Government accounting; and

(c) whether any mechanism has been set up in his Ministry to monitor the functioning of this new system for sometime and plug any loopholes that might be noticed in actual practice in Government accounting and in

the public sector banks; undertakings and public limited companies, if so, what and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The special features of uniform accounting year, which has been introduced in the Income-tax Act by the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987, w.e.f. 1.4.1989 (i.e. assessment year 1989-90), are:-

- i) Financial year (year ending 31st March) will now be the accounting year for all the assessees;
- ii) Earlier, each assessee could have an accounting year of his choice as also different accounting years for different sources of income. This multiplicity in the matter of accounting years has been removed and for the assessment year 1989-90 and onwards, the accounting year of all the assessees and for all the sources of income will end on 31st March.

(b) The information actually desired by this part of the question is not very clear. In fact, no new accounting system as such has been introduced. The uniform accounting year has been introduced for the purposes of Income-tax Act only. The Government accounting is already being done on the financial year basis i.e., from 1st April to 31st March. Therefore, there is no question is ushering of any financial reforms.

The effect in the sphere of banking, stock exchange, and joint stock companies would be that henceforth all these sectors would have their accounting year ending on 31st March for income-tax purposes.

As far as Income-tax Department is concerned, the uniform accounting year is expected to result in the following advantages and reforms:-

- i) It would check tax avoidance resorted to by the assessees by adopting different accounting years for different sources of income and by changing their accounting years at their convenience and to their advantage.
- ii) It would facilitate cross verification of transactions among different assessees.
- iii) It would ensure that all the taxpayers of the same category are subjected to tax at the same time and at the same rates in respect of income earned during the same period.

(c) No. Sir. Since no new accounting system as such has been introduced in Government accounting or in other sectors, there is no need of setting up any mechanism to monitor its functioning.

Modernisation of Railways

7469. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether while addressing the first annual meeting of the apex working group of the Railways and the Confederation of Engineering Industries at New Delhi on 27 March, 1989, he called upon the private sector to play a greater role in the modernisation of the Railways; and

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has identified the spheres in which joint ventures are mooted and the role to be assigned to the private sector for the indigenous develop-

ment of railway equipment and technology and in production of items for the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During the meeting held on 27.3.1989, the role of indigenous engineering industry, including both public and private sectors, in the modernisation of the Railways was stressed.

(b) The areas for indigenous development of equipments and system envisaged in the Indian Railways' Technology Development Plan were discussed and both public and private enterprises were exhorted to assist and cooperate.

Appointment of Law Officers/Counsel

7470. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of persons have been appointed as Law Officers/Counsel for the Central Government of Madras in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the procedure adopted to them; and

(c) the details of these appointments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Law Officers are not appointed for the Central Government at Madras in Tamil Nadu. However, Senior Counsel, Senior Central Government Standing Counsel, Additional Central Government Standing Counsel for Central Government have been appointed in Madras High Court.

(b) Central Government Counsel are appointed by the Ministry of Law and Justice on the basis of their qualifications, experience/standing at the bar, their competence and integrity.

(c) I. Senior Counsel

1. Shri S. Govind Swaminadhan

2. Shri M.R. Narayanaswami

3. Shri R. Shanmugam

II. Senior Central Government Standing Counsel

1. Shri P. Narashimhan

III. Additional Central Government Standing Counsel

1. Shri T. Somasundaram

2. Shri S. Veeraragavan

3. Shri C. Krishnan

4. Shri N. Jothi

5. Shri R. Jamal Nazeem

6. Shri A.P. Surya Prakasam

7. Shri A.R. Nagarajan

8. Shri T. Srinivasamoorthi

9. Shri K.P. Sivasubramaniam.

World Bank report on Railway Projects

7471. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from the World Bank on Indian railways and on methods of disbursing the world bank loan for the projects of the Railways;

(b) whether the World Bank has sug-

gested withdrawal of some bottlenecks in the implementation of Railway projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are to be taken to expedite the completion of projects and to render back the loans quickly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). The World Bank aided projects are being closely monitored. The disbursements are progressing satisfactorily and there are no bottlenecks in implementation, removal of which may have been suggested by the World Bank.

Social Burdens for Railways

7472. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the social burdens borne by the Railways in the last two years;

(b) whether the railways have sought assistance from the General revenues of the Government against these social burdens borne by the Railways on lines of similar assistance in different countries of the World; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The relevant figures for 1986-87 and 1987-88 were Rs. 1311.23 crores and Rs. 1653.31 crores respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Percentage variation In Trade

7473. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the imports and exports during the last two Financial Years on the basis of quantities imported and exported; and

(b) what were percentages of changes in these imports and exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The aggregate figures of imports and exports are not compiled on the basis of quantities as the units of quantities are not uniform. However, in value terms India's exports during 1987-88 and April-February 1988-89 amounted to Rs. 15741 crores and Rs. 17876 crores respectively, which were higher by 26.4 percent and 28.2 percent as compared to the corresponding periods of previous years. Similarly, India's imports during 1987-88 and April-February 1988-89 amounted to Rs. 22399 crores and Rs. 25366 crores respectively, which were higher by 10.9 percent and 27.6 percent as compared to the corresponding periods of previous years.

Tea Board Expenditure

7474. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the expenditure of the Tea Board, including on staff salary, house rent and conveyance allowance and such other administrative expenditure during the last three years, year-wise and item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): Administrative Expenditure of Tea Board is as follows:-

Rs. in lakhs

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pay of Officers</i>	<i>Pay of Establishment allowance</i>	<i>House Rent and other</i>
1985-86	8.11	31.59	108.88
1986-87	9.05	59.17	96.51
1987-88	23.30	106.46	74.33
<i>Other charges, contingencies etc.</i>			<i>Total</i>
44.32			192.90
63.05			227.78
70.49			274.58

Request for more funds for Teesta Barrage Project of West Bengal

7475. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided by Union Government to the State of West Bengal for water resources development schemes during the last three years including current year, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have received any request from Government of West Bengal for sanctioning more funds for the Teesta Barrage Project in North Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the assistance will be provided and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Central assistance is given to the States in the form of block loans/grants and is not tied to any

sector of development or any individual project.

(b) to (d). Advance Plan assistance of Rs. 15 crores in 1986-87 and of Rs. 10 crores in 1987-88 was provided to the Teesta Barrage Project.

Special Duty Allowance to Central Government Employees in North Eastern Region

7476. SHRI R.P. DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from Regional Coordination Committee of Central Government Employees & Workers, North Eastern Region, Shillong expressing resentment of the Central Government Employees of North Eastern Region over non extension of benefit of Special (Duty) Allowance to them while the same is being extended to the Civilian staff of North Eastern Region having all India transfer liability.

(b) whether Government are taking

steps to remove this discriminatory treatment to large sections of Central Government employees of North Eastern Region; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c). Special (Duty) Allowance has been granted as an incentive for attracting and retaining the services of competent officers in the North Eastern Region. With a view of achieving this objective, it has been granted to all Central Government employees having all India transfer liability for serving in the North Eastern Region and the Island territories. As such, there is not discriminatory treatment towards any section of

employees serving in the North Eastern Region and the Island territories, in the payment of Special (Duty) Allowance.

Trade with U.S.

7477. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the trade between India and U.S. during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase the trade with the United States in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) According to statistics maintained by the DGCI&S, Calcutta, trade between India and USA during the last three years was estimated as follows:

(Value : Rs. crores)

Year	India's Exports	India's Imports	Total
1985-86	1994.48	2085.86	4080.34
1986-87	2357.26	1963.01	4320.27
1987-88	2906.24	2015.12	4921.36

(b) The major thrust sectors identified in the plan, prepared some time ago, for increasing exports to the USA are: Engineering products, Electronic products, including Computer Software, Chemicals, Leather & Leather products, Diamonds, Gems and Jewellery, Readymade Garments, Carpets and Durries, Marine products, Cashewnuts and Processed Foods. Emphasis has been laid on upgradation of quality of products and product-adaptation to meet the requirements of US consumers. The marketing and publicity programmes envisaged include Buyer-

seller meets, Participation in specialised and general fairs and Exhibitions, Departmental Store Promotion programme and exchanges of delegations.

Cancellation of Trains

7478. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains cancelled in each zone during 1988;

(b) the reasons for cancellation of these trains;

(c) the number of such trains out of them which have been restarted;

(d) whether Government have received representations in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to restart those trains?

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

French Technological Assistance

7479. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have since finalised their proposed Rs. 180 crore deal with France which envisages supply of 30 freight and 10 passenger locomotives; if so, who witnessed the trial run of these locomotives in France itself;

(b) whether the French Company Alstom has tied up with Siemens of West Germany for the contract; if so, what is the role assigned to the Siemens and the capital outlay involved;

(c) whether any Stations in India are proposed to be modernised with the French specialised know-how; if so, which are these stations selected for the purpose particularly on the Eastern Railway passing through West Bengal; and

(d) what is the new technology which the Indian Railways are taking from Japan for updating the Railway workshops and

which are these workshops on the Eastern Railway proposed to be modernised?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Modernisation of workshop at Jamalpur on Eastern Railway which undertakes overhaul of diesel locomotives, manufacturing activities like iron and steel castings, forging components and springs etc. is proposed to be taken up with Japanese financial and technical assistance.

Excise Duty by Colgate Palmolive (India) Ltd

7480. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited is evading the payment of Excise duty;

(b) if so, amount of such evasion and the modus operandi adopted by this multinational company; and

(c) the action taken against the company to realise the evaded duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No Show Cause Notice for evasion of Central Excise Duty has been issued to M/s. Colgate Palmolive (India) Ltd, in the recent past.

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

Generation of Black Money in Resale of Cars

7481. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the strategy evolved during the current year to bring to book tax-dodgers to unearth black money and to widen the tax net at the highest level;

(b) whether Government are aware that black money is generated in the resale of cars, particularly the Maruti; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to unearth black money/concealed income from the owners of cars like Maruti, Fiat etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Combating tax evasion is a continuous process. The Income-tax Department undertakes systematic survey operations, search and seizure operations in appropriate cases and in-depth scrutiny in selected cases for unearthing unaccounted income and wealth, which also serve as deterrents to other tax evaders.

The provisions of Section 133B of the Income-tax Act (introduced w.e.f. 13.5.1986) enable the Income tax authorities to collect information in a prescribed form from persons carrying on business or profession. The information so collected helps in identifying such persons who have taxable income but are not paying income-tax.

(b) and (c). Instances of generation of black money in the resale of cars, including Maruti cars, have come to notice. The Central Information Branches functioning under the Directors of Income-tax (Inv.) collect information relating to purchase and sale of

cars from Regional Transport Office and from dealers of cars. This information is then verified for detecting cases of unaccounted investment in purchase of cars or earning of premium on re-sale etc. Appropriate action is thereafter taken to bring unaccounted income to tax.

Excise Duty Evasion on Fireworks and Safety Matches

7482. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of Central Excise evasion on Fireworks and Safety Matches came to notice of Government from various manufacturers etc. in Tamil Nadu during 1988-89 and how do these compare with the evasion of Excise duty of the preceding three years; and

(b) the details of the evaders together with the action taken against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). During the year 1988-89, 86 cases of Central Excise duty evasion, in respect of fireworks and safety matches, were detected in the State of Tamil Nadu. The evasion involved in respect of these cases is approximately Rs. 5.02 lakhs. During the previous 3 years i.e. during the periods 1985-86, 86-87, 87-88, the number of such cases detected were 55, 49 & 48 involving duty evasion to the tune of Rs. 17,000, 10,000 and 56,000 respectively.

Most of the cases detected in the year 1988-89 are pending adjudication. While adjudicating these cases, the adjudicating authority will also decide upon the quantum of fine and penalty to be imposed in each case. Out of the cases already adjudicated, fine and penalty amounting to approx. Rs.

4,000 has since been recovered.

Rate of Interest on Loans

7483. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commonwealth General Secretary has pointed out that India's anti-poverty efforts have hampered due to the high interest rates at which repayments are made;

(b) whether he has also pointed out that there are no shortcomings in the programmes; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). No, Sir. No such statement has recently been made by the Commonwealth Secretary General.

(c) Does not arise.

Involvement of Women in Narcotics Smuggling

7484. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the involvement of women apart from men in narcotics smuggling is on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been made as to the causes for such trends; and

(d) the steps taken to dissuade the involvement of women from participating in such trades?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (d). No separate figures are maintained for the number of women found involved in drug smuggling. However, no trend of increased involvement of women in drug smuggling is discernible from the reports of drug seizures.

Government have taken a number of steps to check drug smuggling and abuse. Besides, the deterrent punishments that have been provided under the law, these steps include educative publicity about the harmful efforts of drug abuse aimed at dissuading people, whether men or women from indulgence in drug taking and involving the drug trade.

Investment In Tea Industry

7485. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether among all the industries in India, the tea industry earns the highest rate of interest on the capital invested;

(b) if so, whether this pre-eminence of the tea industry in the economy of Assam is reflected in the benefits derived by the local people of Assam; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). According to the survey of Finance of large Public Ltd Companies made by Reserve Bank of India in 1986-87 the profit after tax as percentage of networth for tea plantation is declining after

1984. As percentage of value of production, remuneration to employee in tea plantation was 33.1% in 1986-87 while it was 14.4% for cotton textile and 9.7% for sugar industry.

Tea Industry Infrastructure

7486. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps for improvement in the infrastructure of tea industry and trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). Tea Board provides financial and other assistance to all categories of tea growers in India for purposes of development of tea plantations and tea factories. Financial assistance extended so far for creation of infrastructure such as construction of tea factories and tea warehouses related to only small cooperatives of growers.

Rate of Inflation

7487. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the national average of rate of inflation in terms of Consumer Price Index for 1988;

(b) what are the figures for different States and Union Territories during the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the rate of inflation in terms of value of rupee during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The requisite information is given in the Statement below. It may, however, be pointed out that the CPI for Industrial Workers is not compiled for different states. It is compiled for important industrial centres—50 under the old series (1960=100) and 70 under the new series (1982=100). Information in the statement is given below for one (major) centre in each State. It may also be mentioned that the purchasing power of the rupee is calculated as the reciprocal of the CPI for the period. Thus, the All-India index of December, 1988 at 818 means that the purchasing power of the rupee was 12.22 paise in that month compared to 100 paise in 1960. The purchasing power of the rupee in different periods/centres can be similarly worked out.

STATEMENT

CPI For Industrial Workers
(base 1960=100)

Centre/State	Index				Annual Inflation Rate (Point to Point)			
	Dec. 1985	Dec. 1986	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1988	1986	1987	1988	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Hyderabad (A.P)	641	705	770	847	10.1	9.2	10.0	
Digboi (Assam)	604	664	724	803	10.0	9.0	10.9	
Jamshedpur (Bihar)	525	638	695	800	7.2	8.9	15.1	
Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	605	675	749	779	11.6	11.0	4.0	
Yamunanagar (Haryana)	622	683	783	863	9.8	14.6	10.2	
Srinagar (J & K)	648	734	818	897	13.3	11.4	9.7	
Bangalore (Karnataka)	694	744	826	900	7.2	11.0	9.0	
Alleppy (Kerala)	681	794	809	910	16.6	1.9	12.5	
Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	711	784	834	890	10.3	6.4	6.7	
Bombay (Maharashtra)	658	728	802	865	10.6	10.8	7.9	

Centre/State	Index				Annual Inflation Rate (Point to Point)			
	Dec. 1985	Dec. 1986	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1988	1986	1987	1988	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Sambalpur (Orissa)	634	701	731	801	10.6	4.3	9.6	
Amritsar (Punjab)	627	670	758	851	6.9	13.1	12.3	
Jaipur (Rajasthan)	662	674	780	848	1.8	15.7	8.7	
Madras (Tamil Nadu)	651	696	782	843	6.9	12.4	7.8	
Kanpur (U.P.)	625	676	746	802	8.2	10.4	7.6	
Calcutta (W. Bengal)	623	694	713	811	11.4	2.7	13.7	
U.T.								
Delhi	652	711	802	870	9.0	12.8	8.5	
ALL INDIA	630	688	752	818	9.2	9.3	8.8	

* W.e.f. October 1988 the new series of CPI has been introduced with 1922 base. The figures for December 1988 have been converted to 1950 base.

Compensation Claims for Property Left behind in Bangladesh

7488. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of claims of compensation received in response to Custodian of Enemy Property's public notice of May, 1971 for Indian owned property left behind in Bangladesh remain to be disposed off;

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

(c) whether there has not been fair deal to claimants; and

(d) the action being taken for expeditious disposal of claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). In response to notice dated 7.5.1971 issued by the Custodian of Enemy Property (CEP), 3944 claims were registered upto 15.7.1971 which was the terminal date for filing claims. These claims have mostly been settled.

In order to give adequate time to the claimants, the date for filing claims was extended thrice, i.e. 31st December, 1976, 30th April, 1977, and finally upto 31st July, 1977. As a result of this, more than 53,000 new claims were registered. A total of 57,493 claims were thus registered. Out of these, 29561 claim cases have so far been settled; in 20100 claim cases, the claimants have not filed complete information and therefore these are lying dormant. 7832 claim cases the remain are being processed.

(d) To expedite verification of claims, the position is reviewed from time to time and various steps are taken to dispose of pend-

ing claims.

Steps taken so far are:

- i) Increase of panel members from 8 to 18.
- ii) Shifting of payment office from Bombay to Calcutta.
- iii) Increase of honorarium to panel members.
- iv) Advertisements in Newspapers calling upon batches of claimants to submit documents.
- v) Provision of additional staff etc.

Production of Lac

7489. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Government agencies concerned with the production, sale and export of lac;

(b) the foreign exchange earned through export of lac during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for economic upliftment of lac producers by arranging soft loans for them and to guarantee remunerative price for lac?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The names of Govt. agencies concerned with lac are: Shellac Export Promotion Council under the Ministry of Commerce for export promotion; Directorate of Lac Development under Ministry of Environment & Forests for lac crop production and Indian Lac Research Institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research

for research purposes.

(b) The foreign exchange earned through export of lac during the last three years is as follows:-

1986-87	Rs. 25.77 Crores
1987-88	Rs. 16.61 Crores
1988-89 (Provisional)	Rs. 19.00 Crores

(c) The Shellac E.P.C. has distributed approximately 250 quintals of brood lac free of charge to needy growers over the last four years. Under the aegis of National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development a Study Group on lac has been set up to study the problems of lac trade with special emphasis on institutional finance, arranging soft loans and suggest measure for economic upliftment of the lac growers.

Revamping of MMTC

7490. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) proposes to change its policies and organisational set up keeping in view the increasing demands of export; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) With an emphasis on exports in general and non-canalised exports in particular, the MMTC has restructured its organisational set up. The entire non-canalised export activities of the Corporation have been brought under a single group.

[English]

Conversion of Hyderabad-Bangalore Railway Line

7491. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hyderabad-Bangalore direct line is proposed to be converted into broad gauge line;

(b) whether this line would reduce the distance between these two cities by 250 Kms especially for Karnataka Express which runs between Delhi and Bangalore; and

(c) if so, the steps taken for the conversion of this line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A BG line already exists between Bangalore and Guntakal. Surveys for a parallel BG line from Secunderabad to Guntakal are in progress.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No decision on its construction has been taken so far.

Conversion of Salem-Bangalore Railway Line

7492. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the conversion of Salem-Bangalore railway line; and

(b) by which time it would be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Survey for conversion of Salem-Bangalore line from MG to BG

had been carried out in 1982. As the project was found to be unremunerative, it was not approved. However, a decision has now been taken to up-date the survey report and re-assess the traffic prospectus.

CEI Plan to Increase Trade with EEC

7493. SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) has formulated an action plan to increase industrial cooperation and trade with the European Economic Community (EEC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been arrived at in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which the exports to EEC will increase during 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). The Government have not received any specific action plan or agreement from the Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) to increase industrial cooperation and trade with the European Economic Community (EEC).

(d) Exports to the EEC have been showing a growing trend. According to figures available with DGCI&S, exports to EEC, during the period April-December, 1988 were valued at Rs. 3355.10 crores as against Rs. 2721.63 crores during the corresponding

period of the preceding year. It is not possible to indicate at present the extent to which exports will increase during 1989-90.

Trade talks between India and U.S.

7494. SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Industry has asked Government to take up trade issues with US at a Government level talks between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether a committee has been set up to evolve a common approach in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent of improvement likely in the trade between the two countries in 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No such specific proposal has so far been received in the Ministry.

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

(e) two-way trade between the two countries has been showing a steady increase over the past few years, as seen from the following statistics maintained by the DGCI&S, Calcutta. This trend is expected to continue in 1989-90 also.

(Value: Rs. crores)

Year	Exports to US	Imports from US	Total
1986-87	2357.26	1963.01	4320.27
1987-88*	2906.24	2015.12	4921.36
1988-89* (April-Sept)	1759.16	1395.86	3155.02

* Provisional.

Collision of trains at Atamanda Station

7495. SHRI S.M. GURADDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 104 Dn. Kashipur-Kasganj passenger train collided with a stationery goods train at Atamanda Railway Station on North Eastern Railway on 22 January 1989;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) According to the Provisional Findings of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle, who inquired into this accident, this accident occurred due to the failure of railway staff.

Model Agreement on Transfer of Technology

7496. SHRI S.M. GURADDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a model agreement to facilitate transfer of technology has been drawn up by the Indian Council of Arbitration;

(b) if so, the features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action plan will be drawn up in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). The Indian Council of Arbitration has taken up formulation of a model agreement for drafting of technology transfer agreements as a part of a Research Project on Arbitration and Foreign Collaboration Agreements. The main features of the proposed model agreement would be to indicate common legal pitfalls during the performance of technology transfer agreements and to suggest model legal terms and conditions and arbitration clauses for use in drafting such contracts. The research study is expected to be completed by December, 1989.

[Translation]

Study on Agricultural Development of Eastern States

7497. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA:
SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some researchers of the Jawaharlal Nehru University and Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission have conducted a study about the agricultural development of Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether Government have received that study report;

(c) the conclusions arrived at in the said report; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The study concludes that there is a positive correlation between the levels of productivity and use of modern inputs like fertilisers, tractors and tubewells; there is more stability in output levels of districts with assured irrigation and an increasing number of districts have graduated to higher levels of productivity.

(d) Appropriate steps have already been taken, based on these findings such as launching the Special Rice Production Programme in the Eastern States, preparation of Action Plan for Agriculture and formulation of Agro-climatic Regional Planning Project. Further advantage will be taken for devising future strategies and programmes.

[English]

Powers and Functions of Central Excise and Customs Collectorate

7498. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an agitation in

Cochin regarding the overlapping of powers and functions of the Central Excise and Customs Collectors in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken to settle the issue;

(c) whether Government propose to have only the Collector for Customs and Central Excise in Kerala instead of the present two Collectors; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to restrict the functional and administrative powers of Customs Collector to Cochin Port area only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a), (b) and (d). The work relating to minor ports, Trivandrum Airport, Air Cargo Complex, Trivandrum, and anti-smuggling work in the State of Kerala outside the jurisdiction of Cochin Custom House was looked after by the Central Excise staff. The administrative control over the staff was vested with the Collector of Central Excise, Cochin, and functional control with the Collector of Customs, Cochin.

In order to do away with quality of control and to be in line with the policy generally followed in the rest of the country, it was recently decided that Collector of Customs, Cochin, would have jurisdiction over Cochin Custom House and Cochin Export Processing Zone, situated just outside the corporation limits of Cochin, and that the collector of central Excise, Cochin, would have functional as well as administrative control over customs and preventive work in the rest of the State of Kerala.

(c) No, Sir.

Pending Appeals before Appellate Tribunal

7499. DR. G. VJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 13 November 1987 to Unstarred Question No.1107 regarding cases pending before Appellate Tribunals and state:

(a) the number of appeals cleared, rejected and upheld out of the 26544 appeals which were pending before the various Benches of the Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal as on 30 September, 1987;

(b) the number of appeals filed after 1 October, 1987; and

(c) the total number of appeals pending indicating the total amount involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The number of appeals cleared, rejected and upheld out of 26,544 appeals pending before the various benches of the Customs, Excise & Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal as on 30.9.1987 is being collected.

(b) The number of appeals filed after 1.10.1987 till 31.3.1989 is 16,730.

(c) Number of appeals pending as on 31.3.1989 is 33,376. It is difficult to quantify the amount involved there in inasmuch as the appeals may relate to different issues like classification valuation, illicit removal, customs frauds, evasion of customs and excise duties, ITC violations, etc. Some of these appeals relating to classification and valuation matters may have a recurring effect in revenue.

World Bank Credit for Railways

7500. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested to give credit to the Indian Railways in time-bound tranches which will not be project-tied as at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction to the credit tranches and extra conditions that are imposed by the Bank;

(c) its repercussion on the Railways' modernisation and upgradation needs in terms of massive foreign exchange involved during 1989-90; and

(d) how does his Ministry propose to meet the situation thus created by the World Bank's loaning conditions and how do the Railways propose to speed up loan disbursement and utilize the assets created effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). There have been some preliminary discussions with the World Bank officials on the possibility of further Bank assistance in the Railways sector.

[Translation]

Loans advanced by State Bank of Indore to Sick Units

7501. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick units to which loans were provided by the State Bank of Indore during the last three years;

(b) whether the amount of the Bank outstanding against sick units has been increasing;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). State
Bank of Indore has reported the following
data in respect of Sick Units for the last 3
years:-

Amount in Rs. lakhs

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Units</i>	<i>Amount Outstanding</i>
1986	164	3397.46
1987	169	3964.98
1988	166	4494.55

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a major reason for the out-standings of banks in sick units having gone up is due to extension of assistance by way of holding on operation till the rehabilitation package is prepared. Further, under rehabilitation packages also, banks are expected to give additional working capital facilities.

RBI has already enjoined on banks to undertake viability studies and prepare nursing programmes of viable SSI Sick industrial units in a time bound manner. Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 too, has been taking action under the Act in respect of units coming within its jurisdiction.

Deposits of State Bank of Indore

7502. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposits with the State Bank of Indore as on 23 December, 1988, 31 December, 1988, 13 January, 1989 and 31 March, 1989, respectively;

(b) whether steep fall in deposits was

registered on these dates;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether inflated figures are shown by the Bank at the time of closing and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The aggregate
deposits of the State Bank of Indore as on
23.12.88, 30.12.88, 13.1.89, 31.3.89 are as
under:-

(Amount in Rs. crores)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Deposits</i>
23.12.1988	810.46
30.12.1988	824.96
13.1.1989	806.05
31.3.1989	848.21

Data provisional

(b) to (d). Some fluctuations in deposits is a normal phenomenon of banks business. The variations in deposits sometimes occur mainly due to Banking transactions such as credit of accrued interest, acceptance of short term deposits and withdrawals of large funds in the account by institutions in the months of January.

[English]

Superfast Train from Bokaro to Howrah

7503. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a superfast train from Bokaro to Howrah; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Cheap Justice to poor in High Courts

7504. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a petitioner has to spend at least Rs. 2000/- as lawyer's fee, court fee and typing expenditure etc. in order to file a writ petition in a High Court which a poor man

can hardly afford; and

(b) if so, the details of steps proposed to be taken by Government to provide cheap justice to the poor in High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The Law Commission in its 128th Report on 'Cost of Litigation' have made various recommendations including on court fee with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants. A copy of the Report has been forwarded to the State Governments for examination and necessary action to implement the suggestions of the Law Commission.

Speeding Up of Trains on Metre-Gauge Lines

7505. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of metre gauge trains in regard to which Government have taken a decision to run them at the speed of 100 kms. per hour;

(b) the details of the scheme prepared to attain the above speed; and

(c) the provision made for the scheme during 1989-90?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Railways are already running the following Metre Gauge trains at a maximum permissible speed of 90/100 km/h:-

Name of train	Section on which running at 90/100 km/h
1. Madras Egmore-Madurai Vaigai Express	Madras Egmore-Madurai

Name of train	Section on which running at 90/100 km/h
2. Madras Egmore-Tiruchchirappalli Pallavan Express.	Madras-Tiruchhirappalli Egmore
3. Delhi-Jaipur Pink City	Delhi-Jaipur
4. Delhi-Udaipur Garib Niwaz Express	Delhi-Ajmer
5. Delhi-Ahmedabad Ashram Express	Delhi-Ahmedabad
6. Delhi-Jodhpur Mandor Express	Delhi-Phulera
7. Jodhpur-Ahmedabad Surya Nagari Express	Ahmedabad-Marwar

Apart from these existing trains there is no proposal at present to increase the speed of Metre gauge train to 100 km/h.

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

[English]

Uncovered Budgetary Gap by State Governments

7506. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noticed a disturbing feature of the State budgets presented during the past couple of weeks that almost all these States have preferred the soft option of leaving their budgetary gap uncovered to reducing it by a modicum of Tax effort;

(b) the names of the States whose budgets do not contain any proposals for

raising additional resource mobilisation (ARM) in the face of a widening gap between expenditure and receipts;

(c) the estimated cumulative deficits of all the State budgets as analysed by his Ministry during 1989-90 after taking into account additional resource mobilisation during the year; and

(b) Government's reaction to the States leaving the budgetary gaps uncovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). A statement showing the budgetary position in respect of 16 States for which budget documents have been received so far, is given below.

(d) It is for the State Government to take steps to cover their budgetary deficits.

STATEMENT

Statement showing budgetary surplus/deficit and Additional Resource Mobilisation (ARM) of States as presented in their budgets for the year 1989-90

States	Surplus (+) Deficit (-) as presented in the State's Budget for 1989-90.	ARM as proposed by the States in their Budget 1989-90 speech	Surplus/Deficit of States after adjusting ARM
1	2	3	4
1. States which presented deficits in their budget for 1989-90.			
1. Arunachal Pradesh	(-) 184.43	N.I.	(-) 184.43
2. Bihar	(-) 145.56	49.49	(-) 96.07
3. Goa	(-) 43.11	2.06	(-) 41.05
4. Gujarat	(-) 248.10	68.50	(-) 179.60
5. Haryana	(-) 16.47	50.00	(+) 33.53
6. Jammu & Kashmir	(-) 97.49	3.87	(-) 93.62
7. Manipur	(-) 11.72	NI	(-) 11.72
8. Meghalaya	(-) 35.58	NI	(-) 35.58
9. Sikkim	(-) 14.21	NI	(-) 14.21

States	Surplus (+) Deficit (-) as presented in the State's Budget for 1989-90.	ARM as proposed by the States in their Budget 1989-90 speech	Surplus/Deficit of States after adjusting ARM
1	2	3	4
10. Tamil Nadu	(-) 149.68	50.00	(-) 99.68
11. Uttar Pradesh	(-) 57.77	Nil	(-) 57.77
Total			(-) 780.20

II. States which
presented
surplus in their
budget or balanced
budget for 1989-90.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1. Himachal Pradesh | 1.21 |
| 2. Rajasthan * | 48.79 |
| 3. West Bengal ** | 325.79 |
| 4. Orissa | — |
| 5. Punjab | — |

N.I. Amount Not indicated in the budget proposal

* In case of Rajasthan, the budget speech indicates an additional commitment of Rs. 104 crores

** In case of West Bengal the budget speech indicates an additional commitment of expenditure of Rs. 404.79 crores and ARM of Rs. 79 crores.

Confirmation of Sweepers as Attenders in Syndicate Bank.

7507. SHRI BHADRESWARTANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines of Government regarding confirmation of sweepers as attenders in the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, whether these guidelines are being implemented in the Syndicate Bank;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Government have advised all public sector banks, including Syndicate Bank, that 25% of the vacancies accruing in the grade of attenders/peons (in the sub-staff cadre) should be reserved for being filled by transfer of Sweepers, Farashes, Chowkidars etc. subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. Syndicate Bank has reported that it has been following the scheme with slight variations, and that it is modifying the same to fall in line with the Government guidelines on the subject.

Statutory Liquidity Ratio

7508. SHRI BHADRESWARTANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bank has paid any penalty to the Reserve Bank of India in 1987-88 and 1988-89 for not maintaining Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR);

(b) whether the erring officials were given any punishment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some of the banks were not able to maintain the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) as prescribed by RBI from time to time. Reserve Bank of India has further indicated that it would not be desirable to disclose the details of the workings of any individual bank, which failed to maintain the Statutory Liquidity Ratio or Cash Reserve Ratio.

