

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Fourth Session (Part-I)**  
**(Eleventh Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. XI contains No. 21 and 22)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

*Price : Rs 50.00*

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

*Friday, March 21, 1997/Phalgun 30, 1918 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Three Minute Past  
Eleven of the Clock.*

[SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Production of Handloom Textiles

\*381. SHRI SOHAN BEER :  
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the handloom textiles produced in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) financial assistance provided by the Government under various schemes for the development of handloom industry during the above mentioned period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the welfare of the handloom weavers and to promote handloom industry in the country particularly in the backward areas of Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

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

##### Statement

(a) The estimated production of cloth in the Handloom Sector in the country, during the last three years has been as under :-

Year	Cloth Production in the Handloom Sector (Mn.Sq. MTR.)
1993-94	5851
1994-95	6180
1995-96	7202

Figures of production of cloth in the handloom sector are not maintained State-wise.

(b) The details of financial assistance provided to States under various schemes during the last three years are as under :-

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Funds released. 1993-94 to 95-96 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8027.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	91.50
3.	Assam	4339.17
4.	Bihar	1918.10
5.	Goa	93.01
6.	Gujarat	862.68
7.	Haryana	224.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	435.24
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	433.02
10.	Karnataka	4485.73
11.	Kerala	3031.32
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2021.63
13.	Meghalaya	17.81
14.	Maharashtra	3443.78
15.	Manipur	1343.87
16.	Mizoram	58.97
17.	Nagaland	127.32
18.	Orissa	4859.66
19.	Pondicherry	126.37
20.	Punjab	137.57
21.	Rajasthan	1274.41
22.	Sikkim	3.04
23.	Tamil Nadu	13765.28
24.	Tripura	700.88
25.	Uttar Pradesh	7405.76
26.	West Bengal	6002.08
<b>Total</b>		<b>65230.30</b>

(c) Government of India has taken various steps for the welfare of handloom weavers and for promotion/

development of handloom industry in the country. It has been implementing following schemes for handloom industry in the country, including backward areas of Uttar Pradesh

- (a) Welfare Package Scheme (Thrift fund, Group Insurance & Health Package Schemes).
- (b) Scheme for grant of Margin Money to Destitute Weavers.
- (c) Grants for Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for Handloom Weavers.
- (d) Handloom Development Centre and Quality Dyeing units.
- (e) Project Package Scheme.
- (f) Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme.
- (g) Export Development Scheme.
- (i) National Silk Yarn Bank.
- (j) Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (k) Janata Cloth Scheme.
- (l) Market Development Assistance Scheme.
- (m) Setting up Marketing Complexes by NHDC.
- (n) National Handloom Expos/Mini Expo/District Level Fairs.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state the amount of financial assistance given to the state of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, for the last three years, an amount of Rs. 74.5 crore has been given.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHAN BEER : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know, through you, whether any steps were taken by the Government for the welfare of weavers in the backward areas of Uttar Pradesh in order to give a boost to the handloom industry or the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, the State Government are expected to formulate the schemes and send them to the

Central Government. Whatever schemes they have sent, we have approved them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : (a) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the elder handloom weavers only get the benefit of training, because small weavers are not at all selected for training. What steps the Government propose to take in this regard ? (b) the total handloom clothes manufactured during the year 1995-96 vis-a-vis 1996-97 separately and the position of Uttar Pradesh thereto (c) I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Textiles that the conditions of weavers in Uttar Pradesh is very deplorable. As such, will more funds be provided to Uttar Pradesh so that the lot of the workers could be improved.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, as far as training is concerned, it is meant for both the rich weavers as well as the poor weavers. So, there is no question of differentiating between the rich and poor weavers.

Secondly, in 1994-95, the total handloom cloth manufactured was 6,180 million square metres. In 1995-96, it was 7,200 million square metres.

As far as taking up special schemes is concerned, I have already submitted to this House that whatever scheme is formulated by the State Government and sent to the Central Government, we approve it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, both *khadi* and handloom products are sold on the basis of subsidy. There are certain months in the course of a year when such subsidies are given. I want to know whether it is true that in the course of each of the last three years, the subsidy given to handlooms has not increased even in nominal terms and in fact, has decreased in real terms.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : As far as *janata* quality cloth is concerned, it is being phased out year after year. As far as other subsidies are concerned, there is no reduction.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What are the figures ? I have asked whether the subsidy given to handloom sector in real terms has come down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you have the figures

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Yes. The marketing development assistance in 1993-94 . . .