Allotment on Stalls of Bombay Suburban Railway Stations

7509. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on all Bombay Suburban Railway Stations, tea-stalls are maintained on every platform;

(b) whether there is a fixed pattern of Suburban Railway to allow stalls on every platform; and

(c) the details of the system adopted for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The quantum of traffic dealt with and availability of space are the main considerations.

Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra Pending Clearance

7510. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received many major and medium irrigation projects from the Government of Maharashtra for clearance;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that a study group of Central Appraising Agency has suggested that the clearance should be given within a period of a year or two;

(d) if so, the reasons for not giving the clearance so far; and

(e) how many projects are likely to be cleared during 1989-90, project-wise and the cost involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) AND (b). 26 major and 46 medium irrigation projects located in 23 districts were received.

(c) The Study Group has suggested a revised procedure for appraisal at the Centre.

(d) and (e). Clearance of projects depends upon the settlement of outstanding issues and their inclusion in the Plan by the State Government.

Grant-In-Aid to Madhya Pradesh for Centrally Sponsored Schemes

7511. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the amount of grant-in-aid provided by Union Government to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for implementation of minor irrigation under centrally sponsored schemes in Madhya Pradesh during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): Administra-

tive approval of Rs. 375 lakhs as Central share has been issued for the construction of 25,000 shallow tubewells/dug-wells for 1989-90 under Special Foodgrains Production Programme. Central assistance is also being provided for minor irrigation schemes to States including Madhya Pradesh under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Social Welfare.

Aid From Denmark

7512. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Danish Government agreed to provide aid to India during the year 1989-90;

(b) if so, the total amount of aid for which agreement has been reached between the two countries and

(c) the projects that would be implemented with the above aid?

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

(b) While no formal agreement has been concluded between the two Governments, the annual aid projections are based on the annual disbursement ceiling indicated by the donor country. For 1989-90 Denmark has indicated disbursement ceiling of DKR 400 million (aprox. Rs. 80 crores).

(c) The major projects are: Optic Fibre, setting up of three new Tool Rooms, Area Health Projects in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, Rural Drinking Water Project in Orissa, Integrated Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and setting up of Wind Mill

Farms in coastal areas.

Action Plan to Contain Import

7513. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to make a three-point action plan to curb the continuing rise in imports so as to prevent further deterioration in the balance of payments situation in the country during the current financial year;

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

(c) how Government propose to implement the said plan and to what extent imports are likely to be curbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). To strengthen the Balance of Payments position, the effort is to minimise imports in general. In regard to import of components and industrial raw materials, a number of measures have been taken to curtail avoidable imports by close monitoring of Phased Manufacturing Programmes of production units and thereby accelerating the indigenisation process. Wherever feasible, tariff adjustments and linkage of imports to a unit's export performance will also have the impact of decreasing import demand.

Super Fast Trains between Delhi-Chandigarh, Howrah-Jamshedpur and Coochbehar-Howrah

7514. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to run super-fast train services between Delhi-Chandigarh, and Howrah-Jamshedpur;

(b) whether Government also have any proposal to run superfast trains between Coochbehar and Howrah;

(c) if so, by what time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). So far only Delhi - Chandigarh and Howrah - Tatanagar have been identified for running of superfast trains in future.

(d) Other sections will be identified after experience on the above sections.

Banking Facilities in Villages of Maharashtra

7515. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banking facilities exist in the villages of Maharashtra and if so, at what proximity;

(b) the gap that remains to be filled and by what time this will be done; and

(c) whether steps have been taken to ensure that the simple village folk is not exploited by touts and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The aim of current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 is to achieve a coverage of 17,000 population per bank office in the rural and semi-urban areas of each development block and

make available at least one bank office within a distance of 10 Kms. from every village. On the basis of list of identified centres received from the State Government, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had allotted 499 rural and semi-urban centres to banks for opening branches in Maharashtra as per the norms laid down in the Policy. Thereafter, with the adoption of Service Area Approach to rural lending, RBI has allotted 42 more rural centres in Maharashtra. RBI has reported that with the opening of branches at all the allotted centres, banking facilities are expected to be available to villages within a reasonable distance. The RBI has advised banks to open branches at allotted centres expeditiously.

Cases of Maintenance Pending In Bombay High Court

7516. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of maintenance pending in Bombay High Court;

(b) whether it is a fact that such cases at times take nearly seven/eight years to be settled; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to amend the present procedure to enable speedy trial of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Survey for Underground Water In Nagpur

7517. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have conducted a survey of underground water in the country;

(b) if so, whether any survey by the Central Team has been conducted in the Nagpur District of Maharashtra State;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the further action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Central Ground Water Board has carried out hydrogeological surveys over 7150 sq. km. area in Nagpur district. The annual replenishable ground water resource of Nagpur district has been provisionally estimated at 2110 million cubic metres.

(d) The Central Ground Water Board is carrying out exploration in Katol, Kamleshwar and Mahopa areas of Nagpur district to evaluate the possibility of obtaining ground water supplies from deeper aquifers.

[Translation]

Assistance to Railways Coach Factories at Bhopal and Raipur

7518. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received

assistance from Ministry of Industry for Railway Coach Factories in Bhopal and Raipur for the implementation of ancillary industry programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Seizure of Gold Biscuits at Madras Airport

7519. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs authorities at madras airport have seized gold biscuits from air passengers who had concealed the same in their hair as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 26th March, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of arrests made in this connection; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government against the persons involved in smuggling of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Officers of Madras Custom House searched 13 Sri Lankan nationals who had arrived at Madras airport from Colombo on 23rd March, 1989. The search led to the recovery and seizure of gold bars weighing 4.162 Kgs. worth Rs. 13.61 lakhs which had been concealed on their scalps. The gold bars had been rolled in black coloured sellotapes and pasted on

their scalps with the help of specially made glue. In addition, one of the passengers had also swallowed three gold balls weighing 180 grammes worth Rs. 58,000 approximately which were also recovered and seized. All the 13 passengers were arrested and remanded to judicial custody. Prosecutions have been launched against all the 13 persons in a Court of Law.

(c) The persons found to be involved in smuggling of gold are liable for penalty in departmental adjudications and are also liable to be prosecuted in Courts of Law. They are also liable to be detained under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

Restoration of Upper India Express Via Loop Link

7520. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Upper India Express between Delhi and Howrah via loop line has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether passengers on this route are facing much difficulty in the absence of this train;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to restore it; and

(e) if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The erstwhile Upper India Express is now run on the loop line as 33/34 Sealdah-Varanasi Express.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not found justified. Few through passengers can travel with a changeover at Patna/Mughalsarai/Bhagalpur.

High Power Committee for Safety of Dams

7521. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Power Committee of his Ministry has suggested recently that safety review of dams should be done by independent panel of experts every 10 years with special reference on dams which are more than 15 metres high or which store 50,000 acre feet of water or more;

(b) if so, whether this suggestion has been accepted by Government and the safety reviews of the dams undertaken;

(c) the names of the dams out of the dams constructed so far or under construction which are covered by the twin criteria of high and storage of water and the names of such among them for which the review has been ordered; and

(d) if not, whether the recommendations would be implemented and the number of dams for which a safety review would be undertaken within the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). The Government of India set up a Standing Committee in August 1982 to review the existing procedures and to evolve unified procedure of dam safety for all dams in India. In its report of July 1986, the Committee

inter-alia recommended that the States shall arrange safety review of dams which are more than 15 metres in height or which store 6165 ha. m (50,000 acre feet) or more of water by an independent panel of experts once in 10 years. This recommendation has been accepted by the Government of India and States have been advised to implement the same.

(c) and (d). The State Governments have identified about 2000 dams so far which would need a safety review. This review is to be carried out by the States/organisations who own the dams. The Government of India have reconstituted the Standing Committee as a National Committee on Dam Safety to monitor the implementation by the States of the recommendations of the Standing Committee as accepted by the Government of India.

Corporate Plan

7522. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 25 July, 1986 to the Unstarred Question No. 1014 regarding new railway line during next 20 years and state:

(a) whether any Corporate Plan for the period 1986-2000 outlining the Railway Programmes in various sectors has been chalked out and stands finalised in detail as on 31-3-1989;

(b) if so, whether the construction of 3,000 kms. of new railway lines covering all the zonal railways has also been decided upon and the details thereof, zone-wise; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which the Corporate Plan would be chalked out in detail with particular reference to the construction of new lines for each Zone?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIMAHABIR
PRASAD): (a) The Corporate Plan envis-
ages commissioning of 3000 km. of new

lines but does not give details of sections.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

During the first 4 Years of the VII Plan, a length of 637. 6 km. of New Lines were Commissioned on the Zonal Railways.

Besides, New line projects on hand as on 1.4.1989 are as follows:-

S.No.	Name of Project	Length (km)		Zonal Railway
		3	4	
1.	Satna-Rewa	50		Central
2.	Guna-Etawah	342		—do—
3.	Mathura-Alwar	120		—do—
4.	Lokshmi Kantapur Mathhura	47		Eastern
5.	Nangal Dam - Talwara and taking over Mukerian - Talwara siding	113		Northern
6.	Jammu Tawi-Udhampur	53		—do—
7.	Bhatinda Bye-pas	8		—do—
8.	Beas-Goindwal	27		—do—
9.	Rampur-New Malerani	84		North Eastern
10.	Bagaha-Chhitauni(Restoration)	20		—do—
11.	Dharmanagar-Kumarghat	33		North East Frontier

S.No.	Name of Project	Length (Km)		Zonal Railway
1	2	3	4	
12.	Balipara-Bhalukpong	35	—do—	
13.	Silcher-Jirongam	49	—do—	
14.	Jogighapa-Guwahati with rail-cum-road bridge cross Brahmaputra	143	—do—	
15.	Amguri-Tuli	15	—do—	
16.	Lalabazar-Bhairabi	48	—do—	
17.	Eklakhi-Balugnat	91	—do—	
18.	Guwahati-Burnihat	27	—do—	
19.	Trichur-Guvayur	24	Southern	
20.	Ernakulam-Alleppey	57	—do—	
21.	Alleppey-Kayankulam	43	—do—	
22.	Chitradurg-Rayadurg	100	—do—	
23.	Karur-Dindigul—Maniyachi—Tuticorin/Talaiyuthu	328	—do—	
24.	Mangalore-Udupi	69	—do—	

S.No.	Name of Project	Length (Km)	Zonal Railway
1	2	3	4
25.	Telapur-Patancheru	8	South Central
26.	Adilabad-Pimpalkutti	21	—do—
27.	Talcher-Sambalpur	172	Southern Eastern
28.	Howrah-Amta/Champadanga	74	—do—
29.	Tamluk-Digha	87	—do—
30.	Koraput-Rayagada	164	—do—
31.	Kapadvanj-Modasa	60	Western
32.	Kota-Chittaurgarh-Neemuch	222	—do—
33.	Godhra-Dahod-Indore and Dewas-Maksi	316	—do—
Total		3064	

Completion of On-Going Railway Projects

7523. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the on-going projects (New Railway Lines and conversions) have been targetted for completion/partial completion during the final year of the Seventh Five Year Plan (1989-90);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the remaining on-going projects would be completed during the first

half of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the cost of each one of the on-going projects to the taking up of any new projects in the final year of the Seventh Five Year Plan and first half of the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below

(c) and (d). The completion of the remaining on-going projects would depend on the availability of resources in the coming years.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Description of Work	Year of W.P	Length (km)	Approved/latest cost (Rs. crores)	Targetted for opening in 89-90 (in km)
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>New Lines</i>					
1.	Guna-Etawah	85-86	348	<u>158.77</u> 176.00	47
2.	Nangal Dam-Talwara	81-82	84 + 29	<u>33.49</u> 90.00	11
3.	Bhatinda Bye Pass	82-83	8	<u>2.96</u> 5.49	2
4.	Dharmanagar-Kumargaht	78-79	33	<u>29.50</u> 41.24	11
5.	Balipara-Bhalukpong	78-79	35	<u>9.47</u> 14.18	21
6.	Silchar-Jiribam	78-79	49	<u>12.13</u> 39.57	49
7.	Lalabazar-Bhairabi	78-79	48	<u>10.76</u> 36.18	18
8.	Eranakulam-Alleppey	79-80	57	<u>15.07</u> 60.92	57

S.No.	Description of Work	Year of W.P	Length (km)	Approved/latest cost (Rs. crores)	Targetted for opening in 89-90 (in km)
1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Talcher-Sambalpur	84-85	172	$\frac{57.97}{100.00}$	18
10.	Kota-Chittaurgarh-Nimach	80-81	222	$\frac{53.51}{135.00}$	64
				Total	298
	Gauge Conversions				
1.	Varanasi-Bhatni	77-78	161	$\frac{13.91}{70.75}$	71
2.	Guntur-Macherla	74-75	130	$\frac{8.15}{66.38}$	130
			Total		201

Warning Devices

7524. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 3 December, 1987 to Starred Question No. 403 regarding new level crossing device and state:

(a) whether the trial of an indigenously developed solar powered train actuated warning device to give audio visual warning to road users before negotiating level crossing has been completed in the case of the Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) whether it has been decided to introduce the system as a permanent measure for the level crossings in Northern Railway and the programme for introduction of this system?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The trials are not complete since the reliability of the equipment is still poor and there are many failures requiring modification in design of the equipment. Extended trials are to be carried out after necessary design modifications are carried out by the manufacturer.

(c) Permanent introduction of the system can be considered only after it is established that the design deficiencies have been overcome.

Utilisation of Krishna Water by States

7525. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given on 18 November, 1988 to unstarred Question No. 1322 regarding Allocation of water to States under Bachawat Award and State:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any representation to Union Government concerning Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra in regard to over utilisation of Krishna water allotted by the Bachawat Tribunal;

(b) if so, the quantum of water allocated to them under the Bachawat Award and the total quantity of Krishna water utilised by the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra at present; and

(c) whether Union Government are considering to appoint an independent central authority to look after the distribution of water among these States as per the Award?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). Under the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal's Award the allocated share of Maharashtra and Karnataka are 560 TMC and 700 TMC respectively. Against these, committed utilisations are about 519 TMC and 594 TMC.

(c) Views of the basin States in the matter are proposed to be ascertained.

Opening of Bank Branches in Uttar Pradesh

7526. SHRI RAJ KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the branches of the nationalised banks and the State Bank of India and its Associate Banks in Pauri, Chamoli, Tehri, Nainital and Almora districts of Uttar Pradesh, district-wise and bank-wise;

(c) the annual turn-over from transactions of these banks in these districts during the last three years, district-wise and year-wise;

(c) the new bank branches proposed to be opened in Pauri and Chamoli districts during 1989; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure fair and uniform banking network in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The bank wise information indicating number of their

branches functioning in Districts Almora, Chamoli, Nainital, Pauri Garhwal and Tehri Garhwal of Uttar Pradesh are indicated in the Statement below.

(b) Data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, the total deposits and advances of all scheduled commercial banks in the said districts during the year 1985, 1986 and 1987 were as follows:—

(Rs. in cores)

Name of Districts	1985		1986		1987	
	Deposits	Advances	Deposits	Advances	Deposits	Advances
Chamoli	15.18	3.24	17.74	3.28	24.89	4.03
Tehri Garhwal	23.27	7.73	33.10	8.16	46.35	9.66
Pauri Garhwal	47.47	10.36	62.58	11.59	78.45	13.91
Nainital	165.66	92.65	201.02	111.04	242.45	118.37
Almora	46.38	10.94	57.99	13.35	72.49	16.50

(c) and (d). The aim of current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 is to achieve a coverage of 17,000 population per bank office in the rural and semi-urban areas of each development block and to make available at least one bank office within a distance of 10 Kms. from every village. In the hilly and tribal areas which are sparsely populated, the population coverage norm is

relaxed from 17,000 to 12,000/ 10,000. Under the current Branch Licensing Policy and for implementation of Service Area Approach to rural lending RBI has allotted to Public Sector banks and Regional Rural Banks 16 rural and semi-urban centres in District Chamoli and 38 rural and semi-urban centres in District Pauri Garhwal.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of Bank	No. of Branches
1	2	3	4
1.	Almora	State Bank of India	29
		Bank of India	1

1	2	3	4
		Canara Bank	8
		Central Bank of India	2
		Punjab National Bank	2
		UCO Bank	5
		Oriental Bank of Commerce	2
		New Bank of India	1
2.	Chamoli	State Bank of India	25
		Punjab National Bank	1
		Punjab & Sind Bank	1
3.	Nainital	State Bank of India	32
		Allahabad Bank	5
		Bank of Baroda	26
		Central Bank of India	6
		Punjab National Bank	14
		Union Bank of India	2
		UCO Bank	5
		Punjab & Sind Bank	3
3.	Puri Garhwal	State Bank of India	37
		Bank of India	1
		Canara Bank	7
		Central Bank of India	1
		Punjab National Bank	8
		Punjab & Sind Bank	1

1	2	3	4
		New Bank of India	1
4.	Tehri Garhwal	State Bank of India	26
		Canara Bank	2
		Punjab National Bank	5
		Union Bank of India	8

Trade with Thailand

7527. SHRI H.A. DORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade between India and Thailand increased four-fold over the past three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). As per the DGCI & S figures India's exports to Thailand imports from Thailand and total trade between the two countries in the last three years has been as follows:

(in Rs. crores)

Year	Exports to Thailand	Imports from Thailand	Total Trade
1986-87	65.42	63.72	129.14
1987-88	81.61	63.89	145.50
1988-89* (Apr-Dec)	122.17	199.88	322.05

* Provisional

Trade with Pakistan

7528. SHRI H.A. DORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports from India to Pakistan had doubled during the last three months compared to the corresponding period last year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The country-wise export statistics for the period January-March, 1989 have not yet been compiled. It is, therefore, not possible to compare the exports during this period with the corresponding period of last year. Indian exports to Pakistan between April-December, 1988 were however, Rs. 26.13 cr. as compared to Rs. 20.12 cr. for the period April, 1987 to

March, 1988.

Brady Plan on Debt Relief

7529. SHRI H.A. DORA:
SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether India has taken the initiative at the IMF-World Bank meeting on 3 April, 1989 for widening the scope of Brady plan on debt relief to all the developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The Interim Committee of IMF at its meeting held at Washington on 3rd April, 1989 took note of the proposals made by several countries, including the one by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Mr. Brady, designed to strengthen the debt strategy and to place greater emphasis on debt service and debt reduction. At the meeting we stressed that to address the debt problem effectively we need to accelerate growth and investment through adequate resource transfer to developing countries on appropriate terms. We emphasised the need for adoption of objective criteria for assistance to member countries, and cautioned that adoption of any debt plan should not lead to diversion of resources from the normal operations by multilateral institutions. The Committee requested the Executive Board to consider the issues involved in these proposals.

Reservation Office at Jayanagar (Bangalore)

7530. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open first class railway reservation office at Jayanagar shopping complex in Bangalore for making reservations available to important places like New Delhi, Madras, Bombay and Hyderabad in the first instance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Upper class reservation facilities are available at Bangalore City and Bangalore Cantt. stations. Due to limited availability of accommodation, it is difficult to allot upper class quotas at Jayanagar.

Transportation of Milk From Bangalore to Calcutta

7531. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways transport milk from Bangalore to Calcutta once in week;

(b) if so, the quantity in litres transported in a week and the amount of transportation charges received;

(c) whether Karnataka Government has requested Railways to arrange transportation of milk two times in a week; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. 40,000 litres of Milk is being moved weekly. Rs. 23,000 is charged for each milk tanker.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No decision has been taken so far.

Railway Line Between ChamaraJanagar and Gundlupet

7532. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been undertaken to lay railway line between ChamaraJanagar and Gundlupet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is any such proposal to be implemented in near future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Conversion of Hubli-Sholapur Railway Line

7533. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey has been undertaken for conversion of railway line between Hubli and Sholapur;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with total cost to be incurred on the project; and

(c) the amount earmarked for this work for the financial year, 1989-90?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per survey done in 1983, the estimated cost of conversion of Sholapur-Hubli (357 km) from MG to BG was Rs. 73 crores. The project, being unremunerative, could not be approved for construction.

(c) Does not arise.

Additional Trains of New Delhi-Ahmednagar-Bombay Route

7534. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce more trains on the Central Railway between New Delhi and Bombay via Ahmednagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints. Moreover, the route via Ahmednagar will be longer by about 500 Kms.

Survey for Installation of Tubewells in Maharashtra by World Bank

7535. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of world Bank made a survey for installation of tubewells for irrigation purpose in Maharashtra and particularly Ahmednagar District;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the survey report and if so the

details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance to be given to the State Government of Maharashtra in this regard;

(d) the number of tubewells including deep tubewells to be provided in the State; and

(e) the total agricultural land expected to be irrigated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir.

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

Haulage of Trains by Electric Locomotives on Central and Western Zones.

7536. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI V. TULSIRAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains running on Western and Central zones that are hauled by steam, diesel and electric locomotives, zone-wise break-up;

(b) the number of local and passenger trains out of those that are hauled by electric locomotives;

(c) whether electric locomotives have been provided to haul the local and passenger trains running through this area if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which electric locomotives are likely to be provided to haul local and passenger trains as well as long distance trains of this area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIMAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The following pairs of Mail/Express/Passenger trains running on Central and Western Railways are hauled by Steam, Diesel and Electric locomotives:—

<i>Railway</i>	<i>Gauge</i>	<i>Steam</i>	<i>Diesel</i>	<i>Electric</i>	<i>Total</i>
Central	BG	59	85	72	216
Western	BG	31	26	46	103
	MG	90	42	—	132

(b) On Central Railway 18 pairs of passenger trains and on Western Railway 25 pairs of passenger/shuttle train are hauled by electric locomotives.

(c) On Central Railway electric locomotives have been provided for all the passenger trains on electrified sections. On Western Railway electric locomotives have been

provided for all the trains running entirely on electrified section except for Rajdhani Express. For Rajdhani Express, requisite type of electric locomotives are not yet available. Also 5 pairs of Mail/Express trains and 5 pairs of passenger trains which originate or terminate on non-electrified sections or are linked with them are not being hauled by electric locomotives. This is on account of operational convenience.

(d) Rajdhani Express on Western Railway is planned to be put on electric traction between New Delhi- Ratlam in 1989-90. Other passenger and Mail/Express trains will be considered for haulage by electric locomotives when it is operationally advantageous or when adjoining sections also get electrified.

Credit Cards to Farmers

7537. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the nationalised banks which are issuing credit cards to the farmers;

(b) the branches of nationalised banks in Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra which have started issuing propose to issue credit cards to the farmers; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to gave credit cards to each farmer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that, as per information available with them following banks have introduced credit card scheme for farmers: (1) Dena Bank, (2) Canara Bank, (3) Andhra Bank, (4) Punjab National Bank (5) Indian Overseas Bank, (6) Syndicate Bank and (7) Allahabad Bank. Ahmednagar District in Maharashtra has been covered by the schemes of Dena Bank and Canara Bank.

Circuit/Permanent Bench of High Court, Orissa

7538. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for establishing Circuit or a Permanent Bench of a High Court;

(b) whether State Government of has recommended to Union Government for the establishment of a Circuit/Permanent Bench of the Orissa High Court at Berhampur or some other places of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) A Circuit Bench may be established by the Chief Justice of the High Court with the approval of the State Government. A permanent Bench may be established by the Central Government after consultation with the State Government and the Chief Justice of the High Court.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Replacement of Wooden Sleepers by Concrete Sleepers

7539. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to replace wooden sleepers by concrete sleepers for the safeguard of fast running trains; and

(b) the Zone-wise estimated expenditure to be incurred on replacement of wooden sleepers by concrete sleepers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) There is no such proposal. The wooden sleepers along with other types of sleepers such as concrete and steel, are

considered suitable for fast running trains. However due to inadequate availability of wooden sleepers and relatively lesser service life, their replacement, as and when it becomes due on condition basis, is generally carried out by other types of sleepers.

(b) Does not arise.

Replacement of Steam Locomotives

7540. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steam locomotives replaced by diesel or electric locomotives on all the zones of the Indian Railways during last three years;

(b) the number of such locomotives, gauge-wise and zone-wise which have become Surplus;

(c) the details of such locomotives, that have either been exported or disposed of locally; and

(d) the estimated loss suffered by Railways as a result of lying idle of such locomotives?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The information is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) No locomotive has been exported. Local disposal year-wise has been as under:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of locomotives disposed</i>
1986-87	381
1987-88	669
1988-89 (Provisional)	553

(d) Nil.

STATEMENT

Number of Steam locomotives replaced by Diesel/ Electric locomotives and those become surplus Railway-wise during last three years

Railway	No. replaced with Diesel or Electric locos during:-			No. become surplus during											
	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1986-87			1987-88			1988-89					
				BG	MG	NG	Total	BG	MG	NG	Total	BG	MG	NG	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Central	21	104	136	21	—	—	21	93	—	11	104	125	—	11	135
Eastern	71	80	32	63	—	8	71	78	—	2	80	32	—	—	32
Northern	207	71	74	183	18	6	207	64	7	—	71	39	35	—	74
North Eastern	31	30	20	—	31	—	31	3	21	—	30	3	17	—	20
Northeast Frontier	13	20	63	14	4	—	18	5	15	—	29	19	44	—	63
Southern	21	94	51	—	19	2	21	—	94	—	94	—	51	—	51
South Central	114	21	122	61	53	—	114	6	15	—	21	79	43	—	122

Railway	No. replaced with Diesel or Electric locos during:-			No. become surplus during											
				1986-87				1987-88				1988-89			
	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	BG	MG	NG	Total	BG	MG	NG	Total	BG	MG	NG	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
South Eastern	75	48	30	57	—	18	75	20	—	28	48	29	—	1	30
Western	57	55	59	24	33	—	57	15	27	13	55	28	17	14	59
Total	615	523	587	423	158	34	615	284	185	54	523	354	207	26	587

Rail Transportation Facilities in A.P.

7541. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway transportation facilities in Andhra Pradesh are not adequate to meet the demands for the transportation of minerals and other produce out of the state; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Computer Centre by Bank of India at Varanasi

7542. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a computer has been set up by the Bank of India at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to have detailed and family-wise data on socio-economic conditions of residents of villages around Jaunpur, Varanasi, Ghazipur and Azamgarh;

(b) if so, the useful purpose expected to be served by collecting the data; and

(c) the details of the data collected in respect of villages coming under Jaunpur district?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise

Export of Betel Leaves

7543. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to take to include betel leaves in the export list;

(b) whether Government propose to constitute an Export Promotion Council for the betel leaves;

(c) the present position of export of betel leaves; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to increase export of betel leaves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) (a) to (d). Export of betel leaves is freely allowed. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce assists in the promotion of exports of various agricultural produce items including betel leaves. Export of betel leaves in the year 1987-88, for which latest figures are available, was of the order of Rs. 17 lakhs.

Booking of Betel Leave

7544. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the income of Railways out of freight charges for booking of betel leaves during the last one year;

(b) the income of Railways out of freight charges for betel leaves booked from West Bengal during the same period; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to arrange adequate booking of betel

leaves by the long distance fast trains in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Commodity-wise and State-wise statistics of earnings for parcel traffic are not maintained.

(c) Arrangements exist for booking and loading preferentially perishable traffic including betel leaves by Mail and Express trains. These are being augmented from time to time with the introduction of long distance Mail and Express trains.

Land Under Rubber Cultivation in Kerala

7544. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of land presently under rubber cultivation in Kerala;

(b) the land brought under rubber cultivation in Kerala during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of small and medium rubber cultivators in Kerala; and

(d) the details of the schemes being

implemented by Government to help small and medium cultivators in Kerala and the number of cultivators benefited under the scheme, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The area under rubber at the end of 1988 is provisionally estimated to be 3.60 lakh hectares.

(b) The estimated area brought under rubber cultivation in Kerala during the last three years has been as under:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Area (Provisional)</i>
1986-87	12,000 Hectares.
1987-88	11,000 Hectares.
1988-89	9,000 Hectares.

(c) The number of small and medium rubber cultivators in Kerala is estimated as 3.6 lakhs.

(d) Rubber Board is implementing various schemes for the benefit of small and medium rubber cultivators. Schemes operated by the Rubber Board for this purpose include:—

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Approximate No. of small and medium grower benefitted</i>
1.	Encouraging and Assisting New Planting and Replanting under 'Rubber Plantation Development Scheme.	1,45,000
2.	Production and Distribution of High Yielding varieties of planting material.	1,800
3.	Subsidised supply of sheeting rollers.	644
4.	Subsidy for construction of smoke houses.	240

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Approximate No. of small and medium grower benefitted</i>
5.	Popularising Irrigation	440
6.	Special Component Plant and Tribal Sub-plan.	200
7.	Popularising scientific cultivation and production which includes:—	
	a) Advisory visits	5,200
	b) Training in Tapping	1,100
	c) Demonstration in Tapping	11,000
	d) Soil and Leaf Analysis	10,000
	e) Distribution of Sprayers/Sprayer-Cum-Dusters Supplied to 6 Rubber Growers and 39 Growers Societies.	
	f) Distribution of rain-guarding materials.	7,800

Vamanapuram Irrigation Project of Kerala

7546. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has approved the project report of Vamanapuram Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof;

(c) whether the Kerala Government has requested for any financial assistance for implementation of the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the estimated cost of the project;

(f) the details of expenditure incurred so

far and the present stage of the work;

(g) how much land it is expected to irrigate; and

(h) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). The project was approved by the Planning Commission in December, 1982.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Rs. 36,40 crores.

(f) The project is in the initial states of construction. An expenditure of Rs. 1.87

crores was incurred upto March, 1988.

(g) About 18 thousand hectares annually.

(h) 1994-95.

Bench of Kerala High Court in Trivandrum

7547. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for establishing a bench of Kerala High Court in Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala.

[Translation]

Working Group on Export of Apple

7548. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has constituted a working group to explore the possibilities of export of apples;

(b) whether any annual target for export of apples has been fixed; and

(c) if so, the figures thereof, the name of

the countries to whom the export is proposed to be made and the share of Uttar Pradesh therein?

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

(b) and (c). No annual target for export of apples has been fixed. However, Govt. has taken a number of steps for increasing export of fruits including apples such as freely allowing their export, grant of Cash Compensatory Support and import replenishment, exploration of new markets etc.

Manning of Unmanned Level Crossings in U.P.

7549. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway crossings under zonal Railways in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is proposed to convert some of them into manned crossing during 1989-90; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) 2694 numbers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 7 unmanned level crossings are likely to be manned.

Sanction of Posts of Officers for Hindi work

7550. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received

proposals from various Ministries and departments for sanction of posts of officers for Hindi under the Official Languages Act and for financial approval;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals received since 1984 till date;

(c) the number of proposals that have since been approved and the number of proposals pending approval; and

(d) the number of such proposals rejected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (d). According to the guidelines for creation of fresh posts in force prior to 8.6.88, statutory posts e.g. posts required for Implementation of Official Language Policy could be created with the approval of Finance Minister. However, w.e.f. 8.6.88 Secretaries incharge of administrative Ministries/Departments were delegated powers to create Hindi posts, in consultation with their Financial Advisers, as per the prescribed norms. A reference to the Ministry of Finance is no longer necessary in the matter. Detailed records of proposals received by the Ministry of Finance for creation of various posts including posts required for Implementation of Official Language Policy are not being maintained in this Ministry.

Evaluation of World Bank Assisted River Valley Projects of U.P.

7551. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some river valley water conservation projects are being constructed with the help of the World Bank in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether these schemes are being evaluated from time to time; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the evaluation done so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). A Himalayan Watershed Management Project is being implemented in Uttar Pradesh with World Bank assistance. The Project envisages periodic evaluation studies which is being carried out by the Uttar Pradesh Development systems Corporation (UPDESCO). The bench mark surveys of all the Watersheds have been completed and the first evaluation report in respect of two Watersheds namely, Srinagar and Machad has been completed. As a result of the evaluation, the project programme has been modified and is now concentrated in a selected mini watershed instead of scattered areas.