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am asking about subsidy to the handloom sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is asking about subsidy to handlooms.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : That is why, I am replying.

In 1993-94, the total subsidy given was Rs. 218 crore. In 1994-95, it was Rs. 235 crore. In 1995-96, it was Rs. 200 crore.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It means it has decreased.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : It has decreased because there was no demand. . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : There were no demands. That is why, it has decreased.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken up any survey about the handlooms in the country. If at all it has been taken up, I want to know in how many States it has been completed, in how many States it is still going on, and in how many States and loomage has increased or decreased.

While reduction has taken place in the loomage, can the Government tell us as to what are the adverse factors forcing the loom workers to close down the looms ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, except in five States the survey has been completed. If he wants Statewise figures I am prepared to give him. The survey was conducted in Andhra Pradesh in 1987-88. In 1987-88 the loomage was 2,19,715. Now there is a reduction of 3 per cent in the loomage and number of weavers have reduced by 33 per cent. In Bihar, the loomage was 82,657.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you require all these details ?

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sir, I would like to know the figures at least about Karnataka.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : In Karnataka, the loomage was 81,585 in 1987-88 and now there is a decrease by 12 per cent in the loomage.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sir, I want to know what are the measures that were taken by the Minister to prevent this reduction and what are the adverse factors.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : The reason is, in many areas the handloom weavers are shifting to powerloom sector, because they are not getting sufficient remuneration and also we are phasing out the Janata cloth. That is why, we are encouraging these people to go in for the production of value-added products now. We are giving all the help they require and we will see that these people take up to handloom weaving and get more and more remuneration.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the conditions of handloom weavers and workers in the handloom industry is very bad in the whole country. They do not get food for two times in a day. The subsidy being given to them under the central scheme is not adequate. It is very meagre. In Maharashtra the Maharashtra Handloom Corporation was set up under a central scheme. Subsidy was given to the corporation by the Central Government. The Handloom Workers fought their cause in the High Court as well as the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gave its decision. The hon. Minister should pay attention to point that despite the decision of the Supreme Court that the handloom workers should be treated at par with the industrial workers, facilities available to industrial workers have not so far be provided to handloom workers. The Maharashtra Handloom Corporation is functioning under a scheme of the Central Government. My specific question is as to the time by which the Government would take steps to implement the decision of the Supreme Court and the time by which they will be provided all those facilities that are available to industrial workers ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, I am sorry, I donot know anything about the Supreme Court judgement and I will find out the position.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I am telling that there is a Supreme Court judgement. I am a responsible Member of Parliament.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I did not say that he is not correct..

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not aware of the judgement. He will find out and let you know.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, I should also look into the judgement because I do not know as to what is mentioned there. Secondly, this is an unorganised sector, this is not an organised sector. Everybody has got only one or two looms and that is why, it will be very difficult for us to enforce this Act.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Sir, my question is specific and I want your protection.

[Translation]

Here the question is about implementing the decisions of the Supreme Court. I want to know whether the decision of the Supreme Court will be implemented or not ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister said that he does not know about the decision of the Supreme Court. He will ascertain facts and tell you.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : We will look into it. We are prepared to implement it.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He says that he would look into the matter to what was the decision and what was the judgement about.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There can be no denying the fact that the present Government is bent upon ruining handloom sector. In the last Budget the allocation for this sector was Rs. 262 crore, but the revised Budget was finalised at Rs. 195 crore. In this year's Budget the total allocation for the entire handloom sector is Rs. 203 crore. While last year's allocation was Rs. 262 crore, this year a provision of Rs. 203 crore has been made. We know that this amount of Rs. 203 crore is not likely to be received. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the allocation to this sector is getting reduced year after year. I would like to know as to what steps are being taken by the Ministry of Textiles and the Finance Minister to raise it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a need to reach the items produced of the handloom sector in the market. Besides in order to remove the difficulties being experienced in marketing. Will the Central Government follow a policy to use handloom products in all its offices and enterprises and issue necessary instructions to the State Governments to follow sent ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, we can request the State Governments but I do not know how far they will comply with our request. I know that because of the phasing out of the Janata cloth, the budget is reducing by Rs. 3 to 4 crore every year. The intention of the Government is to phase out the janata cloth.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister says that there has been a reduction of Rs. 3-4 crore. But I tell him that it has been reduced to the tune of Rs. 60 crore.

[English]

Rs. 60 crore is the reduction between last year's budget estimates and this year's budget estimates.