[English]

Introduction of Service Area Scheme in Vaishali district in Bihar

7552. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Service Area Scheme for rural credit has been introduced in the Vaishali district in Bihar by the lead bank for the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey of credit requirements of the area has been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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

(b) to (e). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that in District Vaishali 95 bank branches have been allocated 1560 villages under Service Area Approach and all 1560 villages have been surveyed for credit requirements. Credit plans for villages have been prepared by all the 95 branches of banks.

Turnover of STC

7553. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proportion of exports to imports in the State Trading Corporation's annual turnover has improved between 1980 and 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). No, Sir, The ratio of State Trading Corporation's exports turnover to imports turnover declined from 36% in 1980-81 to 26% in 1988-89.

(c) The Corporation's imports primarily consist of items canalised by the Government through it. The quantum of such imports is decided depending upon the requirement and indigenous availability of the items concerned. As the quantum of such canalised imports increased consistently, the ratio of exports to imports declined.

CCS on Electronic Items

7554. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cash Compensatory Support Scheme (CCS) has been withdrawn from several electronic items being exported; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Channellisation of NRI Subscription to USA's Pension Fund Accounts to India

7555. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that many Non-Resident Indian (NRSI) staying in the United States of America subscribe to different pension fund accounts being operated in that country;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to channelise such pension fund investments by the non-resident Indians to India;

(c) if so, steps being taken in this regard and the details of the scheme; if any formulated for the purpose; and

(d) whether such investment will be free from Income Tax?

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

(b) and (c) Investment of these funds is permitted in Non-Resident (external)/Foreign Currency Non-Resident Accounts in India, provided the banks ensure that rules/

regulations governing the pension funds are complied with.

(d) Tax exemption under Section 10 (4) (ii) of the Income Tax Act is being extended to these funds of NRI's in USA, when invested in FCNR/NRE Accounts, provided the real investors in these pension funds are clearly identified as individual non-resident Indians by the authorised dealers who will be accepting the deposits.

Assistance by Banks for Foodgrain and Oil Seeds Production

7556. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banking institutions have taken special interest in giving financial assistance for special foodgrain production programme and oil seeds production under the technology mission during 1988-89;

(b) if so, the amount of money given by the way of loans, etc. for the purpose by the

(Data Provisional)

nationalised banks, State-wise; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries under the schemes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that banks were advised to extend sufficient credit to farmers for achieving the targets fixed under Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) during the year 1988-89. As regards oilseeds production though no specific year-wise targets were fixed, but banks were advised to launch a special drive to step up the flow of credit for oilseeds production. Further, RBI has authorised a credit limit of Rs. 100 crores to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for procurement of oilseeds, through a consortium of 36% commercial banks and 6 State Cooperative Banks.

(b) The State-wise disbursement by the commercial banks during 1988-89 under SFPP as reported by RBI is given as under.

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Cumulative Disbursement	
	As on	Amount
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	December, 1988	3788.82
Assam	December, 1988	38.19
Bihar	February, 1989	2635.73
Gujarat	December, 1988	945 00
Haryana	December, 1988	1185.12
Karnataka	October, 1988	1244.83
Madhya Pradesh	September, 1988	2134.00

1	2	3
Maharashtra	December, 1989	848.00
Orissa	August, 1988	747.51
Punjab	January, 1989	907.45
Rajasthan	February, 1989	1374.26
Tamil Nadu	February, 1989	4836.56
Uttar Pradesh	December, 1988	5077.37
West Bengal	January, 1989	1488.92

Reserve Bank of India has reported that present data reporting system does not generate information regarding disbursement by banks for oilseeds production. RBI has also advised that out of the credit limit Rs. 100 crores authorised to the National Dairy Development Board, the share of commercial banks is Rs. 70 crores and the aggregate share of State Cooperative Banks in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal has been fixed at Rs. 30 crores. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has also indicated that credit limits aggregating Rs. 117 crores have been sanctioned by State Cooperative Banks to State Level Oilseeds Growers' Federations established under National Dairy Development Board's oilseeds projects for the purpose of procurement of oilseeds.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the present data reporting system does not generate information relating to State-wise number of beneficiaries.

Loans Advanced by State Bank of Travancore to Agricultural Sector in Kerala

7557. SHRIVAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money advanced by the State Bank of Travancore to the agricultural sector in Kerala during the year 1988-89;

(b) the total number of beneficiaries of the agricultural loans advanced by the Bank in the State; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose for 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). State Bank of Travancore has reported that its outstanding agricultural advances as on 31.3.1989 were Rs. 171.16 crores involving 436 lakh borrowal accounts.

(c) That Bank has further reported that the amount earmarked for providing credit facilities to the Agricultural Sector in the State during the year 1989-90 is Rs. 110 crores.

IDBI Assistance to Industrial Units in Kerala

7558. SHRIVAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money given as financial assistance to industrial units in Kerala by the Industrial Development Bank of India during 1988-89;

(b) the industrial units which were given the assistance and the amount of money given to each unit; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose for 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALIERO): (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it had during the period July 1988 to March 1989 sanctioned direct financial assistance of Rs. 21.59 crores to 16 Industrial Units in Kerala.

(b) In accordance with the provisions of the IDBI Act, and practice and usage customary amongst bankers, details of accounts of individual constituents are not to be disclosed.

(c) IDBI supports entrepreneurs for setting up projects in any State under its various schemes of assistance on consideration of financial viability, technical feasibility, management capability and other relevant factors. It is not the practice of IDBI to fix any financial or other limits in regard to assistance to any particular State.

Compensation paid to Displaced Persons by Narmada Valley Development Project

7559. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons likely to be displaced due to Narmada Valley Develop-

ment Project, State-wise;

(b) the type of compensation Government propose to provide to the displaced persons; and

(c) whether Government have ensured that compensation is sufficient to rehabilitate them and is according to their life-style and income pattern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) State-wise details of persons that are likely to be displaced by Narmada Sagar and Sardar Sarovar Projects are as under:-

Madhya Pradesh	131572
Maharashtra	11082
Gujarat	10593
	1,53,247

(b) and (c). In addition to the compensation under the Land Acquisition Act, adequate rehabilitation facilities as per norms are being provided for their resettlement.

World Bank Assistance for Water Supply and Sewerage Projects

7560: SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States and Central Government departments that have entered into agreement with the World Bank to complete the works for water supply and sewerage projects during the last four years;

(b) whether these agreements have been implemented;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount to be spent with the World bank assistance for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Details of the assistance committed by the World Bank for projects in the water supply sector, including Urban development projects which include investments in water supply and sanitation during the last four years are indicated below:

(in \$ Million)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Amount of Assistance</i>	<i>Date of Agreement</i>
1985-86	Kerala Water Supply & Sanitation	Kerala	41.0	24.9.85
1986-87	Gujarat Urban Development	Gujarat	62.0	15.4.86
1987-88	Third Bombay Water Supply & Sewerage	Maharashtra	185.0	12.5.87
	Madras Water Supply & Sewerage	Tamil Nadu	69.0	21.12.87
	U.P. Urban Development	Uttar Pradesh	150.0	21.12.87
1988-89	T.N. Urban Development	Tamil Nadu	300.2	16.9.88

These projects are currently under implementation, and are scheduled to be completed over periods extending upto nine years from the date of agreement.

Staff in MPEDA

7561. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Staff strength of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA);

(b) whether any post has been created in MPEDA without the sanction of Government; and

(c) if so, the number of such posts and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). The Staff Strength of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is 473. These posts were created with the sanction of the Government or by the MPEDA within their own powers as per the provisions of MPEDA Act, 1972.

Recovery of Excise Duties from Textile Firms

7562. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Excise duty pending realisation from the textile firms;

(b) since when the textile firms have not paid the Excise duty;

(c) the number of textile mills on which the Excise duty is due have been closed down;

(d) the steps being taken to realise the Excise duty from those mills; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to collect the Excise duty from textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Rs. 160 crores approximately.

(b) On different dates from 1964.

(c) About 112.

(d) and (e). Legal, administrative and other steps as are considered necessary from time to time continue to be taken to realise the excise duties.

[Translation]

Steamer service in Ganga in Bihar

7563. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places on the banks of the river Ganga in Bihar where steamer service has been provided by the Railways;

(b) whether the steamer services

between Bhagalpur and Mahadevpur Ghat and between Monghyr and Monghyr Ghat have been suspended for the last many days; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No steamer service is being operated by the Railways on the banks of Ganga in Bihar at present.

(b) and (c). Steamer service between Bararighat (Bhagalpur) and Mahadeopur Ghat have been withdraw with effect from 8.7.1986 on account of heavy losses due to lack of through traffic, high cost of maintenance of the old vessels, vessels becoming unsafe for operation and availability of quick and convenient road transport. No steamer service was being operated by the Railways between Monghyr and Monghyr Ghat.

Safety of bridges on Sahrasi Manasi section

7564. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all rail bridges situated between Sahrasi and Manasi are in safe condition; and

(b) the year in which the last inspection of the bridges situated between these two stations was carried out?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the bridges in this section were last inspected between November '88 and February '89.

[English]

Trains Via Malabar Region

7565. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a special train to Mangalore from Delhi or any other Northern State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Kerala Request on Import of Rubber

7566. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested Union Government to reverse its decision to import rubber;

(b) the reasons put forth by the Government of Kerala to substantiate request; and

(c) the Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The Union Government has received a reference from the Kerala Government regarding stoppage of import of rubber.

(b) and (c). The reasons put forth by the Kerala Government are that it will cause a fall in the price of rubber thereby adversely affecting the rubber cultivators. The endeavour of the Government has always been to import only as much quantities of rubber as

would be just sufficient to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

Junior Scale and Group 'A' Officers

7567. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Junior Scale posts of Officers on Indian Railways department-wise as on 31 March, 1989;

(b) the total number of Group 'A' officers department-wise working against these posts as on 31 March, 1989; and

(c) the total number of vacancies as on 31 March, 1989?

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

Opening of Bank Branches In Rajasthan

7568. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any Block Headquarters in Rajasthan which do not have the branches of their respective district lead banks; and

(b) if so, the names thereof, district-wise and the likely date by which such Block Headquarters would be provided with a branch of the nationalised bank functioning as the lead bank of the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve

Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there are 92 Block Headquarters in Rajasthan where lead banks of respective districts do not have their branches. Districtwise names of Block Headquarters are given in the state-

ment below. RBI has further reported that the presence of a lead bank branch at Block Headquarters is not a pre-requisite for the banks to discharge lead responsibility.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of District</i>	<i>Name of the Block (*)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1.	Ajmer	1. Srinagar
2.	Alwar	2. Umrain
		3. Ramgarh
		4. Kishangarhbas
		5. Tijara
		6. Behnor
		7. Neemrana
		8. Mandawar
		9. Kotkasim
		10. Bansur
		11. Thanagazi
		12. Laxmangarh
		13. Kathumar
		14. Rajgarh
		15. Rani
3.	Banswara	16. Bagidora
		17. Kushalgarh
4.	Bharatpur	18. Weir

1	2	3
		19. Roopbas
		20. Sewan
5.	Bhilwara	21. Asind
		22. Banera
		23. Hurda
		24. Kotri
		25. Mandal
6.	Bundi	26. Hindoli
		27. Keshoraipatan
7.	Chittorgarh	28. Bari Sadri
		29. Bhadesar
		30. Bhopalsagar
		31. Chhoti Sadri
		32. Dungla
		33. Rashmi
8.	Dholpur	34. Baseri
		35. Rajakhera
9.	Dungarpur	36. Aspur
10.	Sriganganagar	37. Suratgarh
		38. Sadulshahar
		39. Bhadra
		40. Anupgarh
		41. Padampur

1	2	3
		42. Karanpur
11.	Jaisalmer	43. Sam
		44. Sankera
12.	Jaipur	45. Amber
		46. Bassi
		47. Jamwa Ramgarh
		48. Govindgarh
		49. Phagi
		50. Jhotwara
		51. Sanganer
		52. Sikrai
		53. Sambhar
		54. Viratnagar
13.	Jhalawar	55. Khanpur
		56. Dug
		57. Pirawa
14.	Jhunjhunu	58. Buhana
		59. Khetri
		60. Surajgarh
		61. Udaipurwati
15.	Jodhpur	62. Shergarh
		63. Osian
		64. Luni

1	2	3
		65. Bilara
16.	Kota	66. Chhabra
		67. Itawa
		68. Kishanganj
		69. Sangod
		70. Shahbad
		71. Ladpura
17.	Nagaur	72. Degana
		73. Jayal
		74. Mundwa
		75. Parbatsar
		76. Riyanbari
18.	Pali	77. Rani
19.	Sikar	78. Dhod
		79. Danta Ranagarh
		80. Khandela
		81. Laxmangarh
20.	Tonk	82. Todaraisingh
		83. Oniara
21.	Sawai Madhopur	84. Sapotra
		85. Khandar
		86. Madoti
		87. Bamanwas

1	2	3
		88. Sawai Madhopur
		89. Todai Bhim
22.	Udaipur	90. Girwa
		91. Jhadol
		92. Kotra

*In a few cases it is likely that name of the block and Head quarter may differ.

Survey for Installation of Tubewells in Rajasthan by World Bank

7569. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank, Rajasthan Government or any central agency have conducted any survey for the installation of tubewells for irrigation and Drinking water in Rajasthan including desert areas especially Barmer, Jaisalmar, Jodhpur, Jalore Sirohi and Nagaur Districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to table the project reports in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAH): (a) and (b). The Central Ground Water Board has carried out detailed ground water surveys and exploratory drilling in Rajasthan including the desert area. Ground water surveys have been completed in the State.

(b) The reports on the investigations carried out by the Central Ground Water Board have been sent to the State Government for follow up action.

Departmental Promotion Channels in Nationalised Banks

7570. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether each nationalised bank has its own rules for promotional channels;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to coordinate and have uniform sets of rules for the departmental promotions and transfers from one bank to another;

(c) whether there have been no departmental promotions in most of the nationalised banks for the last several years, particularly in the State Bank of India from clerical grade to officers' grade; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Promotion of officers in nationalised banks are made in accordance with the policy laid down by the banks keeping in view the Government guidelines issued under Officers' Service Regulations, which are uniformly applicable to all such banks. Promotions from clerical cadre to officer cadre and

from subordinate cadre to clerical cadre are governed by bank level understandings/settlements between the management and the unions. Inter-bank transfers as such do not take place.

(c) and (d). As per the information made available by nationalised banks, they are generally conducting their exercise for promotion from clerical to officer cadre regularly depending upon the vacancies and requirements. State Bank of India has reported that promotion exercise, under seniority-cum-merit channel has been conducted by the circles except where the Bank was prevented by Court orders. The written tests and interviews for 1988 etc. have also been conducted on all-India basis for the promotion under the merit channel.

Trade Ties with Egypt

7571. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the various fields in which Indo-Egypt trade has been established and since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): India's trade with Egypt is governed by two agreements viz. the trade agreement of 1977 which replaces the earlier agreement of 1953 and the tripartite agreement between India, Yugoslavia and Egypt of 1967, which has been extended from time to time and is currently valid upto 31/3/93. The fields of cooperation include trade, joint ventures etc. In the field of trade, India's exports include not only traditional items like tea, spices, tobacco, jute goods but also engineering items like diesel engines, cutting tools, mechanical pumps, railway track material etc. Our main item of import from Egypt has been oil. Joint Ventures in the fields of management of hotels and tea blending and packaging are already in existence.

Introduction of Computers in High Courts

7572. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for introduction of Computers in High Courts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The State Governments have been advised to examine, in consultation with the High Courts, the feasibility of installing computers in High Courts to facilitate quicker disposal of cases.

Proposal Submitted for Japanese Assistance

7573. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have submitted various proposals for Japanese assistance for implementation and consideration;

(b) the details of such proposals submitted in 1989 to Japanese Government;

(c) the approximate value of each of these proposals;

(d) whether any of the above mentioned proposals has been earmarked for Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). Government of India have not yet formally furnished project details to Government of Japan for assistance during 1989-90.

Local Train between Sambalpur and Jharsuguda

7574. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand to run a local train between Sambalpur and Jharsuguda under S.E. Railway in the evening; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently not found feasible due to constraints.

Shifting of H.Q. of S.E. Railway

7575. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to shift the Head Quarters of South Eastern Railway from Calcutta to Sambalpur;

(b) if so, the date on which the same is likely to be shifted to Sambalpur; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

Extension of Central Taxation Acts to Sikkim

7576. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is demand for postponement of extension of Central taxation laws to Sikkim by another ten years;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government to this demand?

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

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

Fake SC/ST Employees In Central Bank of India

7577. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe employees respectively, zone-wise and cadre-wise, awaiting confirmation of their services in the Central Bank of India as on 31st March, 1989 with reasons therefor;

(b) the number of fake SC/ST cases respectively got detected, zone-wise, cadre-wise and category-wise in the Central Bank of India during 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989 (upto 31st March) and the specific action taken in each case; and

(c) whether criminal case is required to be filed by the Bank even after dismissal/ discharge of the fake SC/ST employee, if so, zone-wise, cadre-wise and category-wise, number of such cases detected during the above period in which no criminal proce-

dure/FIR etc., has been initiated so far by the Central Bank of India with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The information is being collected and to the extent available,

will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Details of the number of fake Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe cases detected and the action taken thereon during the period 1986 to 31.3.1989, cadrewise and Zonewise, as reported by Central Bank of India, are as under:—

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Clerical</i>	<i>Sub Staff</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1986				
Agra	—	1	—	Transferred to General category as there was no concealment of facts
Chandigarh	—	1	—	Discharged after departmental enquiry
Lucknow	1	—	—	Departmental enquiry is in programme.
Madras	2	6	—	Departmental enquiry kept in abeyance on account of stay grant by courts.
Other Zones	—	—	—	—
1987				
Madras	—	1	—	Departmental enquiry kept in abeyance on account of stay grant by courts.
Other Zones	—	—	—	—
1988 and 1989 (Upto 31.3.1989)				
All Zones	—	—	—	—

(c) The bank has reported that so far it has not filed any criminal case against any of

the persons involved in the above cases.

SC/ST Representative for Negotiating Promotion/Transfer Policy in Banks

7578. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks have been directed by Government to include atleast one Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe representative while negotiating with the Trade Unions on promotion, transfer policy etc., if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such SC/ST representative is to be sponsored/recommended by SC/ST Employees' organisations or Trade Unions;

(c) if the representative is recommended by Trade Unions, the reasons therefor and the steps to be taken to safeguard service interests of SCs/STs;

(d) whether liaison Officer even belonging to other than SC/ST category can be associated if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Central Bank of India is including SC/ST representative respectively in negotiations for award staff and officers' promotion, transfer policy; and

(f) if so, at whose recommendation and if not, the number of occasions with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (f). The Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in its 37th Report on the Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Syndicate Bank, recommended that while negotiating fresh agreements regarding promotions etc., with the Employees' Unions, a representative of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes should be associ-

ated so as to safeguard the interests of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees. This recommendation of the Committee was accepted in principle and all public sector banks including Central Bank of India, were advised to ensure that while negotiating fresh agreement with the Unions, endeavour should be made to associate either a member belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities or in his absence the Liaison Officer for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe with the negotiating team constituted by the bank.

Central Bank of India has reported that it includes the Liaison Officer for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the bank with the negotiating team constituted by the bank on all occasions when the negotiations take place for award staff, and officers promotion/transfer policy.

Joint Ventures with Zambia

7579. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Zambia has invited Indian businessmen to start joint ventures in that country;

(b) if so, the response of Indian businessmen thereto;

(c) the details of the joint ventures proposed to be started in that country; and

(d) the steps taken to improve trade ties with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) A Zambian delegation of businessmen which visited India recently evinced interest in Indian collaboration in certain areas.

(b) and (c). No proposal for setting up joint ventures in Zambia has been received by the Government so far.

(c) Usual trade promotion measures like exchange of visits, identifying areas of economic cooperation etc. are being taken.

Increase in Salaries of Employees of Public Sector Banks

7580. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised the salaries of the employees of the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the extent to which the salaries have been raised;

(c) the date with effect from which the payment of revised salaries would be made; and

(d) its implication to the country's exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). A settlement has been signed on 10th April, 1989 between the managements of the Banks represented by IBA and Employees unions representing the workmen staff regarding the wage revision of award staff of the banks. Under the settlement, the employees will be entitled for revised scales of pay with effect from 1st November, 1987. According to the estimates of IBA, the revision will cost the banking industry a sum of Rs. 250 crores per annum and the additional estimated cost per employee would be Rs. 375 per month for a member of the clerical staff and Rs. 230 per month for a member of the subordinate staff.

Aid from Italy

7581. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Italy has given credit and grants to India;

(b) if so, the amount and purpose for which Italy has given loans and grants in the last three years;

(c) whether Government have sought fresh credit from Italy; and

(d) if so, the amount of fresh loan sought by Government and for what purpose?

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

(b) An energy sector loan agreement for US \$ 250 million has been signed with the Indian Government in January 1988. In addition, during the last three years, the Italian Government has agreed to provide US \$ 130 million approximately as soft loans and around US \$ 8 million as grants to finance the import of Italian equipment/services for projects in India. These projects are:

1. Transient network Analyser for CPRI, Bangalore.
2. Linepipes for HBJ Pipeline.
3. Short Circuit Testing Transformers for CPRI, Bangalore.
4. Fabrication of a process complex for South Bassein Gas

Development Project of ONGC.

5. Boilers for Farakka Super Thermal Power Station of NTPC.
6. Telecom. Research Centre Switching Techniques.
7. Maintenance Centre at Regional Engineering College, Srinagar.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The projects for which fresh loans are sought include: Additional Switchgear Testing and Development Station (STDS) facilities at Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) Bhopal, the supply of Railway Bogies, supply of turbo-generators for Neyveli Lignite Corporation, manufacture of Aseptic Laminated flexible packagings, UHV facilities at Hyderabad and Automail Sorting Centre at Bombay. The amount of loan for the above projects is approx. US \$ 69 million. However, the exact amount of loan would depend on the concurrence of the Italian Government.

Short Term Credit to Punjab

7582. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds sanctioned to Punjab under short term credit have been showing downward trend over the past few years;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decrease in the allocation;

(c) whether Government of Punjab has requested Union Government to increase the allocation to Punjab; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House of the extent possible.

Direct Train between Hoshiarpur and Delhi/New Delhi

7583. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is public demand for the introduction of direct train from Hoshiarpur to Delhi/New Delhi;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which such a train is expected to be introduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A direct service has not been found operationally feasible. However, a Superfast express between Amritsar-New Delhi with a link service between Hoshiarpur-Jalandhar City is being introduced from May, 1989.

Centrally Sponsored Food Control Schemes in Punjab

7584. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any centrally sponsored flood control schemes under execution or proposed to be executed in Punjab at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated for these schemes during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). Flood Control schemes in Punjab are being implemented by the State Government only

and there are no centrally sponsored flood schemes in that State.

(c) The Union Government has, however, provided funds to the Government of Punjab for taking counter-protective measures in the border districts along the international rivers to prevent the erosion of the river bank and diversion of flood towards India.

The details of this assistance are given below:

Year	Central Loan Assistance	Grant-in-Aid
		(Rs. in lakhs)
1986-87	250.00	—
1987-88	100.00	440.84
1988-89	225.00	58.91

World Bank AID for Projects in Punjab

7585. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects of Punjab getting aid from the World Bank; and

(b) the progress made in completing each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The National Agricultural Extension Project-III, providing for investments in 4 States, including Punjab, is currently under implementation with World Bank assistance. The World Bank has committed an IDA credit of SDR 71.7 million for the project. The project is expected to be completed by 31st March, 1994.

Rail Link to Eastern Region of the Country

7586. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether majority of areas in Eastern region have not yet been connected through rail link after attainment of independence; and

(b) if so, the names of these areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) States not yet connected by rail in the Eastern region of the country are: Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim.

**Regional Office of State Bank of India
at Calcutta**

7587. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has its regional office at Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether this regional office has any representation on the Board from Sikkim to safeguard the interest of Sikkim while launching various schemes for that State; and

(c) if not, the details of the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Local Head Office of the State Bank of India at Calcutta.

(b) and (c). Members to the Local Boards of State Bank of India are nominated/elected in terms of the provisions contained in the State Bank of India Act, 1955 and the Regulations framed thereunder. None of the present Members of Calcutta Local Board of State Bank of India has residential address in Sikkim. The interest of the entire territory coming under the jurisdiction of a Local Head Office of the bank is taken care of by its Local Board.

UTI Scheme to Mobilise Savings

7588. DR B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India is shortly introducing a scheme to mobilise savings partly in return for gold by issue of Master Gold Units, which will be partly encashable in gold;

(b) if so, the broad features of this new savings scheme offering gold;

(c) whether this new scheme will be eligible for concessions under Section 80-L of the Indian Income Tax, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any precaution has been taken to rule out the possibility of black money being converted into primary gold by investment in this new scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the manner in which this manipulation is proposed to be checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Government have approved a proposal of the Unit Trust of India (UTI) for introduction of their Gold Unit Scheme.

(b) The Salient features of the Gold Unit Scheme of UTI are as under:—

- (i) The scheme will be open to resident Indians. The minimum and maximum investment by an applicant will be Rs. 6,000/- and Rs. 30,000/- respectively.
- (ii) For every investment of Rs. 6000/- a Unit holder will be given 10 grams of gold after 3 years.
- (iii) At the end of the 5th year, the investor will receive back a minimum sum of Rs. 6,000/-.

(c) The Gold Unit Scheme being a Unit Scheme of UTI will be eligible for tax concessions under Section 80-L of the Income Tax Act 1961.

(d) to (f). The Scheme of the UTI has inbuilt safeguards to avoid manipulation or misuse.

Hindi translation of Constitution

7589. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the authorised Hindi translation of the Constitution was finally ready;

(b) at what stage it is at present; and

(c) the time by which Government propose to release it for public use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c). The authoritative text of the Constitution has been published on 23rd August, 1988 in the Government of India Gazette, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 1A. On the same date, it was also published in book form and released for sale to the general public.

Irrigation Potential

7590. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed by Union Government to fix up the average irrigation potential of every State:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present capacity of existing irrigation projects in Maharashtra; and

(d) the target earmarked for the State of Maharashtra for irrigation potential in Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d). Targets of irrigation potential are fixed for each State in consultation with State Government concerned after the Plan outlays are finalised. Upto 1987-88, an irrigation potential of 3966 th. ha. is anticipated to have been created in Maharashtra. The target for the Eighth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

Use of Helicopters in Electrification of Tracks

7591. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways' ambitious track electrification programme with the use of helicopters has suffered a set-back; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Limited trials with the use of helicopters conducted to establish feasibility of mast erection without taking traffic blocks, have proved successful. For a detailed cost benefit analysis, further extended trials were considered necessary. On availability of suitable capacity helicopters in the country, further trials will be progressed.

Underwriting of Public Issue of Securities

7592. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make any revision in the guidelines on the cost of underwriting of public issue of securities; and

(b) whether any views have been in-

vited from the brokers in this regard?

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

(b) Views of Stock Exchanges, Selected merchant bankers, Securities and Exchange Board of India etc., were solicited.

Constitution of Inter-Departmental Committee for Press Workers

7593. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Inter-departmental Committee was constituted in respect of Government Press Workers in pursuance to the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the details of recommendations accepted by Government and if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) The Committee consisted of a Chairman, three Members and a Member-Secretary. The terms of reference of the Committee were—(i) to consider re-classification and remuneration of various jobs in the Presses under different Ministries broadly in accordance with the scheme proposed by the Fourth Central Pay Commission; and (ii) to take into consideration all relevant as-

pects of the matter including promotion channels and other related matters so that there may be uniformity in the classification and pay scales of printing staff working under different Ministries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

Export of Chilli

7594. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is substantial demand for chilli in the international market;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to export chilli; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) The export of chilli from India is freely allowed.

(c) In efforts to promote export of spices like publicity programmes, preparation of trade delegations, buyer seller meets and participation in international fairs abroad, chilli was also included as one of the spices available from India for export.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, I have a very valid point.

Atrocities on women are increasing day by day. Four Harijan women have been man-handled.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give in writing.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Last time, the hon. Speaker told us that he would allow a discussion. Jayalalitha has been manhandled inside the Assembly.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichethipalayam): Yes, it is a very important and serious matter.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Four Harijan women have been mishandled by police officers in West Bengal. In Bihar, Orissa and Assam...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat. The matter which you have raised, atrocities on women, we have already discussed in the Business Advisory Committee. It has been admitted. I think, we will take it up under Rule 193 soon.

SHRISHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Sir, the National Commission on Urbanization has submitted a detailed report to the House. It is a very voluminous report and several matters concerning urbanization have been dealt with. This matter should be discussed because it concerns various aspects relating to urbanization.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You make a Submission and we will see to that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, many Members from Kerala in this House have raised this question a number of times. When the Island Express accident took place in Kerala, the Commissioner for Railway Safety had prepared and submitted a report. That report has not been laid on the Table of the House, but extracts from that

report are coming in the press. You may kindly direct the Railway Ministry—of course, he is under the Civil Aviation Ministry—to lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Already we have referred that point. We are waiting for the reply.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): The Governor of Punjab has said that there is no threat to peace from the release of Shri Prakash Singh Badal. Shri Prakash Singh Badal is an acknowledged nationalist and patriot. Governor says that there is no threat to peace if he is released, but he has to clear his stand regarding Khalistan. Since 1922 till now, no Akali leader has demanded Khalistan. Why are certain conditions being put on Shri Prakash Singh Badal? It is injustice. Government should release him without any conditions. Putting such conditions, the House will agree with me, on such a great patriot is injustice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your sentiments can be passed on to the Minister and we will find out.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): It is a matter that has been raised several times in the House and it got the unanimous support of the House. The activists of Akhil Bhartiya Bhasha Samrakshan Sangathan have been staging dharna since 16th August, 1988 in front of UPSC. They are demanding equal and honour for the other Indian languages that are there in the Constitution. From today, they are going to undertake fast unto death. It is a very serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give me in writing; I will find out.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker had also supported that. I hope you

will request the Minister concerned to contact them. Fast unto death is a very serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give me in writing. I will pass it on to the Minister and find out facts.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay-South Central): I have given a number of notices for discussions. Because of the recent developments in Karnataka...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Give me in writing; I will see.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Because of the recent developments in Karnataka this Government is now in charge of Karnataka and it is always said that the border disputes between Maharashtra and Karnataka...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yesterday also you raised the same point.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yesterday also you raised the same point. We will see to it.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Sir, it is very important. Now, the time has come when we can definitely have a dialogue between the two and solve the issue. This issue is not solved. The Mahajan Commission Report is not accepted by the Government. The issue is still open and it is the responsibility of the Government to solve it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have raised it, that is enough. They will take note of what you have raised. Please take your seat. Don't raise the same point again.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: They should have opinion-poll for having an inter-State

Council. At least it should be discussed in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give in writing. I will find out. If time permits I will allow.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Sir, there is an acute problem of non-availability of drinking water in Orissa and other parts of the country. It is a serious matter and it may be discussed in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On 4th in the form of Calling Attention, we are discussing this matter.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idduki): Yesterday I had given a notice to the Hon. Speaker and he also commented here that he is considering it. The Hon. Minister also mentioned it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why do you want to repeat the same thing?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I have given a notice and that is what I am saying. The point is that the Railways Minister said that the Report of the Railway Safety Commissioner should be studied. But unfortunately it is not placed on the Table of the House. It is an important thing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Dandavate has also raised this point. We have already referred it to get the facts. The point which you are raising has already been referred to the Ministry and we are waiting for the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): I had also raised the issue the day before yesterday, which has now been raised by Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary and you have asked him to give in writing. Mr. Speaker

also expressed this concern in this regard.

12.07 hrs.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He raised only a particular issue but you are raising a point about all the regional languages.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: They are starting indefinite-strike from today. They are going to start an agitation in the country as a whole from today. They are going on hunger strike. You should intervene in the matter and take it up with the Government.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): He is right, Sir.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: It is a very important matter and it should not be ignored.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will definitely take care of it.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Sir, the people of Indian origin are being greatly harassed in Nepal. This is a matter of great concern and my humble request is that this matter may be discussed in the House at an early date.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The External Affairs Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao has already mentioned all these things in his reply to the discussion on the External Affairs Ministry's Demands for Grants

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: My humble request is that this matter should be debated in this House. This is a matter of great concern.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (Secretary's Powers and Duties) Rules, 1988

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (Secretary's Powers and Duties) Rules, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 463 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 1988, under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—7810/89]

Annual Report of and Review on the Working of Overseas Construction Council of India and a statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Bombay, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Bombay, for the year 1987-88.
- (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—7811/89]

12.07 1/2 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

[English]

Eighty-second, Eighty-third, Seventy-third, Seventy-fourth Reports and Minutes

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee:—

- (1) Eighty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—AIR and Doordarshan, and Minutes of the Sitzings for the Committee relating thereto.
- (2) Eighty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—Films Division and Minutes of the Sitzings of the Committee relating thereto.
- (3) Seventy-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 61st Report of the Committee (8th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Environment and Forests—Air and Water Pollution—Prevention and Control.
- (4) Seventy-fourth Report of the Estimates Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 62nd Report of Estimates Committee (8th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Environment and Forests—Ganga Project Directorate—Ganga Action Plan.

12.08 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

[English]

Hundred and Fifty-eighth, Hundred and Sixty-third, Hundred and Sixty-seventh, Hundred and Sixty-eighth and Hundred and Sixty-ninth Reports

SHRI R.S. SPARROW (Jullundur): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Public Accounts Committee:—

- (1) Hundred and Fifty-eighth Report on National Silicon Facility.
- (2) Hundred and Fifty-third Report on Research Reactor Dhruva.
- (3) Hundred and Sixty-seventh Report on Import and Distribution of Fertilisers.
- (4) Hundred and Sixty-eighth Report on Development of Weapon System X.
- (5) Hundred and Sixty-ninth Report on Heavy Water Plant, Tuticorin.

12.08 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Minutes

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK (Jagatsinghpur): I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the first to Twenty-fourth Sitzings of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

12.08 3/4 hrs.

PETITION RE IMPROVEMENT OF
HOWRAH-KATWA SECTION OF
EASTERN RAILWAY

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY
(Katwa) I beg to present a petition signed by
Shri Sibu Mukherjee, Secretary, Howrah-
Katwa Suburban Passengers' Association,
Kaliagarh (West Bengal) and others regard-
ing improvement of Howrah-Katwa Section
of Eastern Railway

12.09 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMA-
TION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H K L
BHAGAT) With your permission, Sir, I rise
to announce that Government Business in
this House during the week commencing
2nd May, 1989 will consist of —

- (1) Consideration of any item of Gov-
ernment Business carried over from
today's Order Paper
- (2) Consideration and passing of —
 - (a) The Union Duties of Excise
(Distribution) Bill, 1989
 - (b) The Additional Duties of Ex-
cise (Goods of Special Impor-
tance) Amendment Bill, 1989
 - (c) The Railways Bill, 1986 as
reported by the Joint Commit-
tee
- (3) Discussion and voting on —
 - (a) Demands for Excess Grants
(Railways) for 1986-87

(b) Demands for Excess Grants
(General) for 1986-87.

- (4) Consideration and passing of the
Chandigarh Disturbed Areas
(Amendment) Bill, 1989

[Translation]

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena):
Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, my constituency
district Morena in Madhya Pradesh is sur-
rounded by rivers. There are many rivers
here like Chambal, Kuwari, Ashan, Shank,
Vesuli, Parvati Kali etc. There is land erosion
in lakhs of hectares of land and there are no
transportation facilities available for the
people of this area. Neither the bridges have
been constructed nor the rafts have been
provided so far. The result is that the
foodgrains of the farmers do not reach in the
mandis and there is no transportation link
available for Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. I
would request the Central Government to
construct bridges on the above mentioned
rivers. Instruction should be sent to the
Government of Madhya Pradesh in this
regard and Government of India should
provide funds immediately for the construc-
tion of these bridges.

[English]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR
(Hamirpur) I request that the following item
may be included in the next week's agenda —

The Government of India should take
initiative in persuading the State Govern-
ments to ensure implementation of the pay
scales and other improvements in the emolu-
ments and status of school teachers as
recommended by the Chattopadhyaya
Commission known as NCT-I and also in
case of college and university teachers for
introduction of these emoluments including
pay scales implemented by the Government
of India, as recommended by NCT-II, by the
various States and Universities which have
not implemented them so far.

This is urgent in view of the frustration,

resentment and mounting tension among the teachers.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): The following may please be included in the next week's agenda:—

The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests identified 5 different locations of important eco. systems including Bhittarkanika-Kujunga Mangrove eco. systems in Orissa State for conservation and management under Indo-US collaboration in January, 1989, which would go a long way to preserve the eco. system. But the Ministry is not taking action for their early execution causing huge damage in many spheres of our living.

2. The Cooperatives in the States including Orissa are losing heavily on fertilizer trade due to inadequate and low margin profit, allowed by the Government and abnormal rise in selling prices of the controlled cloth which has adversely affected the total sales and has adversely affected the weaker sections of the society.

[Translation]

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAN (Mandla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the development of hilly areas has been obstructed since the Forest Conservation Act 1980 has been enacted. Restrictions have been imposed on all the on-going development works. All the development works like the construction of roads, bridges, dams, stopdams, ponds, canals and the works regarding the power supply are on the verge of stand still. The administration has already incurred millions of rupees on these works. This huge expenditure has gone infructuous and the future of these areas has become dark.

So, where on one hand it is necessary to enforce the provisions of the Act more strictly to stop the illegal felling of trees, it is also important on the other hand to make it flexible for the works related to the development of the hilly areas.

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): The following may please be included in the next week's agenda:—

Price Monitoring Committee for man-made fibres and yarns should function effectively and keep under continuous observation the price rise made by the manufacturers every now and then. As is evident from Public Accounts Committee Report all excise duty concessions allowed to the extent of Rs. 241 crores have not been passed on to the consumers. Instead, stable fibre yarn price has been increased to such a high level that powerloom users are unable to sell their products made of stable fibre yarn. Many powerlooms weaving cloth from stable fibre yarn have stopped weaving resulting in large scale unemployment of labour. Government should control exorbitant price fixed by manufacturers of man-made fibres and yarns.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): I would like the following subject to be included in the list of business for next week presented by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

The instalment of dearness allowance payable to the Central Government employees is long overdue the delay in payment of D.A. instalment is causing resentment among them. So, a discussion in the House regarding immediate payment of the instalment is necessary.

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur): The constitution provides for reservation as a relief measure for the people of the weaker sections and to enable the people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes to have their representation in every field. But it is a matter of regret that the percentage of reservation is very low and even after forty years of independence depressed classes are not getting their constitutional rights, although, the Government is very active in the matter.

[Sh. R.P. Suman]

Recently, the Government has declared not to deserve the vacancies meant to be filled by reserve quota.

But, promotions have not been included in it. During promotions, most of the posts are made dereserved.

I would urge the Government of India to ensure reservation in all the departments.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI (Faizabad): There are the incidence of fire taking place in the village every year from April to June. It brings destruction to the poor farmer. The financial assistance provided by the State Government in this regard is very inadequate to enable the affected farmer or labourer to construct his house or arrange his food and clothes. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government brings a legislation in this regard which provides for full compensation to the affected farmers.

[English]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad): The following may please be included in the next week's agenda:—

Sant Kabir, a great saint of this country who is revered by all sections of the community for fighting against communal and other reactionary forces which were great hurdles in the way of communal harmony and national integration those days.

In my constituency Khalilabad (District Basti, U.P.) Manghar is the Samadhi Asthal of Sant Kabir. State Government because of constraint of resources has done its bit for the beautification and development of the Asthal.

I request the hon. Minister of Tourism to develop Samadhi Asthal of Sant Kabir at Manghar as a tourist complex.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA (Tonk):

In India, even after the 42 years of independence we may find a man carrying faeces of others on his head. You will not find such a thing happening in any other country of the world. The reason is the non-availability of sewerage system in the towns. My constituency, Tonk and the towns covered under it are also no exception in this regard. In the absence of sewerage system, one finds all the garbage on the road and in the drains. The result is that, whole of city is full of dirt and emits foul smell. People are always afraid of the outbreak of some epidemic there.

So, I would urge the Government of India that the practice of carrying faeces on head should be done away with. It is possible only when sewerage system is provided in all the small and the big cities. So, all the State Governments, should be given financial assistance by the Centre or the assistance should be arranged from HUDCO to enable the state to provide sewerage facility.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I will bring these Submissions made by the hon. Members to the notice of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.20 hrs.

FINANCE BILL 1989—*CONTD.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri S.B. Chavan on the 27th April, 1989, namely:—

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1989-90 be taken into consideration."

We are having a limited time at our disposal. Therefore, I would request the hon. Members to be very brief. Now Mr. Virldhi Chander Jain. I am giving you ten minutes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRLDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Budget and also the Finance Bill moved by the hon. Minister of Finance. The current Budget has a deficit of Rs. 7,460 crores but it is still a balanced Budget. Whatever efforts we make, it is not possible to do without a deficit Budget. If the schemes are curtailed, we shall not be able to tolerate it under any circumstances. Taxes have reached a saturation point and the Government is not in a position to levy additional taxes. The only thing in our power is to curtail administrative expenditure. The Central Government has made efforts to take steps in this direction. I would like that administrative expenditure should be further curtailed. The way in which jeeps, cars and other vehicles are misused should be controlled and necessary efforts should be made in this direction. But I would also like to submit that the decision taken to give concessions to the extent of Rs. 123 crores in the excise duty and customs duty is welcome. It is the demand of the people belonging to the middle class that tax exemption limit for income tax should be raised from Rs. 18,000/- to Rs. 25,000. In view of the steep rise in prices and devaluation of rupee, it has become necessary to raise the income-tax exemption limit to Rs. 25,000/-. In this connection, the other hon. Members have also suggested and I would also support the view that the Government should take concrete steps in this regard.

The concrete measures taken by the Central Government to tackle the severe drought situation which prevailed in the country last year are indeed praiseworthy. The country faced the century's worst drought last year and Rajasthan was the worst affected State in this regard. In the State of Rajasthan itself, it was my constituency of Barmer and the districts of Jodhpur and Jaisalmer which were affected to the maxi-

mum extent. However, due to the special assistance extended by the Central Government, it was possible to save the cattle and the people also received large scale relief assistance. Irrigation walls were also dug. The problem of drinking water was also solved. Rajasthan was able to march towards development and progress. But my area has been affected by acute drought conditions this year as well. The situation has become grim this year. The Government of Rajasthan has not taken any concrete steps to tackle this situation so far. The Government of Rajasthan has submitted a report to the Central Government on February, 20 1988, but the Centre has not sent a study team so far. I would like to request that the Central Government should send a study team and before sending such a team, a decision should be taken to provide interim relief assistance to my State. If it is not provided the financial position of the State which is already weak will further worsen. Rs. 208 crores were spent last year on drought relief and Rs. 58 crores are still due from the Central Government for the period from November 1988 to March 1989. The Central Government has not released this amount so far. Rajasthan Government is not in a position to tackle the severe drought situation on its own and the margin money specified in this regard is insufficient. It is not possible to meet such a crisis with Rs. 16.75 crores fixed as margin money. Therefore, it should be enhanced to Rs. 50 crores. Besides, interim relief is also required and Rs. 100 crores should be given for this purpose. I have also requested earlier and I repeat the same now that Rs. 100 crores should be provided as interim relief. I would also like to inform that the months of May and June are the most critical months and it becomes necessary to provide employment to 1 lakh labourers during this period. If the Government does not provide employment to 1 lakh labourers, famine conditions will be created there. The Central Government is not paying any attention in this direction and the State Government is not in a position to shoulder the responsibility. Therefore, in the absence of Central Assistance, there will be famine conditions, there may be outbreak of the

[Sh. Viridhi Chander Jain]

diseases and acute shortage of drinking water as well. It is only when the situation takes a critical shape and there are starvation deaths that the Government will take steps to bring the situation under control which is not proper. It is necessary to take concrete steps from now onwards and provide assistance to the State Government. There are 35 thousand villages in Rajasthan, out of which 4,506 villagers have been affected to the maximum extent and which are located in my constituency. As regards drinking water supply, Rajasthan Government has presented a memorandum to the Central Government in this matter demanding financial assistance of Rs. 54 crores. The memorandum which has been presented in connection with drought relief assistance, the State Government has asked for Rs. 168 crores in it. The Central Government should take concrete steps in regard to these two memoranda.

On this occasion, I want to submit that under the Gadgil formula, special emphasis has been placed on population and not on area. The area of my constituency, Barmer is equal to that of Punjab. Rajasthan is a very big State so far as area is concerned. The major portion of the State are desert areas. The Gadgil formula has not taken area into consideration and until this aspect is paid attention, concrete assistance cannot be provided to Rajasthan and to its desert areas. Therefore, it is necessary to keep the area in view and provide sufficient assistance on that basis.

Secondly, I would like to submit that Rajasthan is the most backward State from the point of view of literacy. The literacy level in Barmer is only 12 per cent and it is 3 per cent in the case of women. In Jaisalmer, literacy percentage is 16. Some assistance is being provided to the border areas under the Border Areas Development Programme. However, the assistance is not sufficient. The number of primary schools opened in my constituency is not adequate. Last year, not a single primary school was opened although the Government had sanctioned

the opening of a few primary schools. Article 45 of the constitution lays emphasis on compulsory education to those who want to get education. Therefore, I would like to submit that arrangements should be made for opening primary schools so that educational opportunities are provided to the people. These schools should be opened under Education Development Programme. There is a demand for the opening of 300 primary schools at Barmer and 150 at Jaisalmer. I would like to demand in addition that a middle school should be opened at the Panchayat level in every area and the demand for providing accommodation to school teachers should also be met.

The hon. Prime Minister had given an assurance in the Consultative Committee meeting on Planning in connection with the Desert Development Programme and for which Rs. 245 crores were provided under the Seventh Plan. However, only Rs. 166 crores have been released so far. I would also like to submit that the allocations made under Desert Development Programme have also not been fully utilised. The Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry are putting obstructions in this matter. The animal husbandry programme under the Desert Development Programme has been curtailed. Similarly, the exploration of tubewells programme has been curtailed and the power programme has also been curtailed. It is not proper to curtail these programme and not to give priority to them.

With these words, I would like to say that severe drought conditions are prevailing in these desert areas. I had approached the hon. Prime Minister twice in this connection but the Central Government has not released so far Rs. 100 crores demanded as interim relief. Therefore, the Central Government should provide assistance to the State Government and send a study team there. Steps should be taken immediately for this purpose and it is my special request to you.

With these words, I support the Finance Bill.

12.30 hrs.

STATEMENT *RE*: JAWAHAR ROZGAR
YOJANA

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is no problem before the country so acute as the problem of the unemployment and under-employment. There is no segment of our population more disadvantaged than the rural poor. There is no section of our people as much in need as women from poor rural families, especially those with no land of their own.

It was from Jawaharlal Nehru that we learned that our first national duty is to work for the elimination of poverty. It was from Jawaharlal Nehru too that we learned that the greatest national endeavour is to mitigate the distress of the unemployed and underemployed masses of rural India.

Therefore, there is no greater tribute we could pay to the founder-architect of our modern nationhood than to dedicate our celebrations of his birth centenary to a programme of providing massive employment to the poor in rural India.

Sir, we are today launching the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

It is a programme aimed at placing in the hands of village panchayats around the country adequate funds to run their own rural employment schemes in the interests of the vast masses of the rural poor who constitute the bulk of rural India. It has been estimated that in the last seven years, rural employment programmes have reached only 55 per cent of the village panchayats around the country. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana aims at reaching every single panchayat.

Central assistance will finance 80 per cent of the programmes. In its very first year of operation, that is the current fiscal year, Central assistance for this programme will

amount to Rs. 2100 crores. We are so structuring the finances that funds will be allocated to States in proportion to the size of their population which falls below the poverty line. The further devolution of these funds to districts will be determined in terms of criteria of backwardness such as the share of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the total population of the district, the proportion of agricultural labour to total labour, and the level of agricultural productivity. Special consideration will be given to meeting the requirements of geographically distinctive areas such as hills, deserts and islands.

It is our expectation that, on an average, a village panchayat with a population of three thousand to four thousand people will receive between Rs. 80,000 and Rs. one lakh a year to implement the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. We expect to be able to provide employment to at least one member of each poor rural family for fifty to a hundred days a year at a workplace near his residence. We hope to incorporate into the programme integrated schemes to provide employment to nomadic tribes. A very special feature of the scheme is that 30 per cent of the employment generated will be reserved for women.

Through the devolution of this programme to village panchayats, we expect the benefits of this programme directly reaching the people to be significantly higher than in the past. Thus far, too large a proportion of funds for such programmes has gone to contractors and intermediaries. There have also been other leakages. Besides, there is scope for economizing on the costs of administration.

By devolving the finances to the Panchayats, and entrusting to them the administration of the programme, we expect a much larger proportion of the funds than ever before to be deployed on the programme itself.

We also expect the implementation of the programme to be more open, more transparent than ever before. Every villager will

[Sh. Rajiv Gandhi]

know how much money is available for the programme and which are the schemes being financed. He will also know who are his fellow-villagers being employed on the schemes. Each beneficiary getting employment will know how much remuneration he is receiving and others are receiving, as also how many days of work he is being given and others are being given. Those who are cheated or deprived will not only have the possibility of demanding immediate redress, they will also have in their hands the ultimate weapon of the vote to turn out of office any panch or sarpanch who abuses the powers and responsibilities devolved on him. Democracy will reinforce opportunity to bring the Welfare State to the doorstep of the villager, where he lives and seeks work. For, as Jawaharlal Nehru said:

"Panchayats and village communities, should make their proposals. We can no longer function merely from the top, for we have to organise cooperatively the millions of our people and make them partners and sharers in these great undertakings."

Panditji urged us to remember that:

"Whatever plan we might make, the test of its success is how far it brings relief to the millions of our people who live on a bare subsistence level, that is the good and advancement of the masses of our people. Every other interest must be subordinated to this primary consideration..."

He added:

"Unemployment, on a large scale, casts a blight on many young lives and is one of our major problems. We cannot remove it by some magic... But we should be able to guarantee employment and work to anyone who is prepared to work hard and is not disdainful of manual labour."

That remains our ultimate goal. For the present, we are doing as much as our resources permit. All existing rural wage employment programmes stand merged into the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The Yojana will reach out all over the country to the 440 lakh families in rural India living below the poverty line. We aim to touch each one of these families. We aim to alleviate something of the hardship which these families face. In particular, we aim to mitigate the distress which the women of these families have faced for centuries with their legendary courage and fortitude. And we aim to secure these noble ends through the noble institution of the panchayats.

Sir, in the name of Jawaharlal Nehru, that great freedom fighter and builder of modern India, we rededicate ourselves to ending the curse of unemployment, eliminating the blight of poverty, dismantling discrimination against women, and assuring for all our people opportunity and assistance in leading a full and fulfilling life.

Thank you, Sir.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record.

*(Interruptions)**

12.40 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 1989—*CONTD.*

[*English*]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): I rise to support the Finance Bill wholeheartedly. As we all know, this year's Budget is pre-poor and people's budget. We are presently at the last stage of the consideration of the Budget. It is unfortunate that this year only three Demands could be discussed. The opposition has to be blamed for that because on their insistence discussion on

insignificant and negligible matters took place. And they wasted the valuable time of the august House on extraneous and less significant matters which could have been raised much later after the budgetary process was over. Because of that, many of the important Ministries, their activities, their budgets, etc. could not be debated. Therefore, it is time that we should give serious thought to scrutiny of the Budget, Demands of different Ministries through committees as is done in Great Britain, etc.

I also whole-heartedly welcome the statement now made by our hon. Prime Minister. I would like to congratulate him. The main emphasis of this Budget was to fight out unemployment. In fact, unemployment is the number one enemy of the nation. It is the biggest problem that we are facing not only among the rural poor but also among the educated people.

12.42 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for announcing certain concessions yesterday while moving the Finance Bill for consideration. The concessions announced in excise and custom duty were to the tune of Rs. 124 crores. This indicates fully that this Government is quite responsive to the people's observations, suggestions, criticism, etc.

Integration of NREP and RLEGP has been spelt out in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister. These two schemes have been merged in the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, the details of which have just now been given by no less a person than the Prime Minister himself. This will go a long way to fight out rural unemployment and thus will bring succour and relief to the poor people throughout the country. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to give necessary directions to the State Governments about the integration of these two projects because the details are not yet available with the State Governments and the district agencies. Recently

while presiding over the DRDA meeting of District Sambalpur, Orissa, I found that the budget of the organisation for the coming year could not be finalised. Only tentatively we drew a programme, anticipating the Central assistance, etc., because the Central assistance has not yet been indicated. Therefore, I would request that unless such indications are given well in advance, it is very difficult to formulate necessary programmes at the district level.

The economy has done well last year and this year also it is expected to do well. Hon. Minister of Finance is confident that the deficit would be managed satisfactorily and that too by managing the economy efficiently.

Although the exports have recorded a remarkable improvement and they have grown by twenty-eight per cent, but the trade deficit also has widened. This is a disquieting feature. The inflation level was at 6.3 per cent as against ten per cent and odd in the previous year. This is a very good sign but, at the same time, very strict measures have to be taken to observe economy.

An interesting thing comes to my mind. As you know, Sir, when Megasthenes visited India during the time of Chandragupta Maurya, at that time the Finance Minister's post was held by Chanakya or Kautilya. When Megasthenes paid a courtesy call on him, there were two candles in his room. He blew off the candle that was lighting at that time and lighted the other candle. It surprised Megasthenes. He asked why did he do it. Kautilya said: "So long I was doing State's work and, therefore, this candle which belongs to the State was lighting. But now since you have come to me as my personal guest and since this is a personal affair, I need not waste the State property." See, Sir, what was the standard obtaining then and what is the standard obtaining now. Now everywhere, the bureaucracy is making blatant, terrible misuse of government property, government cars and so on. And you know how costly these are nowadays. The officers are sending even their children and other family members to schools and mar-

[Sh. Sriballay Panigrahi]

kets. There is a convent school in my own area. Every morning when I go for a walk, I see only government vehicles shamelessly carrying the children of officers to the school. This is the way the cars are being misused everywhere. How can we observe economy then?

As you know, Sir, corruption also is menacingly growing in different spheres. It is growing in the bureaucracy also. This is another big enemy of democracy and this has to be brought down effectively.

Another point that I would like to touch upon is the pay hike. Everywhere, in every department of the Government of India or the State Governments or in public undertakings, there has been pay hike. I am not opposed to pay hike, but, at the same time it has to be seen what repercussions it has on the general economy, on the rural economy and on the economy in the agricultural side. The Government of India, particularly the Finance Minister should be well aware of the situation. Now the minimum salary of a class-IV employee, be it of the Central Government or of a State Government, is more than Rs. 1,000. So, about Rs. 12,000 is the minimum annual income of a class-IV employee. But how many of the medium-class farmers, the well-to-do farmers, as we say, have a net annual income of this level, barring their expenditure on the agricultural operations? So, kindly see the imbalance, the precarious situation it creates. We have no answer to give to those people. So, it is a very serious thing. What remunerative price can be fixed for their agricultural produce and what other benefits we can give to them is to be given serious thought.

Then, Sir, I would like to mention about the housing problem and about power problem. I have already given suggestions on these problems. Now, about the NRI, they have money and they have deposits etc., I believe, together with that also, black-money should be unearthed. The hon. Finance Minister may kindly make this exercise

whether for black-money some concessions can be given so that black-money will come out and this money can be effectively used in this very useful sector. Sir, in the case of the primary sector, that is, the house building, etc. you know the enormous problem faced by the people who are houseless and homeless and also there is the master of energy which is at the root of everything, progress and prosperity and in many parts of the country, we are passing through acute power shortage. Drinking water supply is also another serious problem faced in different parts of the country. Without any showers since last October, particularly in Orissa, in all the districts, we are facing acute water scarcity. It is not only in Orissa but many other States also facing acute water shortage and many hon. Members have come out with this point during their speech and also through Matter under Rule 377. The Government should not think that it is the State problem. Looking at the enormity of the situation in regard to drinking water supply, Government of India, particularly the hon. Finance Minister, should take a decision at the earliest possible time and allot some funds for deepening the tube-wells, for sinking fresh tube-wells so that this will enable the people getting drinking water everywhere in the country.

Then I come to the Agriculture and irrigation. They should be given priority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, I conclude. Sir, States like Orissa which are backward and which have below the National level of income should be given the priority. Lastly, Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is being recorded. Don't record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I heartily welcome the announcement with respect to 'Jawahar Rozgar Yojana' made by the hon. Prime Minister. It is a massive scheme for meeting this stupendous problem of unemployment and pov-

*Not recorded.

erty. It is taking the bull by the horn. I wish the scheme every success. That would be the success for India herself. So, the hon. Finance Minister has been kind enough to announce several concessions and excise duties and so on. These concessions are absolutely necessary. I thank him and congratulate him. The concession of excise duty on 'semia' will make our 'Id' sweeter this time. There is indeed more reliance on Indirect Taxation and this reliance is rather heavy of the total revenue of Rs. 19,844 crores. In 1980-81 we find that out of Rs. 13,927 crores. 17.18% was accounted for by Indirect Taxes. By 1987-88 Budget Estimates, this percentage had reached a level of 74%. This is a matter of serious concern. The taxes on commodities are retrograde in nature. I submit that this heavy reliance on Indirect Taxes or Commodity taxation coupled with large-scale evasion of direct Taxes may render our income-tax system inequitable.

Sir, this situation might lead to social injustice by aggravating the position with respect to the distribution of income. Sir, there is also a general increase of 5 per cent excise duty on all commodities except a few. This would be inflationary in character and I urge that it should be withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the middle class has received no sympathy from the hon. Finance Minister unfortunately. There is hardly any relief for the middle class. There is no raising of the exemption limit in the case of direct taxes though very much due. I would ask the Government to review this position. Here I must also draw attention to a glaring injustice. Saying that there is inflation, the rates of specific excise duties has been increased by 5 per cent, but the same consideration has not been extended to the taxpayers who also must have a rise in the exemption limit in view of the present position with respect to inflation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is need to improve the capital market. I may here point out that the rate of savings has come down

from 24 per cent to 21 per cent. If this rate of saving is not increased, it would definitely affect our resource mobilisation position. For improving the capital market I emphasise that the dividend income in the hands of shareholders should be exempted from the tax liability. There is also need for further relaxation of the fiscal policies for accelerating the pace of industrialisation. I submit that 30 per cent tax on technical know-how fees should also be reduced to 20 per cent. Sir, very soon the banks will have a very difficult position with respect to their raising deposits. If a person invests in things other than bank deposits, he gets more interest rate and also exemption from income-tax. Therefore the banks would be in greater difficulty in attracting deposits in future. I suggest that investments in bank deposits should also be given the same consideration as investments in the national savings certificates and there should be exemption in income-tax. Further, banks should be allowed to decide the rate of interest that they would pay on deposits and savings accounts. This would increase their power to compete with others and raise proper resources.

I may refer to certain other grey areas which need greater attention. The foreign exchange position is very difficult. Our foreign exchange reserves are today less than Rs. 6000 crores and this is after taking into account the repatriable NRI deposits which amount to Rs. 13000 crores. In the current year the trade deficit may also go up to nearly Rs. 8000 crores. I suggest that a proper scrutiny should be made of all such schemes that may affect our foreign exchange position very adversely. Here I may refer to the question with respect to a mandatory provision laid down by the Labour Department for those going abroad for jobs and that is that their to and fro passage should be provided by the foreign employer. About those who go abroad for jobs, now the position is that their to and fro passage should be provided by the foreign employer. This would be a great deterrent for our manpower export also leading to a decline in foreign exchange remittances.

[Sh. G.M. Banatwalla]

13.00 hrs.

Sir, there is a strict competition in the international market. Our neighbouring competitors offer better terms and they do not insist on this pre-paid ticket advice. As a result of this, there would be a fall in the number of our workers going abroad for jobs. There is no employment here and we also deny them employment in foreign countries. There would also be a fall in the foreign remittances. I urge upon the Finance Minister to take up the matter with the Labour Ministry to see that the situation is remedied and this mandatory provision with regard to PTA is immediately withdrawn.

I am here to refer to foreign exchange remittances of Keralites working in the Gulf countries. During the last 10 years, according to a very conservative basis, nearly Rs. 5,000 crores are the remittances of these Keralites, working abroad. During these days, there is a steady increase in those who have gone abroad for jobs and returning to our country. There is an increase in returned immigrants. 70% of these returnees are also below the age of 40 years. There is also very difficult position in Kerala and I urge upon the Government to set up a fund for rehabilitation to those returning from the Gulf who had gone there for work. This fund be set up allocating 50% of the remittances totalling over Rs. 5,000 crores during the past few years.

I may also insist upon the Government for a scheme to be evolved for giving individual States appropriate incentives and allocations based on the performance of each State in earning the foreign exchange. For the purpose, a product development fund may be set up with 15% of total export earning for financing development of export products and for financing export-oriented products.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a discontinuation of the Central investment subsidy scheme to non-manufacturing activities and

non-manufacturing industries. This has created a very difficult position, specially in my district in Mallapuram where a large number of small scale industries are closed. The position is that even the subsidy that had been sanctioned already has not been paid. Now they are being told that it would not be paid according to the new rules, namely discontinuing the subsidy. I urge upon the Government to take into consideration the miserable plight of the small scale industries, specially in Mallapuram in Kerala where we are in a miserable plight. I urge upon the Government to restore the Central investment subsidy scheme to the non-manufacturing industries. Sir, we are grateful to the Government for having exempted tax on foreign exchange taken for purpose of Haj pilgrims. The foreign exchange tax is not levied on such foreign exchange which is given to the pilgrims who go for Haj pilgrimage. That is a good thing. But there is a little anomaly here. Many go for Umra and Ziarat. Their foreign exchange is subject to taxation. I urge upon the Government that this anomaly be removed. In the manner in which the Haj pilgrims are allowed exemption from foreign exchange tax, similarly those going to the Holy Mecca, those going for Umra and Ziarat should also be exempted from the same thing. Otherwise, an anomaly continues.

There is a lot more to be said. But I would respect your bell indicating that I should conclude. But before I conclude, I have to refer to an important matter with respect to education. The Demands of the Ministry of Education could not come up for discussion. It was guillotined. Naturally, I could not participate nor move my cut motion. But, there is an important point that is agitating our minds and that I would like the Government to consider.

The Hindi Readers 'Samkshipta Ramayan' and 'Samkshipta Mahabharat' prepared by NCERT have been made compulsory for Sixth and Seventh Classes in Delhi. I do understand that these books are presented as India's cultural heritage. However, the fact remains that the books themselves in-

introduce Shri Ramachandraji as Vishnu and Krishnaji as Ishwar incarnations. These are all religious beliefs. They cannot be imposed. Students cannot be asked compulsorily to study these along with compulsory learning by heart of as many as 12 or more Slokas over there. India being a multiple society, I urge upon the Government that the prescribed compulsion for all students in this respect be withdrawn in accordance with the secular ideals.

With these words, I thank you.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): This year's Budget, being the election year, naturally we are expecting to have a new orientation and that has been given in the Budget as well as in the Finance Bill. But from the speech introducing the Finance Bill yesterday by the Finance Minister, it is clear, reading between the lines, that he is quite conscious of the precarious economic situation of the country.

The country has walked into a debt trap, the recognition is there, reading between the lines of the Finance Minister's speech. In spite of the export effort which has been mounted and we hear about it year after year, day in and day out, the trade gap this year is expected to be around Rs. 8,000 crores as against Rs. 6,600 crores last year. This is a consequence of the policy which the Government has been following so far and it still continues to be followed and the assertion of the Finance Minister in his speech that the trade gap would be reduced, is of no avail and we will only experience at the end of the year. I will come to that later.