[Translation]

And he says that it is only Rs. 3-4 crore.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, if the demand from the concerned Government is genuine and the amount that is provided is insufficient, I will again request the Finance Minister to give us something more.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Government have directed to State Governments particularly the Government of MP to reduce the Janata saree production by 50 per cent under the handloom production. Thousands of workers are likely to be rendered jobless as a fallout of the above directive. As such what the Government are thinking for providing jobs to weavers in the backdrop of orders to reduce production ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, in 1993-94, the target for producing janata cloth was fixed at 370 million square metres, the production was 313 million square metres; in 1994-95, the target was 320 million square metres, the production was 217 million square; and in 1995-96, the target was 250 million square metres and the production was only 198.86 million square metres.

Sir, these figures will show that the production is not up to our expectation. They are not achieving the targets that are being given to them.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that a petition in connection with the condition of handloom weavers was submitted to the petition committee in the Rajya Sabha and in my capacity as the Chairman of that Committee. I submitted a detailed report in the House after visiting the houses of handloom weavers from Uttar Pradesh right upto Tamil Nadu and seeing their plights ? The entire action plan had been suggested in it. If the Government implement the suggestions, their lot can be improved. Even after a lapse of one year, the recommendation of the committee have not been implemented. I would, therefore, like to know the steps taken to act on the action plan and implement the recommendations.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, I am sorry to say that I have not come across such a petition. I will ask my officials to get it. I have not seen it. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : What is he saying.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is replying to that.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I am sorry to say that I have not seen this petition. It was not brought to my notice. I will get that report within three or four days, and I will write to you as to what action has been taken by the Government.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, yesterday, the Prime Minister said in the Rajya Sabha that the officers were not listening to him. This is the position. The Minister is simply saying that he does not know anything about these reports. How is this Government running ?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government have been function is a very peculiar way. He has no knowledge of the Supreme Court judgement. The report of the Rajya Sabha committee is based on this point. How the recommendations of the committee can be implemented when the hon. Minister has no knowledge of it. How this Government is functioning. Almost one has elapsed since the report was submitted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please give one more copy to him.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are taking it so lightly. The report of the whole House was laid as the Table of the House. Copy was sent to the department. As has been said by Shri George Fernandes, the report comprised information which included directives to State Governments to manufacture handloom clothes. Had the recommendations been implemented the lot of the handloom weavers would have been improved . . . (Interruptions) The hon. Minister says that he has no knowledge of it and he has not seen it. . . (Interruptions) Please take it seriously. You are saying that I should send one more copy. . . (Interruptions) This is not a matter between him and me. This is a matter between the entire House and the Government. . . (Interruptions) What is the style of functioning of this Government ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, this Committee was appointed by the previous Government. This report was given to the previous Government. So, I do not know about it. I have no idea about the said report.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, when a Parliamentary Committee submits its report, action has to be taken by the Government on the recommendations.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, please tell the

Minister that Government is a continuous institution.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I am telling you that I have not seen that report. I have told you, Madam, that I will get that report within a week and I will look into that report. I will come back to you and tell you what are all the actions that have been taken and what are all the actions that are yet to be taken. I am not a computer and I cannot remember all these things. I do not know about it. It was given to the previous Government.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what should I expect from the Government ? Are the recommendations being implemented ? . . . (Interruptions) We thought that by this time he must have convened a meeting of the concerned officer and implemented the recommendations, but hon. Minister says that he has not even read the report. . . (Interruptions) You are not giving me protection. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVANABEN DEVRAJ BHAJI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not the way of functioning. . . (Interruptions)

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, the Kota Saree is famous all over India. . . (Interruptions) All their weavers of dying of starvation. . . (Interruptions)

#### Simplification of Export Process.

+

\*382. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :  
Lt. GENERAL (Retd.) PRAKASH MANI  
TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the Federation of Indian Export Organisations to make a study to suggest streamlining and simplification of policy and procedure in respect of exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received the recommendations from the FIEO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

As part of Govt. Policy to continuously interact with Trade and Industry through Export Promotion Councils and

Organisations like FIEO, FICCI, CII ASSOCHAM the streamlining and simplification of Policy and Procedures are discussed in various fora like Board of Trade, Core Group, Open Houses and seminars and amendments are made from time to time to make the export promotion schemes more transparent and useful to the exporting community. In the context of the formulation of the new Export and Import Policy which will come into effect from April, 1997, suggestions for further simplification of Policy & Procedures have been received from various sources including FIEO, which have all been examined and those found acceptable will be reflected in the new Exim Policy 1997-2002.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the small scale exporters export 30-40 percent of the total exports of the country, when the I.T.P.O. arranges any exhibition abroad, the small scale exporters are not given any facility in it so that they could display their goods and receive orders. All this require heavy expenditure. Alongwith it the big exporters dominate over the small exporters due to which the latter cannot display their goods in such exhibitions. As a result of that they do not receive total orders.