This Government from the very initial year of 1985 has been striking a new path, acquiring a new image, an image of being a very modern Government and being modern it meant that the people supporting the Government, the people for whom the Government was working, the 5% of the rich and affluent people, must have all the amenities and facilities which are available to the rich people all over the world and, with that motive, and intention, and object, they started

a new economic policy for establishing here industries which now the Finance Minister says are kit culture consumerist industries. But this is what we have been saying from 1985 and even now the recognition has not come to the extent it should have. The steps are not being taken although phrases are being uttered to the contrary. The Government is a rich Government of a poor country and represents the rich people of the poor country. Therefore, its policies are one of going for this modern gadgetry-oriented kit culture consumerist products which are imported in wholesale or in SKD condition and by application of screw-driver technology assembled here. Similarly, the export effort which the Government has mounted is not indigenous-based export effort. It is an export effort where the import content itself is 40 per cent. So, whenever this Government tries to export Rs. 1000 crores more worth of goods, it will be automatically importing Rs. 400 crores worth of goods to sustain that export. If that is the position, this Government will never be able to quite catch up with the gap. The other reason being the people who are exporting, the people whose incomes have been generated through export are the people who will create demand for this kind of luxury goods which have to be either imported or whose components have to be imported for assembling here. So, this is the Government's image right from 1985 which it is acquiring. But now the election is coming. The Government has now to turn back and say: "No, we are not representing the rich people. We are for the poor people as well. Or, we are only for the poor people. Let the rich people go to the dogs for the time being." For the next few months, if the Government can identify itself with the poor people, then it will be good for this Government at the polls. Therefore, the tax on colour TV, Maruti Cars, posh hotels, air travel, foreign travel was reduced and certain other consumer durables, as the Minister informed yesterday, have been taken off the OGL and put them into the restricted list. All this is a gimmick for the purpose of getting through the election and acquiring a new face for it—a pro-poor, anti-rich face but this is only a hallucination because the economy

[Sh. Amal Datta]

has gone to such a stage that it cannot now stop the import of all those components, all those machineries, all those raw-materials for which the facilities have already been established.

Sir, the Finance Minister has also said that the Government is not back-tracking on the assurance given that the components for these modernised factories will be available, will be allowed to be imported; the Government cannot go back on that. Therefore, the high-level import which is no longer there because of petroleum, which is no longer there because of the bulk import but which is there because of the components, raw-materials for the so-called modernised industries, will continue at a very high level as days pass and income is generated by the rich section. The demand will go up and the trade gap will go on increasing.

Sir, now we hear why there is so much unemployment; why the industries which have been there for a long time should no longer be able to sustain themselves. We hear that this is because of the fact that these have not been modernised. What is the cost of modernisation? They scrap the items wholesale and buy new machinery, new generation of machinery from abroad, bring the machinery here and dispense with the labour and then they run automatically. This is the new economic policy of the Government. It has now come or is coming to fruition, as a result of which the workers are not needed or not needed in any sizable quantity to run the industry and produce goods has meant that the distribution of income which was already inequitable has become more inequitable today. Another result of this inequity in distribution of income is the demand that is generated only in a small sector of society. Seventy per cent of the people of India live in villages, depend on agriculture. The increase in the population of rural areas has been at least to the extent of 2.5 per cent per annum and the increase in real income in the rural sector has been only 1.6 per cent per annum. What does that

mean? It means about one per cent reduction in real income in the rural areas per year for the last twenty years. And this has now gained further momentum. These people in the rural areas can barely make their ends meet for the purpose of their food, for their very basic necessities. They cannot buy even clothing. That is why, the scheme of giving saris and all that in the election year. These people cannot generate income and the main income accrues to the five per cent people. The indigenous industries which should have been able to work full time and over-time and still would not have been able to cater to the demands of 800 million people, are today lying closed. Because out of those 800 million people, 70 per cent have no income to spend on anything except on food. Even that also is not enough. Income is generated in a small section and they have so much of income that their needs are not satisfied with India made Indian goods. They are satisfied with India made foreign goods or even better with imported foreign goods. This is what this Government has been consciously catering to for the last four years. It now wants to go back and turn a different face by saying, "now we have started taxing the rich people by taxing the air travel. Who pays for the air travel? The rich people themselves do not pay for the air travel and for all these things. Everything will come either from the Government sector or from the private corporate sector.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Or from Parliament.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Neither this foreign travel nor air ticket is going to touch the people on whom you are saying that you are going to focus your taxation. You have not focussed. On the other hand, five per cent increase in excise duty all round is going to hurt the poor people who cannot even buy their basic necessities. I do not know whether it is consciously done or it is an usual bungling which the Government is doing.

Now out of these Rs. 903 crores which the Government said that they would be raising through the excise duty, they have

given away a sizeable portion—Rs. 118 crores. It is very good. If it is going to help the poor people, it is good. But does it help the poor people always when the Government gives concessions in duties? I think, last year, in the Budget speech, concessions were given in excise duty and also on customs duty in respect of polyester filament yarn and other types of man-made fibres like acrylic, nylon and this and that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is a minority Government.

SHRIAMAL DATTA: Then we were told that whatever revenue sacrifice was being made was being made for the purpose of poor people. The Government fully expected—this was the speech of the then Finance Minister—that these concessions would be passed on to the consumers. And the Government will watch whether it is being passed on or not. And if it is not passed on, then the Government may withdraw the concession. These three things were stated in April during the Budget speech. Whatever sacrifice was there in 1987-88 terms, that would have been Rs. 241 crores. It has now been found out and is in a report given to the Parliament. In 1988-89 terms it would be more than that. Who is benefited out of it? The consumer is not. What steps the Government took to see that the benefits were passed on to the consumer? Practically nothing. Nominally a Committee was set up which sat twice or so. Besides that, they could not do anything. They gave it up. If that is the case, the Government cannot enforce that the concessions will be used for the purpose for which it is given, what is the purpose of giving concessions, except to enrich some people who are supporters of the Government or maybe who fill their election fund coffer?

We also find that the Government has increased the prices of so many commodities just before the Budget Session started or even after the Session started. The administered prices of steel and coal were raised and also some items like aluminium were de-controlled. I understand that aluminium has

gone out of the market; it is not available. Hundreds of crores of rupees have thereby through the administered price rise as well as by the de-control been given to the private sector. If it only reached the public sector, I would not mind because at least it remains with the Government; it is a transfer from one pocket to another. But it is now lying in the pockets of the rich people. No doubt, they are supposed to support the Government in various ways and materially.

This is the character of the Government. They are now trying to change the colour with the election approaching. But I am sure that the people will know what they are and they will not get the support which they could otherwise have. Hundreds of schemes have been announced in the Parliament during the last five years during the Budget and afterwards. Today also I am told the Prime Minister has announced a scheme. We welcome all the schemes. But can you or have you implemented these schemes fully, properly and correctly in accordance with the spirit of the schemes? Any one of them? I would like the Finance Minister to be able to tell us. I would like very much our Government to be able to function properly—whatever Government, that is, whoever mans the Government does not matter. The country suffers if the Government cannot function, if it is totally incompetent. That is what has been happening. Schemes after schemes have been announced; but there is no implementation.

Now, I come to the balance of trade position again. What has been happening in India is that there is import of luxury consumption items and import of machinery for modernising. All this have built up a very sustained sizeable, ever increasing demand for goods from abroad. This has created for us now—today we are told—a trade gap of Rs. 8000 crores. As I said, it will keep on increasing. The Government once tried to close the gap by increasing the export effort. In increasing the export effort what they have got in mind is that they will give incentives, they will give cash subsidies and people will go and make the export. Now, it is not

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working. The Government has had these policies for a long time. It is not working. One of the reasons indicated in the Finance Minister's speech itself is that the machinery for administration of these incentives and cash subsidies were not there or properly working. So, he says the main problem is to make the machinery work in a timely and appropriate manner. But when nothing works in the Government, will this particular machinery work? But what will work and what, in fact, has worked very much in India is the advantage of these schemes of incentives through REP licenses, etc., and the cash subsidies by dishonest and unscrupulous traders; some of them have become so rich as to be able to call the tune of the Government today, by just taking the incentives and cashing them, taking the subsidies on the basis of alleged exports which have never been made. So the Government should give all kinds of incentives, after ascertaining that the machinery exists to prevent the dishonest people from taking advantage of this, because most of it today is going to people who are not making any export efforts at all. But as regards exports, there is no way to check that. That is what I am told. Now, what again has happened is that the Government has shown us by our export efforts that the export value has gone up by 28%. So, the absolute increase may be three thousand crores of rupees or something. But what is this 28%? This 28% is in Rupees. It is not 28% in Dollars. If you give us the calculation in foreign exchange then that will be the correct calculation. Otherwise the Parliament is in danger of being misled.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): It is 15 to 16% in Dollars.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Thank you very much. I was going to give a little higher figure. I was going to say 17 to 18%. So, 15 to 16% is fine. That is the amount of export increase and the import increase is also a little more than that, I think, percentage-wise. So, definitely the trade has increased. This has led us where? According to the

Government, the foreign debt today is Rs. 55 thousand crores. According to other sources—coming from outside India, but authoritative sources like YCD—it is Rs. 90 thousand crores, at the end of 1988. Some other sources say that even that Rs. 90 thousand crores YCD figure does not include certain hidden credits. The Government has taken for defence purchases which again is estimated at around 15 thousand crores of rupees, it comes to about one lakh crores of rupees. Possibly now India is the fourth largest debtor country in the world having beaten Indonesia in the last one year. Whatever is the inflow of foreign credit, today it goes—practically the whole of it goes—in servicing the debt, so far as the Government sector is concerned. So, the Government is not gaining anything unless it can get a large amount of extra credit from the financial institutions like IMF and the World Bank. So, we have to go in for another bowl of begging, which we had decried even in 1981 or 1982 when they have taken the IMF loan for the first time. Now you have gone for it. You will for ever go with a begging bowl in hand, to these people to get money. They will dictate terms. They have dictated terms. First of all, we were not willing. But we have become too much willing and complain towards the end, during the last five years. So whatever industrial policy changes, State policy changes, they wanted, we have implemented each of them. Where has it landed us? It has again landed us with a begging bowl to get more money from them and we are having a bigger external debt than ever. We will become the second or the third largest debtor in the world.

The country is supposed to be advancing economically but has it advanced? Many false claims are made by the Government including one of self-sufficiency in food. What is the criteria of self-sufficiency in respect of food? Is there any criteria that per head of population this much of food will make us self-sufficient.

Further, apart from foodgrains, Government does not make any effort to encourage any other agricultural product excepting when

we are faced with foreign exchange crisis as had happened in the case of oilseeds. It is only then that Government comes in the field. This country is such a big country. There are many varied agro-climatic zones. Apart from foodgrains so many other types of agricultural raw-materials are grown but the Government does not encourage it. I speak from experience. Our State used to produce and was the highest exporter of jute and tea. Both these commodities have been allowed to languish. Tea export, no doubt, is there but it has not grown. Quantitatively, it is what it was forty years ago. At the time of Independence, it was 200 million kg and today also it is 200 million kg. Other countries who had not heard the name of tea have come in the field and given us competition whereas we have not been able to go anywhere. We have lost our traditional items to this competition. We are now only depending on one large importer for this purpose.

Similarly, Government has not paid any attention to jute. We were told in 1970 that jute has no future. But there are many South East Asian countries which have gone in for jute cultivation in 1970s and now they have got jute mills where they are producing varied items. They are not only producing better jute but they are also producing varied items which they are exporting. But we are nowhere. Similarly, there are so many other things.

What I am trying to impress is that Government has totally neglected the rural sector and also along with it agriculture. That is one of the reasons why we are continuously having to look for employment in industry which it is not possible to give for 800 million people. For establishing new industries we have to go to foreign countries and beg for loans and then walk into the debt trap just because Government is always having its face turned towards the so-called rich people. That is what the Government thinks it represents. Government serves their needs.

This attitude has to be changed otherwise there will be no respite from this situation.

Central Government has never tried to see that the basic functions which the States have been given by the Constitution are discharged by them. First of all they have taken their sources of revenue and not given them fresh ones. The amounts which they are entitled to get out of the Central Revenue, namely, from Income Tax and Customs have been reduced. Without any consultation with the State Governments excise duty concessions are given even by notifications. Concessions to the extent of thousands of crores of rupees are given every year and nobody comes to know to whom and why they have been given. The loser is not only the Central Government but also the State Governments who ought to be told that this is what they are going to lose on account of these concessions. They are never told about it. As a result the State Governments and Central Government are in the same position so far as World Bank and IMF loans are concerned. Whatever assistance the Central Government gives to the States just goes for servicing the debt to the Central Government. So, what shall we do? The States are not able to carry out the basic functions which the people expect them to do. Now, we find that the Government, not only content with giving a fillip to private industries but it is also bringing in the private capital into the field of banking in the name of venture capital. In today's Economic Times, there is a news that the Government has allowed the venture capital in the private sector. The Government has allowed such a scheme. So, banking is being given to the private sector through the backdoor. This privatisation, this new economic policy, is one of the major reasons for failures. It has failed the Government in industry and it will also fail the Government in banking. It will only serve to make a few people richer than they are.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill which has been placed before the House. I also want to put certain suggestions for the consideration of the hon. Finance Minister. We passed a bill and gave permission to the State Government to increase professional tax. A number of States have increased the limit of professional tax in their respective Budgets, in the process creating the financial resources that they needed. But the tax levied on the salaried people is not deducted from their total income for the purpose of income tax. This point should be considered. In State where the limit of professional tax has been increased, the salaried people should be allowed deduction of the amount paid as professional tax from their annual income for the purpose for income tax.

A surcharge is imposed on income tax but the States do not have any share in that. This is an injustice with the States and they are made to suffer heavy losses on this account. Whatever surcharge Central Government imposes on income-tax the State Governments should also be given their share in that.

Royalty is paid to States like Gujarat and Assam where oil and natural gas are found on-shore. But royalty is not paid where there are off-shore resources of oil and natural gas. I want to quote the example of Maharashtra in particular. Tax is received on the oil and natural gas we get from Bombay High but no royalty is paid to the State. The State is affected by the measures taken for the operation of the off-shore drilling. Still no royalty is paid. The State does not have any rights over off-shore land as this belongs to the Central Government even though it may be under water. The Centre should re-consider this issue to see in what way the State can be helped.

People engaged in the diamond trade in Bombay like diamond merchants, exporters, traders and cutters etc. launched a big

'morchā' against income tax in Bombay. Representations were sent to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister because the diamond trade brings the maximum foreign exchange. Diamond exporters and others in the diamond trade are facing some problems on account of income tax, be it in the form of surveys or raids. So this 'morchā' was an expression of their feelings in this matter. Officials went from here and had a dialogue with them. I am sure that the Centre has given a sympathetic consideration to the demands of those engaged in the diamond trade. Before diamonds are exported they go through a process of cutting and polishing. For this purpose there is a smaller industry that prepares a diamond before it reaches the traders and exporters.

As far as my constituency is concerned, there are many small-scale and cottage industries over their providing employment to lakhs of people. But the Centre and the Income Tax Department have been sympathetic to the traders and exporters only. I am not objecting to this but the lakhs of workers who are engaged in this cottage industry are being harassed even though 98% of them are tax-payers. I hope the Government will sympathetically consider the case of these workers.

Despite the repeated requests of many hon. Members the Government is unwilling to increase the income-tax limit above Rs. 18,000. I fail to understand as to why the Government has such a rigid policy in this matter. The Government says that incomes upto Rs. 25,000 are not taxed. Can a person with an income upto Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 22,000 save anything? If a person saves he gets a benefit otherwise not. This point should be considered and the income-tax exemption limit should be increased from Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000 in order to provide some relief to middle income groups. This has been expected since the past 2-3 years.

Some difficulties are being experienced by the mill producers on account of the new Direct Taxes Bill. A representation was submitted to the hon. Prime Minister and the

same has been forwarded to the hon. Finance Minister. Efforts should be made to give due consideration to this problem and provide whatever relief is possible.

In the end I want to say that the effect of increases in direct and indirect taxes has to be borne by the consumer. All the Consumer Protection Acts have not really been able to protect the consumer. The burden of all the taxes is ultimately passed on to the consumer. Taxes on businessmen, trade or industry are ineffective as it is the consumer who is ultimately affected. Steps should be taken to save the consumers from the burden of these taxes.

With these words I express my support for this Finance Bill.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam): Sir, the Finance Minister has to be congratulated for having presented a very good Budget for the year 1989-90. Sir, the Budget presented by the Finance Minister gives emphasis on the employment generation. The Finance Minister has avoided levy of any further taxes. The policy that has been adopted by the Government has to be appreciated. It is the policy of tapping the rich and patting the poor. Even though this is the election year, this policy has been adopted by the Government. Anyhow, the plans and programmes have to be appreciated by one and all. The Budget for the year 1989-90 has been widely welcomed all over the country. The Finance Minister has to take into consideration.....

[Translation]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Sir, I am on a point of order. Such an important matter is being discussed but only 2-3 Members are present in the House. There is no quorum in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Bell is being

rung. Now there is quorum. Hon. Member Shri Kolandaivelu may continue his speech.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Sir, the Finance Minister must be very careful as far as the question of balance of payment is concerned. At this juncture I want to point out one aspect about the foreign investment by the non-resident Indians in India. Due to continuous depletion in the rate of exchange and the fear that there may be devaluation, the non-resident Indians are selling their investments. Almost a panicky situation is being created in the country.

Sir, the NRIs have made crores and crores of rupees and they have invested their money in various fields. But due to the continuous fall in the value of rupee, the NRIs are selling their investments away. They resort to this practice because the Government will not permit the loss in foreign exchange rate to be set off against the capital gain profit earned. In view of this, the NRIs do not earn any profit in actual practice. But they are liable to pay tax in India on the profits they make! For example, many of the NRIs who have invested their foreign exchange at the conversion rate of Rs. 11 per US dollar are converting it into US dollars at the rate of Rs. 16 per dollar after a few years. Of course, they are getting a profit of Rs. 5 per dollar. But at the same time, the so called profit of Rs. 5 on the investment of Rs. 11 will be taken away by depletion in the foreign exchange, though they have paid a tax on this Rs. 5/-. They are paying nearly 20 per cent of this Rs. 5/- as tax. That is why a panicky situation is being created among the NRI investors. The situation is so bad that there is a fear that roughly about 5 billion dollars might be remitted out of India through such panic sale, during this year. I have got reliable information from the investing community abroad. This is bound to create a very serious situation to our balance of payments position. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to consider this crisis situation urgently and when he comes for reply, I hope he would throw some light on this subject. I would like him to give an assurance in this House that the Government would urgently agree to

[Sh. P. Kolandaivelu]

amend Section 48 of the Income Tax Act.

For the benefit of the House I want to mention that presently Section 43 (a) allows for adjustments in respect of foreign exchange liability for import of capital assets. A similar provision should be incorporated to have adjustments in respect of foreign investments in case of exchange fluctuations. That is why I would urge upon the Minister to consider bringing in an Ordinance similar to one which was made for raising funds for Armenian victims, which was exempted from tax. This would restore the confidence at least of the foreign investors so that they can invest more money. By doing so, more foreign exchange will flow into this country.

This is a very important and a serious matter. This has to be considered by the Finance Minister.

SHRITARUNKANTI GHOSH (Barasat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, India's progress in the field of both industry and agriculture is phenomenal among all nations which have become independent after 1940. But even then I would like to place before the House certain observations for the kind consideration of the Finance Minister as also of this House.

First of all, there is a new thinking which is going on throughout the world regarding how to develop the economy in a faster way. Even the mighty Russia, which is one of the greatest world powers today after Mr. Gorbachev took over, they are also having a complete re-thinking as to how to revitalise their economy. The same thing is going on in China and also in many other countries which the called Communist countries.

Just now I was listening to the speech of Shri Amal Datta. I was thinking the chain of thought when we should realise that theory which was launched 50 years back or 80 years back. That may not be tenable today. We must think which is good for the country and for the people. As a matter of if we take

export, certainly India is exporting a lot of goods and things like that. But if we think what we were doing in 1951 and what we are doing today, we feel that we have not really advanced much in that regard.

14.00 hrs.

In 1951, India's share of world export was one per cent and today India's share is half a per cent, whereas in 1951 many other countries which were behind India, like South Korea, Taiwan, Hongkong and Singapore, today, they are ahead of India in export trade. Now only that: in Hongkong which is only a city-State, 10% of its trade is controlled by Indians. And these Indians are also only a few thousands in number. You will be surprised to know that this 10% of Hongkong's trade is larger than the total trade of India, a vast country like ours.

The same is with Singapore, just a mere city-State, which can export much more than India as a whole. The root cause, as I can see it, is that India being a captive market, the producers here never think about competition outside India. It is not a consumers' market, it is a captive market; a producer's market. So, they can increase their price, charge any price they like; and as such, they cannot compete outside. India has got all the natural gifts given by God. We have got iron ore, we have got coal, we are now finding oil and gas almost every day; and all the raw materials that we need today. Even then, we cannot increase our export trade, because India's economy has become a high-cost economy.

I would request our Finance Minister as also his Minister of State, the young Mr. Ajit Panja to do something, to see how to break this strangle-hold of this high-cost economy. Here, the cost of production of any product is higher than anywhere in the world. As I have said quite a number of times, to produce a cup of tea in America is less costly than to produce a cup of tea in India. Why should it be so? Can we not really find a way-out to break this high-cost economy? Then India can surge ahead. Today our industrialists,

whether in the public sector or the public sector, know that they have got a ready-made market in India. It is a captive market. Nothing will be allowed to come in. So, they can rob the consumers like anything. So, my request to the hon. Ministers here is that they should find out what are the root causes of this high-cost economy in India; and then, and then only can they produce things at a cheaper rate, and then we can really compete with any other country in the world.

Our workers are not less efficient, our technicians are not less efficient, and there is no shortage of raw materials. The whole country can produce things which are as good or as cheap as any other country in the world.

In agriculture, we have gone ahead rapidly, mainly because there, the agriculturists are on their own. We have given them their inputs, and they have to work hard; and we have been able to surge ahead. But in India today, particularly the public sector undertakings—which should show the path, and be examples—whether due to more Government control being there or some other reasons, cannot produce things which can compete and beat down other competitors in the world market.

I am connected with a newspaper. I see that with regard to the newsprint that is being produced here, every year they demand that the price of it should be increased by Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000. I do not really understand why they cannot produce newsprint at a price which is comparable with world market prices.

The same is the case with any other thing that we produce. So, this one thing which I would like to emphasize very strongly, if we want to improve things in our country.

I went to Thailand recently: a small country which is now forging ahead very rapidly. I am sure they will be at par, or may surge ahead of India within a few years' time. As an Indian, as a citizen of a country with 80 crores of people, a vast country with all the

gifts given by God, I cannot understand why India cannot be one of the leading and mighty industrialized nations in this world.

I want to thank our beloved Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, for his announcement regarding Jawahar Rozgar Yojana today. This Yojana is an important announcement, I should say, in this year.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): On the eve of elections.

SHRI TARUNKANTI GHOSH: Whether it is on the eve of elections or not, it does not matter much. Why should you say these things? (*Interruptions*) This is one of the most important announcements made by the Prime Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Then jobs have to be given before elections. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARUN KANTI GHOSH: Today unemployment is a thing which is eating the very heart of our youths. If we want to really do away with poverty, if we want to really do away with this frustration, if we want them really to forge ahead, then our youths should be given a hope that they will not be put in a position where they feel frustrated and only think what to do for tomorrow. I want to make a request to all the State Governments through this Parliament that let this Yojana be taken as non-political, non-partisan Yojana; Let it not be taken for giving an advantage to a particular political party or something like that. This is I am also telling to my friends in the opposition that, when the Panchayats will spend this money, they should spend it for the good of the youths, not for the Congress youths or Communist or this youth or that youth. This is one request that I want to make through this House.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Accepted.

SHRI TARUN KANTI GHOSH: Thank you very much. Please make it acceptable to your leader also.

SHRISAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: That is not necessary.

SHRI TARUN KANTI GHOSH: I feel that we should change our Constitution to make one provision that job is guaranteed to every man according to his ability. But to do it, my request to the hon. Minister would be to kindly introduce technical education and training in each school throughout the country. We should not only produce Clerks but also people who can work with both hands and produce things for the consumption of our country.

Now, I want to tell some problems of my own State. First it is a problem of the jute industry. It is not only problem of the workers, as my young brothers will say, but also a problem of the agriculturists. Half of the agriculturists in my State also produce jute. I am sure, the Minister of State for Finance, Shri A.K. Panja knows about it very well; and this jute industry not only affects the workers but also a large number of agriculturists. But the price factor is a very great factor. I do not know why it always fluctuates and it fluctuates to the detriment of the interest of the agriculturists. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister to do something so that the jute industry can be put on its feet and the agriculturists would get their right price.

For the last ten years or 15 years, maybe for certain reason, I do not want to go into the political things, but I say for certain reasons the industrial growth in West Bengal has been not only stagnant but also retarded. I do not want to blame anybody here for this. All I want to tell my hon. friend the hon. Minister is that some steps have to be taken in this respect so that West Bengal, which was about 10 years ago or 15 years ago, a living industrial State in India, may regain its position. To do that, there has to be some scheme, some definite scheme with which we can layout industrialists, we can give them power. There is so much shortage of power. We can give them other ingredients so that they can really start industries. I am sorry, you do not want me to speak. There are so many things about my State which I

want to tell here. In any case, what I have tried to say, I hope our hon. Minister will take note of and take some definite steps so that these problems could be solved.

SHRI D.B. PATIL (Kolaba): Mr. Chairman, while replying to the debate on the Finance Bill last year, the then hon. Finance Minister, Shri N.D. Tiwari had described his Budget as "*Roti, Kapada, Makan and Rozgar Budget*". We have given an impression that nothing was left to be done and henceforth as everything is done, proper care will be taken in all respects. This year being an election year, we are damn sure that the present Budget will be a populist budget and there is nothing to wonder at because ultimately through methods like this, the well-being of the people is to be achieved.

At about 12.30 P.M. today the hon. Prime Minister had made a very important statement about eradication of unemployment in the rural areas. He had described it as the Nehru Rozgar Yojana, and I am very glad to see that such types of schemes are being announced and proclaimed. But, I have my own doubts whether the scheme will be implemented honestly. I use the word 'honestly' deliberately. The hon. Prime Minister in December 1987 had announced a programme at Madras in the AICC session that his Government would announce and execute certain programmes like *Garibi Hatao* and *Bekari Hatao*. I do not think and I do not understand whether he was saying it innocently, or pleading innocence. The words *Bekari Hatao* or *Garibi Hatao* are not new slogan; Since the inception of planning in our country, that is, from 1951-52 it was planned under each Plan that at the end of that Plan the number of unemployed should be reduced to what it was at the beginning of the Plan. But the experience shows that after all the Plans the number of unemployed all the while increased disproportionately; the Government had failed miserably. And the Prime Minister is announcing such schemes! I do not know whether he has this failure in his mind. If he had this failure in his mind, he would have given particulars about this Nehru Rozgar Yojana.

14.13 hrs.

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

After May there will be June, July, August, September, followed by the rainy season. There is no scope for implementing these schemes. Then when is this scheme likely to be implemented? It is not likely to be implemented before December, that is, the days of Lok Sabha elections. Then, why is he announcing it at this juncture?

He has also made a provision in the Budget to the tune of Rs. 500 crore for the educated unemployed. Is it not going to be implemented? According to me, it is not going to be implemented. These are all populist slogans. We should not betray the faith the people have placed in us. Why has this not been done during the last four years? In the last four years, if we examine and scrutinise our experience, attempts have been made in this direction but there is total failure on the part of the Government. So, so far as this announcement is concerned, it will be very difficult to believe it.

Then, the hon. Finance Minister in his speech while introducing the Finance Bill for consideration, has stated that some concessions have been given to certain sectors. These concessions are related to TV sets and two wheelers. These concessions are for the middle class people and not for the poorest of the poor. So far as the poorest of the poor is concerned, some concessions have been announced in regard to plastic articles by withdrawing certain duties. I welcome these concessions.

Then, I come to passing of these concessions to the consumers. Last year the Finance Minister has stated in clear terms that if the concessions are not passed on to the consumers, then these concessions will be withdrawn. I would like to know from the Finance Minister whether such an attempt was made to examine or scrutinise whether the concessions have been passed on to the consumers or not. I would also like to know whether any agency has been created to see

whether the concessions have been passed to the consumers or not. I think there is no such agency at present. How is it the Finance Minister can withdraw the concessions without ascertaining whether the concessions have been passed on to the consumers or not? The hon. Minister may repeat the same argument. But he should take into consideration this aspect. I would like to have a clarification on this point.

Now I come to ceiling on properties. There is a ceiling on agricultural property since 1960. Various Acts have been passed in various States laying down ceiling limits. No agriculturist can have land more than the ceiling limit. But there has not been any attempt to have a ceiling on urban property as well as in industrial sector. Anyone can have any number of houses costing any amount. So far as the industrial sector is concerned, the assets of Tatas and Birlas now-a-days are nearing Rs. 5000 crores. There is no limitation on those big industries and big industrial families. You should take this into consideration.

There is a wide gap so far as income gap is concerned. The Government servants and the workers in the public sector are being protected against the price rise through DA, if not fully, to a limited extent. The organised sector is to the extent of two crores fifty lakhs. Now the present population is eighty crores. That means, 77.50 crores of people are not protected against the price rise. You can imagine their plight now. I have nothing to say against the organised sector being protected against the price rise. But it is the duty of the Government to protect the unorganised sector also. That has not been done.

Lastly I would like to say one point about the parallel economy of black money. There are attempts of the Government to unearth black money, but they could not succeed in it to the desired extent. Because of the black money, prices are rising very high and ultimately the poor people have to suffer.

In Maharashtra there are certain fisher-

[Sh. D.P. Patil]

men cooperative societies. Now the Income Tax Officers have issued notices to the individual members of the fishermen cooperative societies that they should submit their accounts. I doubt that the earnings of individual members of fishermen societies are such that it should attract income-tax. So, they are being unnecessarily harassed. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to investigate this matter and direct the ITOs not to harass the individual fishermen who are members of the cooperative societies.

[Translation]

CH. LACHCHHI RAM (Jalaun): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Finance Bill of the current year 1989-90 presented by the hon. Minister of Finance. In fact, the Budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance is a commendable one, but it has become a habit with our colleagues in opposition parties to criticise the efforts made by the Government, howsoever welfare oriented programmes it may make for the well being of the people. Our country was relieved of the bondage of Colonisation. Our country has made more progress in comparison to the progress made by all other countries which became independent over the years. Our country is ahead of all of them. It confronted many natural calamities and other difficulties. Even then it has been making steady progress. The countries which attained independence earlier than us, commend our progress and follow us. Our hon. Prime Minister has made announcements for the welfare of the villages. A number of provisions have been made in this Budget to realise the dreams of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru that he had dreamt for the speedy development of the country and it has been acclaimed all over the world. Our villages are comparatively lagging behind and it is our duty to pay more attention towards them. In fact, two types of people live in our villages. One type consists of those people who used to be the supporters of British during the British time. Their condition is good. Their children receive good education. They have

capital and are capable of obtaining all sorts of facilities. The other type consists of those people who have always been backward, who always lacked proper education and has been facing the problem of unemployment. They still continue to be poor. It is also one of the reasons of their poverty that they have always been working as farm labourers. Today modern machines have been introduced in agriculture. Due to mechanisation in agriculture a large number of farm labourers have been rendered jobless. Our Government has launched a number of schemes for improving the standard of education of the people belonging to weaker sections and several boys of these weaker sections have become educated. But a sizable number of them expects employment opportunities from the Government. No arrangements have so far been made to provide employment to those children of farm labourers who have become educated.

I have a suggestion in this regard. There is only one way to solve the problem of unemployment in the villages. My suggestion is that the Government should set up big factories in villages instead of cities and give priority to people belonging to weaker sections in the matter of employment in these factories who have no jobs and who have been rendered jobless consequent upon mechanisation in agriculture and are roaming about in search of jobs. People in large numbers migrate to cities from villages. They confront a number of hardships. It is a very deplorable situation. Sir, through you, I would like to call upon the hon. Minister of Finance that he should evolve such a policy under which two to four factories should be set up in each district so that un-employed people could be provided employment opportunities in these factories and they need not migrate to cities.

Sir, I support the points put forth by my hon. colleagues about raising the exemption limit of income tax. The exemption limit of income tax fixed at Rs. 18,000 is very low. The limit should be fixed at Rs. 25,000 keeping in view the situation arising from the price rise. I support the views of my hon. col-

leagues for fixing the limit at Rs. 25,000.

Sir, the Government has taken a decision to fill the vacancies reserved for scheduled castes. But there is rampant corruption in it. Forty years have passed and the number of reserved vacancies has continuously been rising. It is because the vacancies which were reserved for them have not so far been filled up. A firm stand needs to be taken in this regard. I would like to submit that people belonging to weaker sections should be given priority in the newly opened factories. Children of people who have large sources of employment, who own big farms and factories get employment. The reasons being that they get their children recruited by paying bribes and by adopting corrupt methods. There is great discontentment among people belonging to weaker sections that the Government had made a commitment to fill up the vacancies reserved for them, but these vacancies remain unfilled even after a lapse of 40 years. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance that he should take firm steps in this direction. Discontentment among weaker sections is spreading continuously and it will create a very critical situation in future and will become a big problem for us. It is, therefore, necessary that special efforts should be made in this regard.

Sir, agriculture is the biggest problem in the villages. Even after 40 years of achieving independence and making great efforts in this field, more than half of our land area remains un-irrigated. Some farmers for whom means of irrigation are available are making progress but, those farms who do not get water for their land are in difficulty and grief. There are six rivers flowing through my constituency, out of which 2-3 rivers flowing from other States join them. But the water of these rivers flow out without any utilisation because there is no dam on any of these rivers.

I would like to submit that Dam projects should be sanctioned for the areas experiencing shortage of water. In this regard, I

had made a request to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to construct a reservoir at Panchnad, the confluence of 5 rivers in my constituency. But the Government of Uttar Pradesh is not in a position to take up the work for want of funds. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance to provide funds as a special case for constructing dams which is an urgent need. Our population goes on increasing by 1 1/2 crore people every year and we have to increase the foodgrains production at the same speed. For this, there should be provision of water for irrigation.

There is net work of large deposits of gas in our country. Fertiliser factories should be set up in the area to utilise these gas deposits. A gas pipe line passes through my constituency and a number of outlets have been set up there. If two to three gas based factories are set up in my area the problem of unemployment in the area could be solved.

I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance to provide more funds for the backward areas so that the un-employment problem in these areas could be removed. With these words I support the Finance Bill presented by the hon. Minister of Finance.

[English]

SHRI HET RAM (Sirsa): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, in the Finance Bill presented to the House, it has been mentioned that some concessions have been provided. But concessions to whom? Who need the concessions today in India? The poorest of the poor need the concessions. Sir, 5% Excise duty concession has been provided. But that will be only for capitalist society or the capitalists in India. Concessions on colour TV and scooters, which are used by middle-class or lower-middle class will not help in any way. Colour TV is not the necessity of the present day, especially to those living in the rural parts of the country whose per capita income is not more than Rs. 1.20. But you are going to provide some concession for the TV, Colour TV, scooters, cars, etc. They are not at all needed for the poor of our country.

[Sh. Het Ram]

Sir, as far as Indian economy is concerned, that becomes rudderless. It has no aim. It has become the closed circuit encircled by the capitalists in the country. Whenever they need concessions, they get them by promulgation or by some other means or by changing the laws, rules and regulations. But the poor people do not get any benefits at all. Indian society has become cancerous due to its faulty economic system and this economic system is not at all helpful to the poor. Just before the budget the wheat was selling in Delhi market at Rs. 350 per quintal and steel was costing at Rs. 800 per m. tonne. But now, what a change has taken place. Wheat is sold at approximately Rs. 180 per quintal and still price is going up more than Rs. 1000 per m. tonne. But how you are playing with the poor people and farmers? How you are expecting the poor people to have houses when aluminium is going out of market and when the price of steel is rising? And cement which was available at Rs. 52 per bag is, after the budget, Rs. 82 per bag. (*Interruptions*) The Government should see that poor people are provided with all the necessities. But there is a rise of more than 30 per cent in the prices of various goods now. They made a mess of the total economy. I would say, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that what is needed in India is the development of man, development of human resources. But what are we doing? In the First Plan for education the allocation was 7.3 per cent of the total, now it has come down to 1.3 per cent of the total in the Seventh Plan. You have created the new educational system on the basis of four classes of the Vedic age. Society was divided into four classes. One was the Brahmin class. Today the neo-brahmins, the monied people, avail of education for their children. Where? In the public schools. The rich have the Doon School where everything is available. There are hostels, there are servants, a swimming pool, a laboratory, a library and everything. For middle classes there are Government and Government-aided schools where their children get the education. There are primary schools or the

aided schools which are having less educated teachers, without any furniture, without any chart or blackboard, where the lower middle class people send their children. Now, we have a new education policy for open school and open university without a teacher and other infrastructure. For whom? For those who are Scheduled Castes, who have no avenues of education.

Now you are talking of vocationalisation. What is vocationalisation? Earlier vocationalisation was there in the Indian society. The cobbler, the sweeper, the barber etc. have been degenerated into caste system and now what do you expect from vocationalisation? Again this will strengthen the caste system. So, liberal education is the need of the day. I hope the Scheduled Castes will be given liberal education. It was through liberal education Ambedkar rose to the status. Mahatma Gandhi also got liberal education. After doing B.A. and LL.B from London, he started shoe-making and weaving. If you are going to force vocationalisation on the poor people in the name of education, you are denying them real education. The poorest of the poor should be provided with the school, with a blackboard and with teachers and other infrastructure. Here, education is becoming a business and all the rich people are getting education and poor people, specially those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and other lower castes are not having anything.

As far as higher education is concerned, in India the percentage is 4.5 whereas the Government claims that we are having the highest human resources, trained and educated. This 4.5 per cent is the lowest in the world. Even Korea and Vietnam are not having resources equal to India, but the percentage of higher education there is higher than that of India. In America it is 55 per cent. Here we think that higher education is needed. The new education policy is contemplated in the way that a boy will enter the school and without any evaluation and examination after studying for 10 years in the schools will come out with a certificate and he is called educated. They want to kill the

education system so that the poorest of the poor and the Scheduled Caste may not rise in the society, so that no Ambedkar may grow to oppose Shri Rajiv Gandhi. If our education system is not strengthened, all your export policy and import policy will remain bad. As far as the export is concerned, we are exporting minerals, we are exporting ores at low cost which will be needed by our industries. Things are imported only for Ministers, politicians and industrialists who may have air-conditioners, imported car and imported furnishings for their bungalows. I have seen villages where nothing is imported. Why are our import bills rising? We are not considering agriculture in which 77% of our people are engaged. I will plead with the Finance Minister that the rate of interest should be based on the rate of return. Industrialists are always having 20% margin, but farmers are having no margin. If he is to pay 12% of interest, he may be having no return due to natural calamities like drought. Now, the farmer has to pay 12% of interest, but it should not be more than 6%. 77% of our people are engaged in agriculture, but only 17% of Bank loan has been earmarked for agriculture. 17% of our population consist of Scheduled Castes, but only 1% of bank loan is earmarked for them under DRI scheme. I am happy our Hon. Prime Minister has announced the 'Nehru Rozgar Yojana'. But I think the fate of this programme will be like that of any other programme—NREP and IRDP—because the Government is not having any thrust or will power to implement this programme. Funds are allocated for the same. It was not fund, but the will power and implementation which were lacking. I hope that this programme will not be a pre-election propaganda or guffaw for the people and the politicians and the funds will not be misused at the cost of the poor people.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKARLAL (Pali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Finance Bill presented by the hon. Minister alongwith the concessions of Rs. 123 crores announced by him during the course of discussion.

It is true that there should have been detailed discussions on various demands placed before the House. But I accuse the opposition parties particularly who raised other issues instead of allowing the House to utilise its precious time on the discussion of Demands for Grants of the Budget. In this way they deprived the hon. Members of the House from taking part in this very important discussion.

I would like to submit that the primary objective of the Budget is to bring socialism within the constitutional frame work. In pursuance of these objectives our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi and earlier to that Shrimati Indira Gandhi announced a policy that poverty would be alleviated by providing employment to people. In furtherance of these objectives the Prime Minister was just now making a submission of the schemes announced under this policy that the plan outlay for this purpose has been raised from Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 2000 crores which is a matter of happiness for all of us. It is also worth nothing that the schemes will be implemented through the Panchayats and one member in each family will be provided with employment.

In this connection I would like to submit that farmers live in the villages. While presenting the Budget, the hon. Minister of Finance made some announcements, but they were not clear. As such I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance that at the time of recovery of loans taken by the farmers two to three times of the principal amount of the loan is recovered. The interest on debt is charged from them for the period during which they confront calamities famine and flood. Therefore, I would like to submit through you that they may announce that amount charged against the debts advanced to villagers will not be more than double the amount of loan itself and that this rule will be applicable to all rural areas. Then only we will be able to provide relief to the poor. At present, interest is charged for the period during which they confront flood and famine. We observe that farmers are over-burdened because of debt specially in

[Sh. Shankarlal]

Rajasthan where huge interest is charged on debts. It has created a serious problem.

The demands specially for Ministry of Welfare, which have been presented, include a provision which has been made for scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes and it has also been stated that provision has been made for backward classes but when scrutinised, it reveals that there is nothing significant for backward classes and it is national only. On page 23 and 27 for demands pertaining to Ministry of welfare, it has been stated that a specific amount will be earmarked for the welfare of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes but when we go into the details, it is found that there is no such provision for the welfare of backward classes. Social Service Institutions are also helped by the Ministry of welfare. The assistance provided under this head to Indian Red Cross Society, is very meagre. Indian Red Cross is such an organisation which not only provides help inside the country but also abroad. It is true that discussion has not been held in the House on the demands pertaining to Ministry of Welfare and therefore, I submit that you should pay attention to it.

While strengthening Panchayats, we should also pay attention towards providing certain facilities to them. At present, we find that there are no post office at many Panchayat headquarters. There is not even P.C.O. facility at some places. Therefore, I want to submit through you to the Hon. Minister that if Government is going to implement schemes worth crores of rupees through Panchayat Raj and also strengthen them then the Panchayats should not have any problem. Wherever there are no post office and P.C.O. telephones facilities, the same should be provided there and there should not be any problem.

I want to say one thing about the report submitted by the Ninth Finance Commission. A glance through the report reveals that it has overlooked Rajasthan State. I want to

draw attention of the Hon. Minister to page 41 of the report where margin money given to the different states has been mentioned. Although margin money to the States has been increased yet no change has been made in respect of Rajasthan. For example, Andhra Pradesh was allocated Rs. 24.50 crores in the report of Eighth Finance Commission, Rs. 43.25 crores have been provided in the Report of Ninth Finance Commission, for Haryana it was Rs. 4.50 crores but now it is Rs. 5.75 crores, for Maharashtra it was Rs. 7.25 crores but now it is 13 crores. Rajasthan is being provided Rs. 16.75 crores against an equal sum earlier. While recommendations have been made to increase margin money in respect of other States, Rajasthan has been over-looked. Similarly, in the formula of Grants and Aids stated therein, we find only Rs. 8.37 crores earmarked for Rajasthan whereas other States have been granted more money. Since time at my disposal is short, I am unable to give you full figures. Even then, I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards page 41 and 52 of the report of Ninth Finance Commission. Justice should be done to Rajasthan so that various schemes can be implemented in Rajasthan which is a backward as well as desert, famine and drought prone area.

I want to say one more very important thing about Ministry of Human Resources. A mention has been made about education and upliftment of the human being through the efforts of the Ministry. I want to make one submission. Our India, a country of saints has remained in forefront in important education to the world. We should now also move forward by making special provision for importing cultural and moral education in the world. Where there exists is an atmosphere of rivalry in the matter of Atomic Energy and communal piossions are generated in the world, India should come forward to introduce something new to bring an end to the aforesaid atmosphere by importing moral and cultural education. The new Ministry of Human Resources should keep aside funds for this purpose and utilise them for the same.

I also want to say something about trade union. Subjects like trade unions and labour are contained in the concurrent list as per our constitution. I want to tell you that 5 thousand labourers struck work for 3 months in Pally Textiles Mills in my area and the case relating to increase of work-load is pending in the tribunal but in spite of this, the millowners changed the workload whereas they have no right to do so. The workers resorted to strike and the State Government should have passed the order under section 10 (K) of Industrial Disputes Act but they did not do so. I want that Government of India should get the matter investigated as Government takes special care of farmers and workers in our country and it wants to bring socialism under the leadership of our Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Where injustice is done to workers and farmers, Government of India should come forward and act.

In the end, I want to raise a point about Ministry of Law and Justice. A mention has been made about legal aid to the poor in the Report of Ministry of Law and Justice but I want to say that this does not benefit the people in any way. Every citizen of India wants justice today but those who do not have resources are being denied justice and those who have money get justice. Therefore, it is my submission that legal profession should be nationalised so that people may get justice. Government should make arrangements to provide justice to the poor people.

With these words, I support the Finance Bill.

***SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Finance Bill 1989-90. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister for presenting a well planned Budget. This is a pro-poor Budget. The Government of India has adopted some national policies for different sections. The aims and the objectives of those policies are to provide benefit to every section of the society. The people of this country will certainly be benefitted if the plan and programmes drawn up by the

Government are properly implemented. India is mainly an Agricultural country. Majority of the people in this country live in villages. They are poor and helpless. They need the help of the Government. So we have to make all possible efforts to implement the programmes which are meant for the upliftment of the rural people, the farmers and other weaker section of the society. So long the poor people are not being progressed. We cannot say that the country has achieved its success in reaching the target of implementing different rural development programmes. Sir, the Government have been allocating huge amount of money for implementing different rural development programmes. There is no dearth of resources in the country. But, it is regrettable that the entire fund which is earmarked is not being spent for the welfare of the people. The fund earmarked for rural development programmes are being misused or diverted to some other programmes. Of course it is a fact that due to the constraint of resources many programmes are not being taken up in time. I thank the Government for making efforts to get external assistance for some programmes which are of great national importance. The country is taking loan from IMF and World Bank for implementing some major programmes. The Government is also very sincere in mobilising resources through bonds etc. I appreciate the policy of the Government. But it is unfortunate that some Honourable Members from Opposition have said that the Budget 1989-90 is an election Budget. They are politicising every issue. But, I would like to say, what is harm in presenting a people's welfare Budget? Is it not our duty to raise the status of the poor people of this country. If so, what is wrong in formulating Budget for them? Sir, all classes of people are living in this country. There are rich people, there are poor and there are people from middle class. It is the duty of the middle, upper middle and rich class of people to make some contribution to the national exchequer. If the well-to-do people make some sacrifice then only the poor people will get some benefit. Keeping all these things in mind, the Finance Minister has imposed some taxes on Agriculture. The wealth tax has been imposed on the people

[Sh. Harihar Soren]

of higher income group. The direct taxes and indirect taxes have been increased. These taxes will be paid by the higher income group of people. It will not affect the poor people. The rich, upper-middle and middle classes of people will have to pay some taxes. That money will be diverted to the people welfare programmes. The Government wants to collect the taxes in legal way. Therefore there is no point in criticising the Government for imposing taxes.

Sir, there is lack of proper cooperation from the people who are appointed by the Government for collecting taxes and also the tax-payers. Many tax-payers evade income tax and wealth tax. Some Government officials protect them in some way or the other. The Government is losing a huge amount of revenue every year on account of this. Generally the tax-payers are rich and influential. They influence the Government officials and through them they evade taxes. So, I would like to suggest to the Finance Minister to issue clear guidelines to the State Governments to mobilise resources. Whether the officials who collect taxes belong to the State Governments or the Central Government, they should be asked not to fall in the trap of dishonest tax payers. Moreover there should be regular monitoring of the activities of the Government officials who try to help the tax-payers in unfair ways. Every year we make the projection of earning resources through income tax and wealth tax for that year. But when the financial year ends, we find that we are lagging far behind than our projection. While presenting the Budget, the Minister makes it clear every year as to what amount would be spent under different programmes in that year, when the year comes to an end we find that we have spent much more than what we had earmarked. Therefore I stress upon the collection of income tax and wealth tax. The higher income groups must pay their taxes during the year. If it is collected sincerely and paid honestly we will get sufficient fund for different programmes. If there is deficit, the balance fund which is required, could be met from external credit.

There are some capitalists who have accumulated huge amount of wealth. We have to introduce some schemes through which they will have to part with some of their wealth. That money should be spent for the poor people of this country. We have to extract that wealth from them and to utilise the same for the benefit of the poor masses.

Sir, we have achieved self-sufficiency in agricultural production. We have got surplus foodgrains in the country. But the tragedy is that the condition of every farmer and the worker in the country has not been improved. The vested interests are taking the benefit of their poverty. The middlemen are exploiting the poor farmers. the workers are being exploited by the employers. We have to free the workers and the farmers from the clutches of the middlemen and the employers. There should not be any exploitation.

Sir, I am happy to say that today, our Prime Minister made some announcement with regard to the introduction of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana. This national scheme will certainly provide benefit to the poorer section of the society. It will go a long way in solving the unemployment problems in the country. But the question lies on its proper implementation. The State Governments should be issued with clear instruction as to how this programme is to be implemented effectively. How the unemployed are to get employment through this scheme.

Sir, I do not wish to take much time of the House. I would only like to raise some issues pertaining to my Constituency. At the beginning of my speech I had said that it is very necessary to develop our Agriculture. We have also to develop our industry. I come from Keonjhar District of Orissa. It is a tribal populated district. Most of the people are poor. They are mainly small and marginal farmers. But it is regrettable that they are facing a great problem due to want of irrigation facilities available for them. They depend on rain water. But some years, due to scanty rainfall, they fail to get good crops. Kanpur medium irrigation project was proposed to be executed in Champua sub-

division of my district. But fund has not been provided for that project so far. It will irrigate thousands of acres of land if it is executed. The people of a drought affected sub-division will get great relief as the problem of water will be over. The project is pending before the Central Water Commission since long. I would like to urge upon the Finance minister to provide adequate fund for that project so that it would be implemented during the seven plan period.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, the district of Keonjhar abounds with mineral resources. But it is unfortunate that the local people are facing unemployment problem. If the mineral resources which are available in that district are properly exploited and mineral-based industries are set up, the local youths will get employment. They will be able to earn their livelihood in those mines and mineral-based industries. We are exporting the minerals produced in Keonjhar District. Instead of exporting the raw-materials, we should utilise them in the mineral-based Industries. We are importing the finished goods from foreign countries. If we utilise the raw-materials available in the country by manufacturing those items we can reduce the import bills. Some Hon'ble Members have referred to the existing export and import position in the country. I agree with them that the export should increase and we should reduce the import. Therefore, instead of exporting the minerals we should utilise them in our country. In this way, we can provide employment to our people and also export the finished goods. If we do so, we can reduce the import Bill and also earn foreign exchange by exporting finished goods. In this way we can raise the resources of our country.

With these words I thank you very much and conclude my speech.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to raise a particular point on Finance Bill. First of all, I want to thank the Finance Minister for reducing the expenses on T.V.

by reducing the excise duty. Only being an opposition Member, it will not be correct to say that this concession is only for the rich. I thank Shri Chavan that he has given a relief on T.V. Now-a-days everybody needs T.V. It is not a source of listening to music but it is a source of education, scientific research, general knowledge and many other things. As such, it has become part and parcel of life.

The main thing which I want to point out is that Punjab problem is a national problem. Communal disturbances have taken place in Delhi, Kanpur, and throughout India during last 9-10 years. Some people organised and murdered Sikhs at Bokaro, there were Hindu-Muslims riots but Hindu-Sikhs riots have never occurred in Punjab since Hindu-Sikh brotherhood is established there. What is happening there, is being done by the terrorists coming from outside. I want to raise the point that the people of Punjab do not quarrel, good atmosphere prevails in Punjab, there is a harmonious relations among all the classes, social and family relationships exists between Hindus and Sikhs but B.S.F., Para-military forces and C.R.P. personnel are posted after every 5-10 kilometers. I want to raise the point that when Punjab is a national problem, expenses for Para-military forces and police should be borne by the centre.

It is pleasure to note that Shri Chavan has smiled, it means that he agrees that the expenses should be borne by the Central Government. The expenses being incurred on the deployment of the B.S.F. and the C.R.P.F. and on the jeeps, cars, buses etc. used by the Government offices should be borne by the Central Government. It is clear that foreign forces are trying to destabilise this country. When outside forces and enemy countries are trying to interfere in the country, although they are more active in Punjab, they cannot be considered to be the enemies of Punjab alone. Why should it be thought that these forces are attempting to destabilise only Punjab? Therefore, I would like to make a strong appeal to provide funds out of the Central exchequer for this purpose. The Government could not have done

[Sh. Balawant Singh Ramoowalia]

more than this in the given economic circumstances and with the limited resources at its disposal. It has made every effort on its part. However, a little more initiative should be taken and prices of agricultural inputs should be reduced. There is an increase of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 in the price of certain thing every year with the result that demands for bonus are made. There is a certain brand of tractor in Punjab and I will not take its name because it will boost its publicity but I will convey it to you in private in this regard. The people wait in queues for purchasing this tractor. 2-4 persons approach me every day to get that tractor for them because it is manufactured in the private sector. As regards items such as the tractors, water pumps, P.V.C. pipes used for installing tubewells etc., the hon. Finance Minister should convene a meeting shortly and seriously consider as to which inputs are used by the farmers and how their prices can be reduced. If full attention is paid, there will be no need to increase their prices by Rs. 15 to Rs. 20, instead the cost of production will be reduced by Rs. 30 per quintal.

When I go abroad, I do not bring any goods from there and even if I do, I refer to avoid the green channel. If the goods brought from abroad costs less than Rs. 1,250/- no custom duty is charged on them. But this limit is too less. I would like to suggest that this limit should be increased to Rs. 5000/- because for the last 20 years there has been no revision in this limit. I would like to submit one more point which relates to earning more revenue by the Government. I had written a letter to the hon. Minister on 23rd March. There is Government orders dated, 2 December, 1988 and Notice No. 84 of 1988. I had informed you that the Glaxo Drugs and Pharmaceuticals which is a multinational company, was permitted to import a medicine called Saftajidum Fortum duty free, under O.G.L. scheme. This medicine is used under special prescriptions only. It comes in the finished form. There are certain firms which import its raw material and prepare the medicine indigenously. When they sell it in

the market, they have to pay duty thereon, whereas the Glaxo company gets this medicine direct from London duty-free. Duty should also be imposed on the Glaxo company. It will increase the revenue of the Government. I am not talking about expenditure but about income. As this medicine is used for special purposes... As your have rung the bell, I sit down.

*SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak in Oriya. I rise to support the Finance Bill moved by our Finance Minister. We have been discussing the Finance Bill for a long time and many Honourable Members have expressed their views on this Bill. I welcome this bill and also I would like to express my views on this Bill. Sir, you have imposed taxes on Agricultural in the line of our national policies. I welcome the imposition of taxes. Because it is not going to affect the small and marginal farmers, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or the poor people. Sir, 72 crores of the people in this country were waiting for the Budget. You have formulated the Budget in such a way that the people of every section of the society has appreciated it. It is Budget for the poor, the scheduled castes, the Scheduled Tribes and other weaker section of the society. People living in every nook and corner of the country has welcomed the Budget. Because you have drawn up some programme or the other for every citizen of this country.

Sir, India is an agricultural country. About 70% of the population of this country earn their livelihood from agriculture. So it is very necessary to give job priority an implementing the schemes for the development of agriculture. We have to identify the areas which areas which are lagging far behind the advanced states in Agricultural Production. I would like to say so, because a huge amount of money has been spent on Agriculture during last four decades or so. But, the fund is spent in a limited area and many areas have remained untouched. I represent a backward district Phulbani in Orissa. I got elected from that Constituency in 1984. The Honourable Finance Minister is a very senior

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

and veteran leader. He knows the geographical location and the condition of the people in my Constituency. The Honourable Prime Minister who is the leader of the House visited my district in 1985. He had said that every effort would be made to develop my district. He had said that schemes would be drawn for the development of the people of Phulabani and Kalahandi districts. In this context, I would like to say that the agricultural development of my district has not become possible due to want of adequate irrigation facilities. There are four main irrigation projects in Phulabani district which are pending since long. They are Bagha, Khadag, Bonda Pipili and Lambakphai-irrigation projects. The survey and estimate of these projects have been completed since 1975, but till today these projects have not been accorded financial approval. I do not know why these projects have been pending since long, whether it is due to the fault of the State Govt. of Orissa or due to the negligence of the Central Government. When you are making efforts for the development of Agriculture, I request you Honourable Finance Minister to find out the reasons of the delay in the execution of these projects. At the same time, I request you to provide necessary financial assistance for implementing them projects. As you know Sir, my district is a drought prone district. As many as four blocks in the district are severely affected by drought. In fact, the entire district is reeling under severe drought this year. You have taken a number of steps to help the drought affected people. But frankly speaking Sir, they are very inadequate. If you really want the agricultural development of the district, I would like to appeal to you to expedite the four irrigation projects in my district which I mentioned here. Sir, my second demand is with regard to the setting up of Industries in my district. As you know Sir, my district was identified as a 'No Industry District' in the year 1980. Till today, no attempt has been made to set up Industry in my district. No major or medium Industry has been set up there so far. Today you are planning to provide jobs to unemployed. You have taken steps to provide work to the people through IRDP, RLEGP and NREP. I

would like to tell you that enough job opportunities have not been created for the people of Phulabani through these schemes. Sir, you have taken policy decision to set up Industries in the 'No Industry District' A project proposal to set up Industries with an investment of Rs. 150/- crores at Manamunda in Phulabani District is pending for the financial approval of the Central Govt. I would like to request you through the Honourable Deputy Speaker to accord financial approval to that project proposal at an early date.

Thirdly, I would like to raise another point with regard to rail communication. As you know Sir, Phulabani is lagging far behind many other districts in the country in the matter of rail communication. There is a sizeable Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in that district. If we want all round progress of those SC & ST people we must provide them proper communication facilities. It is unfortunate that rail communication facility has not been provided in that district so far. The country achieved independence in the year 1947. When we are deprived of the rail communication facility in the district, we feel that we have not achieved our independence. When I got elected to Lok Sabha in 1984, I raised this point in the House. I have been writing to the Railway Minister as well as the Prime Minister to take up the Construction work of the proposed Khurda Road-Bolangir line via Phulabani. But it is a matter of great regret that the Honourable Railway Minister Mr. Schindia has refused to take up that project. He says that the project is not economically viable. Sir, if this project is implemented it will go a long way in solving the communication problem of a backward district. It will cater to the communication need of a large number of SC & ST people living in that district. So, the construction of proposed Khurda-Road-Balangir via Phulabani line should be started immediately. Sir, a word about Education you have constructed some Residential school and hostel building in the district of Phulabani. As I had stated earlier it is a SC & ST populated district in the State of Orissa. The existing number of schools and hostels are not able to accommodate the SC

[Sh. Radhakanta Digal]

& ST students of the district. Moreover the building work of the low cost hostels constructed by the State Harijan & Tribal Welfare department are not of good quality. The rate at which stipend is being given to the SC & ST student is very inadequate. I would like to suggest the revision of the rate of stipend. You are giving Rs. 60/- per month to each SC or ST student who is reading in Class VII or VIII. How can a student meet his study expenses with this low amount of stipend. This is just like paying poverty allowance to those students, i.e., the future of the nation. Therefore I strongly recommend to the govt. to revise this rate. I demand the increase of the stipend to Rs. 100/- per student upto class VII. The High School students upto +2 should get Rs. 150/- each per month. The college students upto the M.A., should get minimum Rs. 250/- per month each so that they can continue and complete their higher education.

Lastly, I would like to make my points very briefly and then I shall conclude my speech.

I would like to tell the Finance Minister through you that my Lok Sabha Constituency has 4 Assembly constituencies from Phulabani, 2 from Bolangir and another Assembly segment from Ganjam district, i.e., Bhanja-nagar. Honourable Shri Somnath Rath belongs to that area. I and Mr. Rath have been demanding since long to implement Rushikulya Command Area Programme, Nua-para and Biluakhai Projects. In order to develop agriculture in those areas you have to implement these projects.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: You speak a few words about 'No Industry Districts'.

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: I have already made that point. Sir, the Honourable Members from opposition are criticising the poverty alleviation and employment oriented programmes of the govt. But, I would like to tell them that it is Congress Party under the leadership of Smt. Indira Gandhi only tried to

remove poverty and unemployment from this country. Now, the worthy son of a worthy mother our present dynamic Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi is making all possible efforts to remove poverty and unemployment from this country. The dream of Smt. Indira Gandhi was to make India a great country. Shri Rajiv Gandhi is making sincere effort to fulfil her dream. The Nehru Rojgar Yojana will certainly remove unemployment. I would like to request the Honourable Finance Minister to identify Phulabani as a district for the introduction of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana.

With these words I thank you very much and conclude my speech.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY (Peddapalli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the proposed expenditure of Rs. 16,400 crores is under discussion in the House. It is a gratifying fact and such a discussion should take place. It is very essential to spend this sum for the welfare and progress of the poor people, harijans, adivasis and other backward sections of society. However, when Central Schemes are prepared, their benefits are mostly enjoyed by the politicians, traders and officials of and do not reach the poor people. Crores of rupees have been spent since the time of independence and had those sum been properly utilised there would not have been any poor person left in the country by now. The crores of rupees which are allocated for the welfare of the poor people every year are not spent accordingly. All this money is being diverted to enable the top officers to travel throughout the country with their families in comfort. It is on account of such misuse of funds that the number of poor people is increasing in the country and no concrete measures are being taken for their upliftment.

The hon. Minister had stated in his reply to a question that 37 percent of the people have been lifted above the poverty line. In order to lift these people above the poverty line, either assets like cows and buffaloes have been provided or subsidies worth Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 have been given. I would like

to know whether it is in this manner that the Government wishes to uplift them? This sort of work does not behove the Government.

The Singreni colliery is located in my constituency and about 1 to 2 lakhs of labourers are working in it. They are constantly demanding facilities like housing, foodgrains, clothes and schools. The Government should look into their problems which they are facing and solve them.

The Inchampalli project is in my area of Telangana. The Government had got a survey conducted by a French team regarding this project. But a meeting of the Chief Ministers of three States has not been called so far. This meeting should be called at the earliest so that a decision may be taken to expedite the matter. At least 200 villages are located at the site of this project. However, these villages are not being developed. Steps are not being taken to build houses for these poor people. The Government should pay attention in that direction. Along with it, efforts should be made to expedite the work of the Inchampalli project. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government propose to spend crores of rupees in accordance with the provisions of this Finance Bill. In spite of spending such vast sums, the condition of the farmers and of the labourers is worsening day by day and the gap between the villages and the cities is widening. What are the reasons behind this phenomena? It is a common knowledge that 80 to 90 percent of the rural people are engaged in agriculture and they do not have any other source of income. Today the people of the rural areas are migrating to cities in large numbers. But little attention is being paid by the Government in this direction.

In my supplementary to a reply of the hon. Minister I had categorically asked the basis on which the Agricultural Costs and Price Commission fixes the prices and what are the norms in this regard? Along with it, I had also wanted to know whether or not the

farmers get at least 10 to 15 percent of profit by the remunerative prices which are being provided by the Government. The hon. Minister has given a very evasive reply to my supplementary. The Government is well-aware of the condition of farmers living in the rural areas. Our condition is miserable and the condition of the agricultural labourers is worse. Whatever reply is framed by the Government servants is placed here by the hon. Minister. I had written a letter also in this connection and I have received its reply today only but I have forgotten to bring it here. If I had the reply with me I could have shown it to you. In my letter I had wanted to know whether 10 to 15 percent of remunerative prices are being offered in the case of Jawar, bajra and paddy. It has been stated in the reply that prices are fixed keeping in view the interest of the consumers. What does it mean? Do you want to suppress the farmers. Is the Government interested in knowing whether the farmers are getting clothes to wear and whether their children are getting passes for travelling by the railways free of cost. The Government has never paid any attention in this direction. If the Government fails to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce, the farmers will leave their profession of agriculture and the country will not get foodgrains. Rice was imported from Thailand recently and wheat has been imported from other places. Similarly other agricultural items are also being imported. The stocks of rice in Kerala are getting rotten and have started stinking but it is not being purchased. Its purchase has come to a halt since past two months. The same is the case with chillies. The Trading Corporation should set up markets in Hyderabad and Warangal for the purchase of commodities like chillies etc. but unfortunately such measures are not being taken.

The other day a truck carrying the farmers along with their produce of chillies from Warangal to Nagpur overturned resulting in death of 10 persons. The distance between Warangal and Nagpur is about 250-300 kms. only and within this short distance of about 250 kms. the price differential is Rs. 500/- per quintal. Why is the Government so

[Sh. C.Janga Reddy]

unconcerned about the interests of farmers? The farmers and handloom weavers are committing suicide. Only yesterday one of the Members belonging to the ruling party said that handloom weavers were greatly disappointed with the Government's handloom policy and were committing suicide. Handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh too, are dying of starvation and are being drawn to suicide. The Government of Andhra Pradesh ordered an enquiry but they refused to accept the truth.. (*Interruptions*)... It has nothing to do with the Ramarao Government but it is due to the textile policy of Shri Rajiv Gandhi that the handloom weavers are not getting work and are unable to find buyers for their cloth in the market and thus they are forced to commit suicide. It is beyond my comprehension as to how does it happen that the prices of cotton fall while the prices of yarn and cloth register an increase. After all there should be some correlation. The rates at which the fertilisers are supplied to the farmer should be taken into account while fixing the price of his produce. Similarly you should pay attention to the wide gap between the production cost and selling price of industrial goods. The production of Coca Cola costs about 70 paise only while it is sold at the rate of Rs. 3/- . Similarly, the cost of production of Bajaj scooter is about Rs. 7500/- while its selling price is Rs. 13000/-. Why there is such a wide difference? You are the least bothered as to what the farmer gets in return for his labour and other inputs, there is no buyer for his produce in the market. Even after realising a lot of money from him, he is being harassed.

I have written to the hon. Minister drawing his attention to the issue of payment of compensation to the farmers by the Delhi Administration for their land acquired for allotment to the housing societies and for construction of houses for its officers and employees. The farmers are paid compensation after five years with an interest at the rate of 6 or 4 percent. Compensation is paid after 10 years or 5 years of acquisition with some interest but the market value prevail-

ing 5 years ago is taken into account and then income-tax is charged on this amount under section 194 (c). Is it not an act of cruelty? You are paying compensation after 15 years for the land acquired for Srisalem Project and that too when people went to court and then you paying Rs. 10,000/- for the land, the price of which in fact is Rs. 50,000/- per acre. So much so that income tax is being charged on the interest on Rs. 10,000 for ten years. Hon. Minister, Sir, is it not a criminal act. The farmers should be exempted from the provisions of section 194 (c), as I have already written to him. Lakhs of rupees have been recovered in Kurnool and Mahbub Nagar districts affected by the Srisalem Project. Is it not injustice that first you acquire their land using force and then pay compensation much later and interest is not paid to them? Due to the undue delay in land acquisition proceeding payment to them is delayed.

[*English*]

In the land Acquisition Act there is a provision to pay the interest.

[*Translation*]

So it is a criminal act to levy income tax on interest, the authorities of Finance Department are criminals, it is a clear case of picking the pocket of farmers and their exploitation. So they should be exempted from payment of income tax at the earliest.

Besides, I would like to tell that funds are being wasted on the schemes like NREP and RLEGP, which are not going to deliver the goods. The achievement is not up to the desired level. You are giving the money to the State Governments but the accounts are not being audited.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): Is the scheme of supplying rice at the rate of Rs. 21/- per kg. good?

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: There is a

provision of, 'Muster-Roll' under the NREP and RLEGP. The officials obtain thumb impression of 15 persons while actually only 10 workers are engaged. The amounts paid under these programmes should be subject to audit as funds are being misappropriated. I do favour allocation of funds for rural development but the focal point of my submission is that it is a misconception that funds are reaching directly to the labourers. The Village Development Officer acts as an intermediary under RLEGP, who misappropriates the funds. Large scale misuse of these funds is taking place in all the States with the sole exception of Maharashtra. The performance does not measure up to the quantum of funds provided by the Central Government. There is no prescribed unit to measure the work to be put in by a labourer for Rs. 6, 10 paid by you under N.R.E.P. or R.L.E.G.P. and this is resulting in misuse of funds. I have written a letter to the hon. Minister that the State Governments are concentrating on schemes which attract immediate public attention in order to win over the voters during the coming elections. Shri N.T. Rama Rao, our Chief Minister has supplied rice at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kg. in Andhra Pradesh, which cost about Rs. 3 crores. Such schemes have stalled the development projects. With this sum of Rs. 13 crores two development projects could be undertaken. You must exercise some control on the State Governments so that they may not be able to divert funds for such works aimed at winning votes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

15.36 hrs.

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[Translation]

Sixty-Fifth Report

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN
RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot): Mr. Deputy
Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-Fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th April, 1989".

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-Fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th April, 1989"

The motion was adopted

15.37 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: MEASURES TO CONTROL POPULATION EXPLOSION. *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will take up further discussion on Resolution regarding measures to control population explosion moved by Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi on 31st March 1989.

Dr. Manoj Pandey may continue his speech. He is not present in the House. Mr. Somnath Rath.

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh): Sir, I am on a point of order. I request that other Resolutions may also please be taken up today. Otherwise, we may not find time to discuss them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only 40 minutes are left for the resolution under discussion. After the Minister's intervention and the final reply, we will certainly take up the other Resolutions today itself. Please sit down.

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN: Thank you, Sir.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: This resolution of mine is very important. Time must be extended. Many hon. members want to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the outset, I congratulate my friend Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi for having brought this Resolution on Measures to control Population Explosion. Sir, all sections of the House have shown keen interest in the Health Policy and the twin goals of our health policy to achieve health for all the 2000 AD and to reach the one-child norm by 2000 AD.

Various steps have already been taken under the 20-Point Programme of our Prime Minister for implementation of this policy. The objects for family planning, particularly sterilisation, IUDs and oral pills, promotion of child health programmes, etc have all been given adequate importance. The mortality rate has been reduced from 27.4 to 14.8 per thousand population and life expectancy at birth has increased from 32.7 years to over 52 years.

In spite of impressive progress, the demography and health picture of the country still continues to be the cause for serious concern. The high rate of growth of population continues to have an adverse effect on the health of the people, on the life of the people and also on the growth of the country. It over-shadows all our achievements and growth in economic front. The mortality rate of women and children are still high. One-third of the total death occurs among the children below the age group of five years. Infant mortality is round about 129 per thousand live births. Mal-nutrition continues to be as usual. Only 31 percent of the rural population could get potable water supply. 0.5 percent of the population enjoys basic sanitation. Poverty and ignorance are responsible cause of growing population.

What is required is that attention should be given to the measures and they must be expedited so that we can reach the goal by the turn of the Century, as envisaged.

The socio-economic development process should be given the thrust. The involvement of private voluntary organisations and the implementation of Twenty Point Programme are the need of the hour.

The family planning programme must be the people's programme and it should be implemented on voluntary basis, specially in tribal, hilly and other backward areas.

In our country, the family planning programme cannot be implemented by coercion. But it should be implemented by persuasion. It is our policy. India is the first country, where the family planning programme has been taken on government basis. The family planning programme is now styled as family welfare programme.

Small family norms should be spread throughout the villages and people should be educated. The national population policy should cover all parts of the country for which co-operation from all parties is required.

What happened after 1977? There was a family planning structure before that. But to gain political advantage, this structure was demolished. There was a lot of criticism, rather discouragement, against the implementation of the family planning programme. In fact, in 1977 at the time of elections, this was taken as a weapon against the Congress Party, the then Government. And the party which came to power, demolished all the infrastructures. So, the birth rate instead of going down, went up. So, now all the parties have realized the faults which were committed. All the parties, cutting across party lines, should join hands, cooperate and declare it as a national policy to see that family planning is rigorously implemented in the country; and to that end, there should be honest and sincere attempts by all the parties concerned.

Now about child labour. As against the estimate of the Planning Commission that there are 17.36 million working children in India, unofficial sources place the figure anywhere between 44 million and one

hundred million. Poverty is the root cause for child labour. An ILO survey, made in an industrial area, has shown that children, specially girls, constitute the bulk of the work force. From the report given by the Department of Health, it is seen that there was a decline in performance under sterilization. It is for the Department of Health to see why there is this decline. Adequate facilities for training in laparos copy should be provided. Similar steps should be taken regarding medical termination of pregnancy also.

I had gone to China. We found that in China, in two decades the growth rate could be reduced from 3% to 1.2%. In India, though there is a slight decline, it has come down just to 2%. Though we spend a huge amount every year in India on plans under family welfare, the result is not satisfactory it is 2% even now.

The success of India's planning depends on the success of family planning efforts. Population explosion should be controlled, if we are to eradicate poverty and unemployment in the country, and attain Health for All. We should consider why people in the rural areas of India think of having more children. One reason we can give is illiteracy; others could be early marriage and other social and religious aspects. But we forget another point, viz. poverty. More children, specially sons, are required as old age security to poor parents. So, if we can inculcate the idea in the minds of people that even one child can live for a longer time and if we can give better treatment and security to people in their old age, then I think their attitude will change

In China also, we met many old people. The condition was similar there. There also, old people long for sons.

Of course, in India, conditions differ: after the death of the parents, the sons perform the religious rights. So the parents wish to have a son though they have daughters. But in China, there is a very good coverage.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you want to be relieved by him, I think you should be relieved earlier.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: I am stressing on the point because in China there is a very good coverage; the coverage is that for 20 families there is a committee and the members of that committee look after those 20 families and educate them on family planning. If a lady is pregnant more than once, they persuade her for an abortion. In China, there is one-child norm whereas in India we have got two-child norm. In China, there is one-child norm and the Resolution also lays stress on it. So, what is needed in India is that we should popularise the movement. In China, they could do so because the Government policy there is being implemented by the communist party workers also in right earnest. In India, the media should be utilised to popularise the family welfare programme. Similarly, we should lay stress on literacy education and the media should also be used for implementing the family planning norm. In 1947, our population was 342 millions; in 1988, our population was 800 million. 2.4 percent of the global land area is in our country where about 15 percent of the world population is accommodated. There is about 15 million increase in our country every year. We add population equal to that of Australia, not by area.

The infant mortality is very high; it is 95 percent though reduced from 140 percent in 1977. Primary health care services to all families and maternity and child health care facilities should be given to the villagers in particular. Rigorous family planning programme is the only way to solve the problem. Lack of motivation specially amongst rural households towards a small family norm is the real cause of the problem. The health workers should work with a spirit of service and sincerity of purpose. The India Government should meet cent percent the expenditure on the family welfare.

We have got in the blocks, two doctors and many para-medical workers meant for

[Sh. Somnath Rath]

this purpose. But are they working sincerely? They must have the spirit of service; that must be taught to them by the Department. Unless they work in a missionary spirit and motivate the people, how could this policy be implemented?

There is a decline in birth rate, of course, but it is very meagre because the acceptance of the family planning, is not as much as is expected to be. This is as I have stated due to young age of marriage, social attitude, religious belief and illiteracy. But it can be met if a sincere attempt is made by all the political parties and voluntary organisations. I appeal to all the political parties and voluntary organisations and people at large to help the Government in this matter. Because the population growth is high, the fertility rate needs to be curbed. Despite massive investments on family planning every successive year, the actual growth rate of population is disturbingly high. Under these circumstances if we have to achieve a good economic growth, what is needed is to control the growth rate of population.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that the Resolution moved by Dr. Bhoi is the most important of all the resolutions moved this year. The need of the hour is to control growth of population. It is our bad luck that people do not give a serious thought to this problem. As Shri Rath has pointed out just now, after the experience of 1977, people have become apprehensive that whichever political party or Government took initiative in this regard will land itself in trouble. In reality this is not the case. It is true that in some cases excesses were committed during 1975-1977 but the family planning programme was not responsible for it but the fault lay with the authorities responsible for its implementation who forced the people to undergo sterilisation operations. Now time has come to review the whole matter from a fresh perspective. I visited China one and a half

years ago. Representatives from all the Asian countries had gathered for a conference on population control which lasted for 5-6 days. I also participated in it and listened attentively to the entire proceedings. I felt that we can control population in our country without any difficulty. Asian countries are much better placed than many other countries. But I was thrilled to see that people in all the Asian countries with the exception of Bangladesh and Nepal were alive to the problem of population control. In fact they learnt a lesson from China. There is no doubt that in the beginning some sort of compulsion or force was used in China to control growth of population but at present, programme of population control in China is based on incentives and disincentives. One child norm has been adopted there. People who adopt this norm get numerous facilities from the Government, such as concessions in allotment of flat, etc. Privatisation is taking place in China also.....

16.00 hrs.

A small farm is given to them or some other facilities are provided to enable them to lead a better life. There is one more thing. Very much like our country, where the whole area is divided into various small blocks, in China the total area has been divided into small areas and a lady doctor has been appointed in each such area to detect the cases of conception in that particular area.

[MR. SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

She submits her report every month. She keeps a foolproof record to every couple in that area. In case of a couple in receipt of certain incentives from the Government, as soon as the lady doctor comes to know of fresh pregnancy, all the incentives are discontinued forth with. It serves as a warning to the other couples in the society. It may look quite odd to us but it has become an accepted practice there. As already stated, the growth rate of population in China has come down from 3 percent to 1.2 percent. Why can't it be done in our country? I think that strong determination is required for it. Many

measures were taken, huge sums have been spent to control population growth. But were the funds utilised properly and did the benefits actually reach the intended beneficiaries? I have myself visited many rural areas and have noticed many silly meaningless slogans based on 20 year old concept written with the caption 'Adopt Small Family Norm'. These have no effect.

As I said earlier also, the villagers consider our publicity about family planning as absurd. According to them family planning is meant for affluent people only, not for the poor. The publicity measures adopted for family planning in our country are not at all effective. Hundreds of people have complained to me that the advertisement on family planning telecast immediately after the news borders on indecency and cannot be seen with the whole family present, which is normally the case. It can be presented in another way. It will be still better if it is shown at late hours. There is yet another way. When I was in school life insurance was newly introduced in the country or perhaps nationalised. A very good advertisement used to appear in the newspapers. Two families used to be depicted, one of which went for life insurance and later the head of that family unfortunately died in an accident. The family was paid. One lakh rupees as insurance cover and they lived happily. But the other individual didn't get his life insured and he too died in an accident and his family was ruined. A similar advertisement depicting two families, one adopting family planning and the other not doing so may be shown on the T.V. with the disastrous consequences of not adopting family planning. This have the desired impact Tolstoy also said that if some thing was presented in the form of a story, it would have good effect. you give an advertisement which passes off without leaving an impression on the mind. Publicity is the biggest media available for making the family planning successful. Publicity is necessary to make the family planning effective. Fortunately, this media has become very powerful. Ten years ago it was not so powerful. In 1977 we had no such advantage. Today T.V. has reached every village.

Through T.V., we can educate the masses about the benefits of family planning. When we talk of population explosion, I am reminded of the population theory of Malthus. He said that if the population was not controlled, the nature will itself control it. there will be droughts, floods, riots and epidemics and the population will decrease. Today the same thing is happening Malthus also said that people would have to choose between having a child or a car. People should be educated that if they limit the size of their family, they can have a maruti car after 10-15 years, but if you will go on enlarging the size of your family, you may face disaster. This idea can be impressed upon the people. Now the structure of the society is changing. You may ask people belonging to any section of the society, he will admit that no child supports his parents. So this thinking is now changing that sons support his parents. So this thinking is now changing that sons support and look after their parents in old age. People don't believe it much. So, if they are educated that their old age will be successful and comfortable if they adopt family planning, people will certainly pay attention to it. This whole programme can become successful and you can achieve results without coercion. This problem can be solved, if half of the money spent on family planning programme, is spent on adult education. Even today, when there are no schools in the villages even for the boys, there is no question of girls' school. In the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana the Hon. Prime Minister has stated that there will be 30 per cent reservation for women. If this reservation policy is implemented everywhere, naturally the people will send their daughters to schools. I will suggest that education should be made free in the country from primary to graduation level and particularly in the rural areas, it should be made totally free. Family planning can not be successful until the girls are educated. They should be made to realise that it is their discretion to bear a child or not and it is no more the monopoly of the males. Only then, there can be change in thinking in the society. Our economic development will be stalled, if the population continued to grow like this.

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

The problem is a more serious than we think it to be. Kerala has been able to solve it to some extent, the main reason for which is the high rate of literacy among the women there. I don't want to take much time, but I will like to cite the example of a very good programme which I happened to see. Lot of water used to collect at a place and the residents suffered from malaria. The doctor said that it is not your fault, but the fault lies with the pit which breeds malaria mosquitoes, he advised the people that if they filled that pit, they could get rid of the disease. Thus the root cause of their poverty is their ignorance, due to which they go on producing children. The day people become conscious that they should stop producing children, economic progress and development will be assured.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of State for Family Welfare, because the publicity is more effective when it is done by someone who is not having children. Our hon. Chief Minister himself has 12 children. If he gives a call for adopting family planning, the people will say that he himself has got 12 children but he is advising others to have two children only. In such a case who can be motivated to adopt family planning. So I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister. (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, I would like to submit that those who talk of family planning should in the first instance adopt the programme themselves. A couple should not have more than two children. The Government servants who have more than 2 children should be dismissed. At present Government gives 2 increments to its employees who have only 2 children.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: The Chief Minister of your state is father of 12 children. In such circumstances should be continue on office as Chief Minister?

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: A person having more than 2 children should not be

allowed to contest elections.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: You should give this suggestion to them.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: The Government should first enact a law under which a person having more than 2 children could be denied all facilities like water, milk, electricity etc. As Dr. Rajhans pointed out that in China if a woman conceives for a second time, the Government stops giving all the facilities to her. A similar provision should be made in our country also.

It has been noticed that some people practise polygamy. In Hyderabad there is a family which consists of 100 members. We should stop such a practice. The Government should debar a person having more than 2 children from ration card facility and should see to it that the total number of members entered in the ration card should not exceed four. The Government should extend the provision of giving 2 increments to its employees having only 2 children in villages also. In some rural areas the Government gives Rs. 50/- only as incentive. This amount should be increased to some extent. I would again submit that those having more than 2 children should be denied all facilities.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: You should mention all these points in your manifesto.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: This is the malady. We simply want to stick to our seats and do not think about the welfare of our country seriously. If you make such a provision, we will follow suit. All the political parties should put their heads together and take a decision. Just now Shri Chavan submitted that Government is spending crores of rupees on various schemes. But it has been noticed that the poor are not being benefited. Despite all this people are still living below poverty line, the farmers are starving and the handloom weavers are dying. What is the reason behind this? We should control population and enact a law in this regard. We

have not been able to enact such a law apprehending religious backlash. That is why you say that it will be a personal attack. It is high time to consider this subject seriously. Different political parties must give a serious thought to it. If the Government does not enact such a law, water can not be made available in villages no matter how much expenditure is made, foodgrains will not be available and we will have to resort to import of foodgrains, ultimately posing a threat to the integrity and independence of the country. We should follow the example of China but we are afraid. As Shri Soz pointed out, this is compulsory in Indonesia. I do not know whether he is right or he wants me to tell the untruth but if there is such a law in other countries, we should not hesitate to enact such a law here. The facilities extended to the Government employees should be curtailed and this should be made compulsory for them. People not adopting it should be denied ration card and the supply of sugar, foodgrains, etc. People's Representation Act should be amended so as to debar a person having more than two children, from contesting elections, for all offices whether it be the membership of *Panchayat* or the office of *Sarpanch*. The present situation can be changed only by making such a provision. The Government is incurring huge expenditure on medicines and on adopting new devices but population continues to rise. Our country will not progress no matter any number of schemes are framed or any amount is spent. Our foodgrain production increased after 22 years but even today people are starving. The cause behind this is the ever increasing population. secondly, the mortality rate is decreasing and therefore the population is registering increase. I feel it is extremely essential to introduce a law in this regard and I, on behalf of my party, in this House or in the next one, will endeavour to extend our support for such a measure.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for this discussion?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: By how many hours?

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: By another three hours.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): By one hour, Sir.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: By a minimum of two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One-and-a-half hours now. All right, let us extend the time for this discussion by one-and-a-half hours.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Prof. P. J. Kurien.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki): Sir, this subject is of paramount importance. I was thinking that if we were able to successfully implement the population control programme over the last forty years with the progress we have made in the agricultural, industrial and scientific sectors, this country would have been the most powerful country in the world in all respects. Whatever progress we have made whether in the agricultural sector or in the industrial sector or in the generation of employment, all of it perhaps has been made null and void by this population growth. Therefore, I find that the most important task before the Government is controlling the population. It is equally important or more important that poverty alleviation should be achieved. If we can control the population, automatically it leads to poverty alleviation. If we can control the population, this will automatically lead to reduction of unemployment. If we can control the population, the socio-economic progress is automatic. Therefore, the importance of this population control can in no way be under-estimated and for a country like India, it is very much important. China which was the country

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having the largest population in the world first boasted of its population, but later on, understood its folly and is now strictly implementing this population control programme. They are able to achieve the target which they have set, of course, by coercion.

With regard to population control, I agree to many of the points which have been raised by hon. my friend, Mr. Janga Reddy. I was thinking, why we are not able to achieve the target as far as population control is concerned. We are nowhere near the target set for ourselves. We wanted to reduce the growth rate to 1.87. Now, we are ranging between 2.11 and 2.12 growth rate. Except in Kerala, in all other State, we are not able to achieve the target. It is a failure with regard to the implementation of the family planning programme. I see two reasons for this. No. 1 is of course admitted by all of us—lack of concentration among the people. There is a strict religious sentiment of the people against population control. Socio-economic reasons are also there. Mr. Chairman, as you yourself have said while speaking on the resolution, people think that if they have more children, at the old age, they will be well taken care of. Such kind of notions are there. The basic question is, lack of concentration and there we have failed. Instead of taking bold steps to guide the people, as a nation, and correct the people, we are perhaps carried away by emotions. Here, I cannot but refer to what happened in 1977 during the Emergency period. Many people may have difference of opinion but I strongly feel that family planning programme implemented during the Emergency period with vigour, was the correct programme. The last Shri Sanjay Gandhi had initiated two main programmes for the masses—planting more trees and controlling the population. Sir, when you strictly implement any programme, there may be some failures. In family planning operations also, there may be some operations here and there which may be a failure. For any kind of programme, it happens. But for political reasons, those failures were highlighted and rumours were spread

about those failures and thereby the people were taken back over a decade with regard to family planning. During the period 1977-80, the family planning programme got a severe set back and perhaps nothing could be done. Why is it? This is because, we use such issues which are crucial to nation-building, for political advantage. I am not blaming the entire Opposition for this. But what happened in those important areas? It is the Janata party which made use of this issue for getting the votes. You are forgetting the fact that that is the most important programme to be implemented for the future generation. You should not forget that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: The Janata Party was in favour of Family Planning. But was against force. Our Party is still in favour of it.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: My CPM friends should not forget the fact that in China, the family planning was implemented with coercion. They should not forget it.

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: No, no. You do not know the real facts.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I will explain. Coercion does not mean that it is implemented with guns and force. If there is incentive and disincentive, that is coercion.

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is your view.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: That is my view.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is his view. You leave him. Please proceed.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: What I say is that such important national issues should not be politicalised. By politicising, we cannot achieve it. Therefore, all the parties should rise above party considerations and should

come forward for getting the consent of the people for implementation of such programme.

A number of steps should be taken in this regard in our colleges and schools. I am of the opinion that the importance of family planning is related to the development of the country and to the future progress of the country. It should be taught in our schools and colleges. That is my opinion. In addition to Government agencies, all voluntary organisations which are prepared to come forward to assist in this task of taking the consent of the people, should be encouraged. A massive effort should be made in this regard. As Mr. Janga Reddy has said we must show the seriousness of the project. On one side, we do nothing for getting the consent of the people and, on the other side, people do not feel that we ourselves are serious about it. Actually, we are not serious.

Those who propagate the family planning and family welfare schemes themselves have more than half-a-dozen children. All political leaders, one Chief Minister and the M.Ps have more children.

Ministers also have more children.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: But, that does not mean that one should remain unmarried. It is not fair.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: People do not take it seriously. Therefore, on the other side, we should show seriousness to this family control programme. How can we show this seriousness? First, all the machinery for implementing it, all the Government officials should be made to implement it and they should be a model with regard to family planning. The Government should do something for that. Government should either by incentive or disincentive or by enacting law, should see that all officials who implement family planning stick to this norm because it is given national priority.

I agree with Mr. Janga Reddy that there is no harm even if we enact a law that those

who contest election should have adopted family planning of two children and not more than that. Therefore, what is most important, according to me, is to show seriousness on the part of the Government, the political leaders and implementing officials regarding family planning. Unfortunately, it is not seen.

I must congratulate the Minister here. She is the best example for implementing family planning. Therefore, she is the most competent to be the Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. I must congratulate her. I wish the hon. Minister a long life in this Ministry.

Another thing is that Education, Family Planning, Population Control, Development, Environment control are all inter-related. In our system of education, in the ordinary curriculum none of such important subjects finds a place. We teach Physics, Chemistry, English or Hindi etc. and get away. Our children, our youth coming out of the high schools and colleges have no idea about all these things. If these subjects are included in the curriculum, the students will get some idea about all these things and they will feel how they are related with the development of the country. In our country there are lakhs of unemployed youth. These unemployed youth should be used, their services should be utilised and they should be motivated in this regard. What I suggest is that the unemployed youth in each village should be called and a few of them, who could be used as good motivators, could be selected. I am not saying that the Government should do it. The Government can do it. The political parties can do it. All the voluntary organisations can do it. There are several reputed voluntary organisations in this country. They can do it. The only thing is that the Government should give them some assistance. The Government should find out the motivators in each village from among the unemployed youth. Now, only the Government officials who get salary only go to the couple and request them to adopt family planning. They do not take it seriously. I would suggest that in addition to the Government officials, the

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unemployed youth or motivators should be made to go to the villages and visit the houses to persuade the people to adopt family planning. Such youth should be allotted a fixed number of houses. Such a scheme should be drawn up for the whole country using the services of the unemployed youth and voluntary organisations. If we can think about it, we can do a lot more. Of course, we can do this with the assistance of all political parties. Therefore, if the Government can think about it, I am sure that this family planning programme will come out of this Governmental mould and it will give them a popular programme. Only by making it a popular programme with the support of all political parties and also with the full consent of the people with regard to the family planning, we can achieve the target in this regard. The Government should also show a little more seriousness with regard to this problem.

With these words, I support the Resolution moved by Dr. Bhoi.

SHRINITYANANDA MISRA (Bolangir):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset let me thank my good friend Dr. Bhoi for giving us opportunity to participate in the discussion on a subject which is so crucial and vitally important to our country. Population explosion has assumed a very serious proposition and if this rate of increase in population is not curbed and effective methods are not taken, then we shall be facing the problem of a greater magnitude which will stand in the way of community development of our country. Our rate of increase is considerably high. It is probably of the order of 2.25. We have observed this phenomenon of population explosion with the birth rate remaining constant. But the mortality figures have considerably gone down. At the beginning of the century, the birth rate was pretty high but because of the mortality figure was also at a high level, the rate of increase in population was zero point (0..) something. But now we are facing this explosion because the mortality figures have considerably come down.

After the achievement of Independence, we have extended more medical facilities. There are more number of health care centres, more of hospitals, more of dispensaries which are providing medical facilities. We do not find breaking out of epidemics which used to play havoc in the past. We also find that infant mortality has come down considerably. If the rate of increase is not controlled, then probably, by the turn of the century, we shall reach in the neighbourhood of one billion mark which is considerably a high figure.

We know, nature has its own way of limiting the population when all our conscious and deliberate action fail and when we do not take measures for controlling it. But these methods of nature are very primitive. As for example, when the population goes up very high and our food production does not increase correspondingly, then there will be starvation and famine which will play havoc to human life. And the famine of 1942-43 is still fresh in our mind where nearly 25 lakhs of people died. But one thing will happen. Our standard of living will not go up. Death rate may be reduced; mortality figures may be reduced. But if the birth rate remains constant, then our standard of living, the quality of life and the basic amenities and facilities which are provided to citizens will be considerably reduced. And it will create economic problems which will be of a great magnitude for our country.

Ours is an agricultural economy. A farmer in the village considers that any addition to the family is not a heavy burden on him because when the standard of living is low the expenditure incurred on the addition of family is also not much. And when he attains the age of going to school or even, when he is studying in school, he can render some service in the farms also. We find that sons and daughters of farmers help their parents in the farms and in the agricultural land instead of going to schools. And there is an addition to the family income. And they have a sense of security when in the family, there are more number of boys who they consider, will be the earning members of the

family and will add to the economic stability of the economy. That is the reason why the farmers in the countryside, whose standard of living is not very high, are not averse to any addition in the family.

Secondly, there are social inhibitions also which stand in the way of family planning. In the villages, in the rural areas, uneducated people think that male members, if born into the family, are a source of strength and stability to the family because they will become earning members. Even if they have daughters they think that the next issue may be a boy. Even if they get two-three daughters, they always want a boy to be born. A mother who has two-three sons is extremely proud and is very happy. The villagers also hold her in very high esteem as a mother of two-three or more sons. This inhibition also militates against population control in a very big way.

Then there are religious inhibitions also. We feel that when a son is born to the family he will perform religious rights which are traditionally done and which are indispensable for the religious life of the family. The parents think that the boy who is born to the family will perform Shraddha ceremony so that their souls may go to the heaven. We find that the religious inhibition, orthodoxy and the traditional ideas also go against the population control.

Now we shall have to take a decision whether we shall allow these religious ideas, inhibitions and social customs to come in the way of population control. We shall have to take a very drastic and categorical decision on this matter.

The solution is the spread of education. If there is spread of rational and scientific education, if the people in the rural areas are educated, then they will understand their own responsibility, limit the size of the family and bring population under control. Therefore the spread of education will play a very vital and crucial role in creating a consciousness or responsibility and awareness of their responsibility to limit their family size.

As my friend has already pointed out, when women go in for higher education they cross the age of fertility, that is from 15 to 25 which is the best child bearing stage of a woman. This is one of the reasons why population control has succeeded in Kerala; the reason being that the ladies there go in for higher education. That should also be encouraged.

The Government is giving maximum thrust and importance to this programme. Sufficient amount of resources is also being allocated for family planning programme. But what is needed is not only extending facilities for family planning for sterilisation and other methods in the hospitals and dispensaries; but to create a psychological climate and atmosphere in which every citizen of the country will be conscious of his responsibility in this matter. Sufficient motivation must also be provided so that he will accept it and go in for it.

In China nearly 70% of the married women have accepted family planning methods and one child norm whereas the figure in our country is 35. So it is absolutely necessary that there must be some publicity campaign and publicity offensive so that the people will understand their responsibility in this matter and specially when it concerns his own family. Of course the country's most difficult problems can be solved, economic problems can be solved. The country has passed through economic development and prosperity in the last four decades. But this prosperity is not profitable because our population has grown by geometrical progression. Therefore, it should be made clear to every citizen of this country that it will not only solve the problem of the entire country but also the family problem, with which we are so deeply concerned. If they want to get all the basic needs of human subsistence, if they want more facilities for a better and comfortable life, it is absolutely necessary that there must be family control.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi has put-forth before the House, a very good

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

Resolution and I can give him qualified support because here and there I find areas of disagreement. But so far as this country is concerned, the population has to be controlled.

My friends on the other side seem to be economists because they remembered Malthus and Malthusian formula of geometrical progression of people and arithmetical progression of resources. He painted a very bleak picture. Malthus is no more. But if he were alive, he would be surprised to know how India with its large population continues to live as a viable country. Despite this sizeable population, we have made so much progress. But Malthus would be surprised. Whatever Malthus said may not be totally relevant today because we have some resources. We have not exploited the resources. In future, the picture which Malthus has painted will appear to be very true because we are exhausting our resources and as Shri Misra was rightly saying whatever development we have made, it was eaten away by the addition to our population. While I disagree, the area of agreement is there. We have a very large population which we cannot sustain; it must be controlled.

I want population control through positive norms, not through negative norms. I do not want any punishment to be given, because India is different from China. For those who have quoted the example of China, I will tell a Writer-David Salborne. He wrote two books. One is '*An Eye to India*' and the other is '*An Eye to China*'. He is as much enamoured by the standards of Chinese, as my friends; but China has a different model of society; different model of governance. India continues to be deeply religious. Although I agree with Mr. David Salborne when he depicts two pictures, China's picture is very pleasing. In India lot of people waste lot of time; they are not perfect. But in China, he said, they do not waste time; they are conscious of their duties. He had painted a very good picture of China. But when I compare the two situations I feel in India we shall have

to adopt a different model than China. Here and there we can learn a lesson from China. For instance, in China the experts would sit with the labourers in the factories. It is not that they would have one minute programme on television. Somebody suggested that there should be stories put on the television. That is a good method. In China it is an organised attempt. Ten thousand labourers will be sitting before you and you would show a film and then you would tell them as to what was the standard of living in China and the problems faced by it in Defence, Economic Development, etc. Then they would tell the labourers what design of life they like to have on some future date. These experts would spend hours together with the labourers in the factory. There would be dialogue and question and answer sessions. Our doctors who go to the rural sector go there half-heartedly. In fact, there are so many laudable schemes which the Government has floated but there is lot of wastage. If we only solve the problem of wastage in India quality of life here will be far more decent than what it is today. There is terrible wastage of resources. Our doctors go there half-heartedly. As such the family planning units are not viable units. Since you do not utilise investments properly and sell the ideas properly to the people you come to negative norms of ordering one child and one will be punished if there are more children. This will not work in India. If you convince them that family planning is a must and that on the turn of the century we will be a billion then they will take notice of that. You should have a dialogue with the people on positive lines.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that there is a vicious circle of poverty, ignorance and superstition. You go from one situation to the other. You are caught in the vicious circle. That vicious circle has to be broken. Ignorance, poverty and superstition will have to be fought out. An hon. Member was referring to religion. What most of us practise is not real religion. Perhaps many things which constitute superstition gain currency in the name of religion.

Then there is positive incentive. Dr.

Rajhans said that education should be made free for girls. I support it. In my State one of the things that Sheikh Sahib and his colleagues did was that education was made free for everybody from primary to Ph D level. You can say girls should have priority but over a period of time you have to see that education is made free for everybody. Perhaps medical care and education both should be made free in India.

Then, Sir, recently I attended a workshop on population at Hyderabad. It was organised by the National Institute of Rural Development. There the Director General, Mr. Kapoor was to deliver a lecture on population dynamics.

17.00 hrs.

I was surprised by the picture presented by Mr. Kapur at Hyderabad. My suggestion is that he must go to the States and must show us the areas which require pointed attention. For the first time, I was surprised and the same way said by Dr. Bhoi also.

The graphs and transparencies which he showed us proved that the situation is horrible in the Hindi belt comprising UP, Bihar, MP and Rajasthan. The population growth in the Hindi belt is 2.9 per cent. He raised pointed questions. We have no doubt that what he said was correct. The statistics which he presented was not theoretical jargon. Therefore, I feel that pointed attention should be given to the Hindi belt. I support the spirit of this Resolution presented by Dr. Bhoi. The reasons for the population growth in the Hindi belt must be known. Actually we must have the feedback because the largest chunk of population in India is in the Hindi belt. UP is the biggest State with a population of 13 crores. This is the largest chunk of population in India. Population growth is the highest. In fact, I do not know the reasons for this. They must be known to the hon. Minister. When she replies, perhaps next week, she must be able to answer as to what is the problem and why the family planning programme has failed to the Hindi belt which has the largest chunk of population in India.

Pointed attention should be paid to this aspect. I differ with my friend on one point. He has suggested a common civil code. I can say that the Constitution of India has wanted us to consider the situation. Here also there should be exchange of ideas and there should be no coercion. In this, there are so many matters in which we can have civil code. But if you want civil code to be brought in marriage, it will create great tensions. This is something controversial. We must discuss and debate this problem. Of course, Parliament is the supreme body to decide on this. It is better that this issue should be raised here but when we decide, we must spend lot of time and come to details. Perhaps my apprehension is that marriage is a question which is part of personal law. How can we bring marriage in this. But there are so many areas where we can have a common civil code for everybody. The rest of the Resolution is very much balanced. I am giving my support in one more aspect. He wants to develop ayurvedic medicine which is useful. Why can't we accept his suggestion? The hon. Minister should consider this suggestion. Ayurvedic Medical College and research Centre at Narsingh-nath should be helped and strengthened. In fact, we have very rich herbal medicines. We must not bank only on the allopathic medicines. We must also promote unani and ayurvedic medicines. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

* SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajahmundry): Mr. Chairman, Sir, population control is essential for removal of poverty in the country. Various measures have to be taken to arrest the population growth. The Government should accord topmost priority for the family welfare programme.

Sir, the implementation of family planning programme is quite defective at present. Both the husband and the wife are being operated on in an anxiety to show a record of better performance. Such a method will boomerang on the entire programme itself. It is not essential for the wife to undergo opera-

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

[Sh. Shrihari Rao]

tion if the husband is already operated on. Similarly husband need not undergo operation if his wife undergoes an operation. Hence this efforts to operate both husband and wife in order to blow up figures should be given up forthwith.

Sir, more than 50% of our population is below poverty line. More than 67% of the increase in the population comes from the people who are below poverty line. 33% of our population growth comes from the persons who are above the poverty line. It all shows that the growth of population is more among the poor. Hence family welfare schemes should be more directed towards this section of population. Like various other schemes which are meant for the upliftment of these people, special welfare programmes should be launched among these poorest of the poor section. This programme should be made compulsory for all those who happen to be the beneficiaries of various welfare programmes. This way, they can be rather cajoled to adopt small family norm. Otherwise, by sheer compulsion, and compulsion alone, this family planning programme cannot succeed. More intensives should be offered to the poor, so that they can get attracted towards this programme. To adopt the family planning should be made compulsory for all those who want to receive benefits under various Government sponsored schemes. Mere coercion will not help the cause. More and more intensives should be offered to them. This method will give a boost to the family planning programme.

Sir, the role of education is controlling population is no less important. There should be a compulsory education in the country. When everyone in the country is educated, be men or women, they will have a better understanding of themselves and their country. They would come forward to adopt small family norm on their own volition. Hence compulsory education is more important than the compulsory family planning. The literate with better grasp of circumstances, would contribute to the success of the programme

Sir, Population growth contributes to the growth of various socio economic problems. The shortage of drinking water will become more acute. There will be housing problem. House sites problems will also mount up and of course of top it all, there will be the problem of providing food. There will be problems Like sanitation, cloth etc. Hence it will be problems and problems everywhere. The life of the poor become a more miserable. Hence to control population means to solve the various socio-economic problems.

People belonging to middle and rich sections of our society are voluntarily coming forward to adopt family planning. They are adopting small family norm, not just because of the Government's publicity over radio and T.V., but because they are more worried about their economic status and their wealth. They feel that their wealth will shrink if they do not adopt family planning. The success of the programme among these sections is not due to the efforts of the Government. The media is quite ineffective is persist the poor people to go for operation and undergo operation again to get some benefits. Also the persons who are not in fertility age group are getting operated for the sake of some benefits. It is a matter of truth.

The present methods have completely failed to effectively implement the family planning programme. It is now time to go for some new and novel methods to make the programme a success. Sir, the Government can reach through T.V. and Radio, only a small section of rich people. Poor people in the country can not afford to have a T.V. and hence all the publicity programmes on T.V. are confined only to a very limited section of our society. Hence it is time to think of some other methods by which we can hope to reach everyone, however poor he may be. Sir, everyone knows that Cinema still remains an attraction for the poor. It still remains as main entertainment for them. Wealthy people sit in their rooms and watch the movies on T.V. as they can afford to get cassettes of new films. But poor people still visit theaters for watching a movie. hence a documentary on family planning can be

shown either at the start of the picture or during the interval. This way masses can be a better educated about the programme. This will help in the success of the programme. Hence I suggest to the Government to make efforts in this direction soon. The change of methods and adoption of new methods like the one suggested above is imperative now.

The present educational system should also undergo a change. Students, by the time they come out of their colleges and enter free world, should be aware of the benefits of a small family. Family Welfare education should be an integral part of our education system. By the time they come out of colleges, they will be ready for marriage and hence their knowledge about the family welfare will help them in planning of their family and life successfully. They should have a better grasp of the position of the country. They should be educated in such a way as to realise the dangers of population growth. They should know that economy of the country is dependent on the population. Similarly compulsory education must be adopted to educate the poor in the villages. This compulsory education in our rural areas would help in effectively controlling the population. Various new methods have to be adopted to control the population especially among the poor. 67% of the growth in population is contributed by just 50% of the population who are below poverty line. Hence before I conclude, once again request the Government to consider this problem very seriously and take various measures to counter the population growth.

With these observations, I conclude my speech thanking you for the opportunity you had given me to speak.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr. Chairman, sir, I would like to congratulate Dr. Bhoi for moving such a good resolution in the House.

The population of our country in the pre-independence era was nearly 35 crore but

now this has swelled to 80 crore. It has become a very serious problem for our country as to how to control the growth of population. A lot of research has been done in this field and the allopathic doctors have also done a lot to educate the villagers in family planning. This has helped to a considerable extent. A number of States have achieved their respective targets due to which our country has been benefited a great deal otherwise our population would have crossed one billion.

During the emergency large number of people were sterilised and people have now started feeling our country has been highly benefited by it. The late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Sanjay Gandhi had launched a campaign to plant maximum number of trees and to adopt family planning so as to strengthen the nation and provide relief to the people of our country. After careful consideration a national programme was chalked out for implementation but some people, who wanted to sabotage this programme, misled the masses and tried to pressurise us to abandon this programme. Opposition parties formed Government in a number of States and a propanganda was launched among the youth and the school-going children that this programme was aimed at ruining their health. They asked the masses to carry the message that the Government is formulating this programme to ruin the future generation. Such an absurd propaganda was carried on by the Opposition but it was our good fortune that that Government disintegrated after two-and-a-half years at their own. I would like to call the step taken by our Government as appreciable because the people felt that their resentment was aroused to gain momentary benefit and to exploit the masses. This programme was introduced because it is good for the welfare of the country. It was reflected in the fall in growth rate of the population. Government first have a call for 3 child family norm, which was later reduced to 2 and now Dr. Bhoi has brought it down to only one. Now we have to educate the masses that keeping in view the interest of our nation, its development and progress, one child is

[Sh. K.D. Sulatanpuri]

enough. I congratulate you for suggesting this approach.

So far as research is concerned, a lot of research has been done in this field. He has made a tremendous contribution towards national development. I want to mention two points. As regards Ayurveda, Dr. Bhoi has set up the Narsing Nath Institute in Orissa. I congratulate him for this. I request the Central Government to give financial assistance to such institutions, so that they could function in a smooth manner. Indians have an inclination towards herbal treatment for diseases. They find the Ayurvedic system of medicine very satisfactory and effective. People in villages shy away from injections fearing that the painful process may even result in their death. Therefore, we must promote Ayurveda which is an age-old system of medicine. I request the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to give all possible help to such institutions.

I feel that the size of the budget for family planning should be bigger. Action should be taken against State Government which fail to achieve family planning targets. Funds earmarked for family planning should not be diverted to any other work. Funds given to Haryana for the family planning programme were used for other purposes. Action should be taken against Chief Ministers who visit other States and claim that the initiative for family planning programme has come from their Government rather than from the Central Government. Action should be taken against Chief Ministers who indulge in such misuse of money belonging to the public exchequer. There should be some sort of a check on Chief Ministers who believe that denigrating the programmes of the Central Government would enhance their political image. This tendency among some Chief Ministers to project themselves as 'do-gooders' and the rest as 'good-for nothing' is something that the Centre has to curb.

Regarding education, there are many

schools, colleges and other educational institutions in the country, but it is very difficult to get admissions into them. Children going to schools in villages do not have even jute matting to sit on. It is necessary for the opposition to realize that our nation can make progress only when there is greater awareness about the family planning and we all extend our full co-operation is making it a success.

There should also be a provision in respect of targets set by State Governments for setting up of primary health centres and sub-centres. A jeep should be provided to doctors over there to facilitate their movement over a large area. Hospitals have been set up but they lack adequate number of beds, medicines and X-Ray facilities. The Central Government should venture to provide only such facilities as are within its capacity. If the States are unable to make proper use of those facilities, it would be wrong on their part. Similarly it would be wrong to divert funds meant for a specific purpose to some other channel. It would, in fact, be a crime to do so because we are, in essence, playing with the lives of the people by not providing them medical facilities. Therefore, I would say that this is an issue that should be looked into in all seriousness. In areas where centres have been opened, there should be housing facilities for doctors, nurses and compounders. This will encourage doctors and para-medical staff to serve in rural areas making the family planning programme more effective in the process. I would say that the country's economic condition is getting weaker. The situation could get worse if the country's population keeps growing at the present rate. People in every sphere, be it in factories, in Government services or in politics, are finding it increasingly difficult to sustain themselves and their families. To strengthen the country's economy, we have two options before us either increase facilities for people and abandon family planning or take up family planning with renewed vigours for this, we must have a bigger budget for the family planning programme and, of course, a greater amount of dedication towards making it a success. Our

hon. Prime Minister has spoken of delegating authority down to the Panchayat level. The Panchayats should be made responsible for this. Under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, no less than Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1 lakh will be given to the Panchayats. Similarly, funds for the family planning programme should also be given to panchayats.

A survey should be conducted to assess the performance of the family planning programme in villages. A Panchayat showing cent percent results should be encouraged through awards and other incentives. A block or tehsil which has adopted family planning should be placed in a special category. The Centre sanctions the funds to States, but it is well known as to how those targets are achieved. The point mentioned by an hon. Member of the Opposition is entirely true. As mentioned by the hon. Member, there is a need to look into family planning operations. It has come to our notice that even after a man or woman has been operated upon, there have been addition to the family. The reason for this is the slipshod manner in which operations are done. We must ensure that such cases do not recur if we are to promote the family planning programme. Adequate medical facilities should be provided if any male or female happens to fall sick in the post-operative period as the rural women or the rural labourers do not have money to spend on treatment.

I have had the opportunity to speak on this very good Resolution moved by Dr. Bhoi. I feel that this Resolution should be adopted by the Government after due consideration.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Chairman, Sir: First of all, I would like to congratulate Dr. Kripasindhu Bhoi for bringing such a comprehensive Resolution on such a vital and crucial issue, specially in the highest legislative forum of the largest democracy in the world.

So, this is not only a question of population explosion. We have been hearing about, and feeling concerned about various explosion—like implosion, explosions and the nuclear explosion; but I think this population explosion is as serious as nuclear explosion, and it is very crucial.

It is not what I alone am saying. I would like to quote from a publication by the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. This is what Shrimati Indira Gandhi has to say on the 14th October 1981:

"The process of economic development is bound to slow down if population grows unchecked. The fruits of progress and limited resources have then to be stretched among an ever-increasing number. No one gets enough, when everyone, should be getting more. The country suffers; so does the individual, and most of all the children. The small family norm must be a high-priority goal; and family planning should become part of a people's movement for a better tomorrow.

My good wishes to "National Survival" which, I hope, will bring about greater involvement of parliamentarians and legislators in this cause."

Sir, Mrs. Gandhi has thought that the question of population, and limitation of population and population control is a question of national survival.

Now, in his comprehensive Resolution, Dr. Bhoi has mentioned about evolving a national consensus for acceptance of one child norm, as well as other things and also for a uniform civil code for all citizens and the National Population Commission. I hope Dr. Bhoi, when he moved this Resolution, wanted to make this effective with prospective effect. Otherwise, most of us, with the exception of the hon. Minister, would be disquali-

[Sh. K.P. Singh Deo]

fied to speak or comment on this Resolution. Mrs. Gandhi once again had said:

"If there is any one issue on which a national consensus is most urgent, it is surely family planning."

Apart from a question of population and development, which Dr. Bhoi has sought to raise in this House, it is also a question of national survival, as has been pointed by our late Prime Minister. So, there are various challenges before us, challenges on humanitarian ground, on biological ground, on medical ground, on scientific ground, on psychological ground, as some members pointed out, because it is a question of an attitude of mind, legislative, legal as well as cultural grounds.

Ours is a vast country; in fact, it is a sub-continent with various geographical regions, geological regions, culture, traditions, religions, languages and various traditions which have been followed since time immemorial over the last 5000 years. Therefore, on education, motivation and communication what the Government wants to do and what they expect the people to do, if we want to evolve a national consensus, if we want to evolve a national commitment a movement of the people, by the people, for the people, then we shall have to carry them with us. It is not a question whether it is a married couple or an unmarried couple; whether they are under the age of fertility or passed the age of fertility; it is a question of the citizens, the people of this country, who have certain rights and privileges under the Constitution; they must also have responsibility and accountability to the nation; and this question of population explosion is vital for national survival. In my humble opinion, this has to be tackled in a manner in which the preventive, curative and punitive aspects—although my hon. friend, Prof. Soz does not agree on punitivespacing, incentive, disincentive have to be ensured punishment and reward which have been followed down from time immeorial and which still exist in various organisa-

tions which maintain a high sense of discipline and all these aspects have to be tackled.

Reward and punishment, accountability and responsibility along with privileges must go hand in hand. Sir, I would have been happier if Dr. Bhoi had also mentioned the question of tribals, Tribals are a segment of the society which are in the periphery of development; they have their own culture; they have a different society and they suffer from various exposures of their tribal rules, tribal customs where hygiene, sanitation and mal-nutrition take its toll on them as well as the orthodoxy which an hon. member was mentioning before me. There is also another segment of society, the handicapped. There are five million handicapped people or maybe more. I can only quote from the papers. I do not have the facts and figures. But there are deaf, blind and mute people who number three per cent of our population. I shall come to it later. They are people whom this Resolution does not specify.

If one really analyses Dr. Bhoi's Resolution, one can see that with the addition of a little over 15 million population every year since 1981, India's population according to the National Register and the Population Clock which has been installed in Bombay, had reached—it has already recorded—800 million which come to 27 per cent of Asia's population and 16 per cent of the world's population. and this is going to reach about 1000 million by 2000 AD and 1.2 billion by 2025. This voluminous increase in population is a result of the large reproductive base which is created as a consequence of the declining death rate and also the failure of the birth rate to decline correspondingly. Now, what is the effect? What are the serious consequences on the availability of the basis requirements of life which we are pledged to provide our people?

The data, or the figures are interesting. I quote:

"According to one estimate, the daily requirements to meet the growing

needs population are —63,000 houses, 6,750 tons of foodgrains, 9,700 jobs, 4,60,000 metres of cloth, 360 schools and 1,000 teachers."

This is the total requirement! Therefore, the planners and policy makers have to ponder about this aspect. Because we as a country probably have the highest number of youth in the world and a population between the age group of 15 to 59 which is the working population and which contributes to 54 per cent of the population as of today, which will be 63 per cent in 2000 AD and it will be more than 70 per cent by 2025. This will have serious effects on the job requirements in the country.

Then there is a question of high level of mortality and morbidity, and we have heard the discrimination shown to girls and the high morbidity and high mortality rates, amongst them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI K.P.SINGH DEO: You will have to bear with me; I have got lot of facts and figures to mention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, be brief.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I cannot be brief. This is a very crucial question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: The mortality rate is 95 per thousand live births which is considered very high and added to malnutrition, and infection due to poor environmental sanitation and personal hygiene, in spite of the fact that we have a Universal Immunisation Programme which has been started in a big way. But the fact still remains that we have a very high birth rate, and also the very fact that the rapid growth of population has also led to environmental degradation, acute housing shortage, creation of slums and shanty towns. So much so today, Calcutta and Delhi are considered to be one of the worst polluted cities in the world.

And once again, I would like to quote our late Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi in the same pamphlet:-

"2000 AD will see the 25 largest cities located in developing countries."

All over Asia the need to limit our population so that the impact of development can reach all sections is widely recognised, But schemes for smaller families can succeed only when the general masses of the people participate actively in their implementation. Unfortunately, we do not have much time.

The initial stages of development have themselves contributed to population growth with the expansion of better medical facilities and rising life expectancy. Developing countries, constrained by the scarcity of financial resources find the benefits of some of their most splendid achievements diluted by the growing tide.

According to one estimate, the year 2000 AD will see the 25 largest cities in the world located in the developing countries. Without massive expansion of urban facilities and greater prosperity, these cities will become monsters feeding on their own inhabitants."

What does she advise us?

"Population control and rural development can head off this crisis."

Now let us take a look at the acceleration in the rate of population growth in our economic development and how our policy has been dovetailed to tackle the situation. The acceleration in the rate of population growth started in 1951. And it was realised by our founding fathers of modern India that a population policy has to be formulated and part of developmental planning. It was done from the First Five Year Plan with the meagre

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resources of Rs. 65 lakhs and in the present Plan it is Rs. 3,356 crores—I am subject to correction.

The population increased at an average annual growth rate of 1.96 per cent per annum during 1951-61 against the Planning Commission's assumption of 1.25 per cent. The results of the 1971 Census were even more shocking. The growth rate was 2.24 per cent. And the 1981 Census—I do not want to attribute the reasons to anybody sitting opposite—it was staggering at 2.28 per cent during the decade 1971-1981.

Sir, India's age structure shows a very heavy preponderance of younger age population in the age group below 14 years. It was 37.5 per cent in 1951, which increased to 41.1 per cent in 1961 and further increased to 42 per cent in 1971. But it has, however, come down to 39.6 per cent in 1981 and it is expected to be 35.6 per cent in 1991. This reflects the slow pace of decline in birth rate compared to faster pace of decline in death rate.

If one takes a close look at the demographic parameters, one of the components of natural increase in population, namely, the birth rate, has stuck to 33 over the last decade. Indian rural woman bears, on an average, 4.8 children, which is as high as 6.2 in U.P. and 6 in Bihar and Rajasthan. The age structure of the currently married females in the population is also very high. There were 94 million couples in the reproductive age span in 1971, which increased to 116 million in 1981, and is expected to be 135 million as of date. Out of this, nearly 12 per cent of the couples age in the age group between 15 and 19 years, although the age at marriage which was 17.2 years in 1971, it has increased to 18.3 years in 1981. Still it is a staggering figure, which indicates, legislation alone does not ensure that legislation is always followed.

The infant mortality rate is also quite high, 107 in rural areas. In U.P., it is as high

as 154, in Orissa 137, in M.P. 131 and in Rajasthan 114. As I mentioned earlier, some of the States like Orissa, Bihar, U.P., Rajasthan, M.P. have a high preponderance of tribal population.

Now if you take a look at the development performance in our economy of the last four decades as against the population growth, our economy has become more diversified, agriculture has become more resilient and less vulnerable to monsoon and bad weather. The Gross Domestic Product has increased nearly three fold, three and a half times since 1950-51. The Net National Product has a linear growth rate of 5.6 per cent per annum during the period between 1974-75 and 1984-85 as compared to 3.7 per cent in the previous ten years from 1964-65 to 1974-75. The gross domestic saving has increased from 10 per cent in 1950-51 to 24 per cent as on data and is likely to increase by the end of the Plan period. In this, the household sector has always contributed a major share. The share of agriculture and allied sector which was nearly three-fifth in 1950-51 has come down to even less than two-fifth in 1984-85. It shows that the industry has also been contributing to the national GDP. But at the same time, employment has not increased, In fact, unemployment has increased from 18 million to 24 million.

The reasons why I am giving these data and figures are that at a time when we are increasing our self-sufficiency in agriculture, industry, petroleum, electricity generation, still the per capita availability is less than the subsistence level. It is not only the problem of India but also the problem of Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other SAARC countries. Therefore, like we have, in the past, put our heads together on nuclear issues and other issues which have been confronting geo-strategic and geo-political issues, I am sure, this is a problem which in importance and in severity is as bad or if not as serious as the nuclear problem and that of disarmament and detente.

I would like to conclude by saying that

today when there is such a serious discussion on such a crucial subject, we only have the hon. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare present. This needs systems approach. It is not the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which is alone responsible. But so far the onus has been kept on this Ministry. Neither are they properly equipped nor staffed nor is there any staff to go about in rural areas motivating people. Sometimes, they have to use police; sometimes, they get the help of Revenue officials. So what I am advocating and suggesting with all the emphasis at my command is the need to have a systems approach where not only all the governmental agencies but also religious, political and cultural leaders, leaders of society must be brought together and evolve a consensus so that the points raised by Dr. Bhoi in his Resolution can be met.

Some very good suggestions have been given by Dr. Bhoi like de-bureaucratisation of family welfare and immunisation programme, effort to motivate girls and women, women to take a lead into this. I would like to add here the role of ex-servicemen. There are 35 lakh ex-service men highly trained, disciplined and motivated. Some of them are from the Army Medical Corp, who are in the rural areas. Even their help can be taken. The Central Government could help institutions like the one which Dr. Bhoi has established i.e. Biomedical Research Centre near Narsingnath, so that they also become the Centres of Research and Study on the subject.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): I rise to support the Resolution that has been brought by Dr. Bhoi. Like all my friends, I also agree that somehow the population of this country should be controlled. In this country and in the history of human beings we have seen that several methods were adopted. In Mahabharata when some people did not want Bhishma Pitamaha to have children and progeny, they persuaded him not to get married. Subsequently we know the artificial methods that were used by the Greek and Roman people for family control.

Then, we come down to Malthus who proposed a new theory of mathematical progression that the population grows in a geometrical progression and the resources grow only in arithmetical progression.

After that we have also seen the great debate throughout the world, which was initiated by Sangers and, I think, Stopes, the two great ladies. It was opposed in our country by Mahatma Gandhi and he pleaded that celibacy should be observed. But, Sir, we have to be realistic that it is not possible for every human being to observe celibacy. So, some practical solution had to be brought out and that exactly has been done by the Government of India. Though the leadership, including Nehru ji, did not agree, before Independence, for population control, still in this country there were voluntary organisations which were led by Karve, Lady Rama Rao, Tata and others, who pleaded for family control. In the First Plan we did provide money for this and now also we are thinking about it. So, what I want to bring to the notice of this House is that if you think that just by fixing the targets of operations you are going to achieve much, you are mistaken. I was told by a lady doctor in Mathura that for heaven's sake do not go on operating those men and women who are of no help to your cause. You have to see whether they are in the reproductive age. If they are not, then who do you operate them? Is it just to fulfil the target? Instead of operating upon them, if you distribute that money to other women, may be those women will come forward and get themselves operated, or their men may send them to you for operation. J.R.D. Tata has suggested that minimum Rs. 5,000 should be paid to these people as an incentive. I want to know whether we have increased the incentive that the Government of India and the State Governments have been giving for the last five or six years. If not, why can't we give something more than that because that is the thing which is very close to human mind and human need.

I am really surprised when some of my friends say that poverty is due to population explosion. I do not agree to that. This is not

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the main reason. The main reason is that we have failed on many fronts and one of them is the fiscal front. We should not have allowed the people to a mass money so that other people were not deprived of it. If we just stop this, if cornering of money after a certain extent is stopped, I am sure it will help family planning in a big way.

Today, I feel that apart from the methods which I have suggested, if we have education for men and women, that will definitely help. I feel that there is no need to go back. Some people have appreciated the Chinese way. I remember, long back I had read an article by Mrs. Seth who happened to be in China because of her husband's service there. What she said was that crude methods were adopted in China. For Indian imagination, it was very vulgar, but they were adopted. Of course, we may not be able to go to that extent but some such things should be done. The thinking of the people should also be influenced. Imagine that in his country, we the Hindus are told that there are thirty-three crore gods. When a girl is married, she is blessed '*Ashtaputra saubhagya-wati*'. I think Madam would be knowing it that this is very common in Maharashtra. We bless her saying '*tum ko aath bachche hon*'—you may have eight children. These things will have to be stopped somewhere. It is the time to think of giving incentive or disincentive in this country? Sir, long back, Maharashtra had passed a legislation in this regard. But was not agreed upon. They said that under this Act they allow only one or two children and for the subsequent child disincentive would start. Why don't you accept it? If you are serious about it, then you will have to accept these methods. If you do the thing in a half-hearted manner, you will not achieve anything and we are unfortunately going in the same direction for the last 40 years. The number of people who have been operated may increase, but the monetary benefit is the same for the last six or seven years. So, if you cannot have disincentives, at least give more monetary incentives.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we should extend time for the subject by one hour more. I think all of you agree.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: So, Sir, what I want to say is that it is high time that we start at least disincentives. If that is not possible, then give them more incentive. Today, you have provided so much money for poverty alleviation, to remove unemployment. Could you not do it much earlier? Could you not give some portion of it for giving more incentive for family planning? Government on many occasion, failed to see some of the facts that are really very much important and they are very obvious. I have seen that a reward is something which can activate a person to a great extent. I am sure the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will give some thought in this direction and help the nation to stop the population explosion.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMANKURAM SODI (Bastar): Hon. Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise support the Resolution moved by hon. Dr. Bhoi. Considering the situation prevailing in the country, this Resolution gains added importance in terms of its relevance. the population explosion has put the country in a precarious position and the time has now come for us to ponder over its implications. The population explosion has become an impediment in the country's progress and it is necessary to take remedical steps to solve the crisis.

The manner in which the family planning programme was implemented during the Emergency period left the people fearful. The public should have had faith in the programme, instead they become scared of it. considering the present-day circumstances in the country, Harijans and Adivasis who at that time shied away from family planning are today adopting it voluntarily. Another reason for this is that apart from agriculture, there is no other means of livelihood in villages. Land holdings inherited from their

forefathers are now shrinking due to fragmentation. Under these conditions Harijans and Adivasis in villages are getting attracted towards this programme. But this programme should be taken to areas where modern facilities are available. In accordance with Dr. Bhoi's suggested principle of 'one child per family', this programme would be more effective in areas with modern amenities. In places, where there is one primary health centre with skeleton staff at a distance of 50-100 kilometres, there are even chances of resentment and fear arising among local people if any family planning operation results in post-operative complications.

At places where primary health centres are situated so far apart, there is no means of transportation available there. If the Health Department does not co-operate in this matter, a complicated family planning operation could even have fatal consequences. Such a situation is quite common these days. Not only this, there are many hospitals where facilities are inadequate. Where doctors are present, medicines are not available and where medicines are available the requisite staff is not at hand. At such places the family planning programme should be implemented in a manner that does not adversely affect anyone.

In order to strengthen the family planning programme, 'Aanganwadi' and 'Balwadi' has been introduced at many places. These schemes should be implemented vigorously over there as they will help villagers. In this way, more people will be attracted towards family planning. The Government should make arrangement to ensure regular and through check ups of patients. In all centres opened under Anganwari Programme, sufficient number of doctors are not available. They do not go for check ups even at an interval of every 15 days whereas they are supposed to visit their areas regularly.

Generally, the children of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes study upto primary school level only and do not want to go for middle school education. Therefore, hostel facilities, especially for middle school girls, should be provided so that maximum girls could continue their studies. Once they pass middle school examination, they will automatically inculcate interest in going for higher education.

A survey after every two years, should be conducted to ascertain the birth rate as also the number of cases of infanticide in the areas where children die of dangerous diseases like malaria, dysentery and diarrhoea. Only after conducting such survey, target for sterilization should be fixed. If the family planning target is not achieved the salaries of lower level officials, such as Palwari, Forest guards, Police constable etc. are stopped. As a result, these lower level officials, who have day to day dealing with the people, force the poor people to undergo family planning operation. Therefore, target should not be fixed for these officials because they force only the poor farmers and do not bring their own relatives. Thus, the target for the areas where modern hospital facilities are not available need be fixed after thorough consideration.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister will intervene next time. The House stands adjourned to reassemble at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, the 2nd May, 1989.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the clock on Tuesday, May 2, 1989/
Vaisakha 12, 1911 (Saka)*