Through you, I would like to know from the Government whether such facilities which would help the small exporters display their goods and receive orders could be provided to them under the exim policy.

[English]

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, under the ITPO, we are continuously organising a number of exhibitions in different countries of the world. But the hon. Member wants that the small-scale sector should also be given preference in these exhibitions. We will definitely give some support to them. It is they who have to choose the interest of the country in which they are showing the exhibition. I will definitely ask the ITPO to pay special attention to exhibition their products and to see that their markets are improved in those countries.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : I would like to tell the hon. Minister that small scale sector manufacture small items. Are there any plans under the consideration of the Government under which they could organise training camps at the centre or in the States so that the small exporters could export their goods direct ?

[English]

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : The hon. Member's suggestion is very good. But the training programmes are

organised by State Governments under the small-scale sector organisations in various States. We can also given any support from the Commerce Ministry to whatever they are going to organise. That will enable them to do it.

Coming to Exim Policy, we are getting a number of representations on various issues. We are consolidating and examining those issues and we will come over by the end of this month.

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Mr. Chairman, Sir, export is also a central subject.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : The hon. Member wanted to know as to the steps being taken by the Central Government to import training to them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What are you doing in regard to training programme ?

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : The Central Government under the Commerce Ministry do not have any training programme. But we are only supporting State Government programmes on which they are talking action and we are also giving our support to them.

[Translation]

Lt. GENERAL (Retd.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, export is not rising on the expected lines. There has been a fall particularly, in the export of conventional items like tea, diamond jewellery, steel and iron, readymade garments, leather and leather made goods and carpet. The FIO submitted its suggestions to the Government in January 1997. The role played by the small scale sector in increasing is commendable. The small scale sector makes 30-40 of the total export. But payment of loan to them takes time. The rate of interest is particularly when they make exports to foreign countries. The general interest charged from them is a burden for them. Of course the Government have provided them a number of facilities for making exports. It is also a fact that export is not increasing as it ought to be rather there are indications that the percentage of exports is declining. I want to know whether there are any proposals to give them some relief in the rate of interest ?

[English]

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : The suggestion is very under taken and as per his other suggestions about the exports of small-scale sector, we are nearly getting more than 30 per cent of our exports from the small-scale sector. We always value very highly the small-scale sector exports and we give a lot of recognition to them.

Coming to the question of interest rate, recently the Reserve Bank has also given some reduction in the interest rates and also extended it for longer periods. But the Export Promotion Council has asked us for 90 days at 13 per cent. After that, they should not be taxed at higher rates. The Reserve Bank has approved for 90 days at 13 per cent and also they have given another 90 days at 15 per cent and after 180 days, at bank rate. This has gone out of the way to see that they should be given more support for export purposes. I think they are still examining the possibility to reduce further the interest rate for export in small-scale sector also.

SHRI A.C. JOS : One of our traditional export items is tea. The tea industry in Kerala is in peril and especially many of the tea estates in munnar and Perumedu of Idukki district are on the verge of closure. Many of the estates have not paid wages to their workers. The reason is that our conventional exports were to erstwhile Soviet Union and to the Gulf.

Because of the break down of the Soviet Union and the disappearance of communism, that market has vanished. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Communism is still there. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am addressing the Chair. Coming to my point, as an aftermath of the Gulf war, the export market in respect of the Gulf area has also totally vanished. Adding fuel to the fire, Sri Lanka has come forward with a scheme of one year credit to the European market for tea. My question is whether there is any scheme with the Tea Board to give an impetus and to improve exports of tea, especially the South Indian tea. I would also like to know whether the Minister will consider giving some tax concessions to the tea exporters. Of course, he has mentioned about some banks-facilities, some concessions given to entire exporters. But tea needs a special treatment at the hands of the hon. Minister. Therefore, my question is whether the Government would consider giving some tax and bank credit concessions to the tea exporters. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Sir, Shri Jos and his friends were very very jubilant over the fall of the Soviet Union. But I would like to say that communism is still there. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : No, not at all, I am very sorry about it.

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : The hon. Member has very clearly given the reason why tea exports have been affected. In fact, shortly, we are visiting Russia to have some discussions with them to see how far we can improve

our trade with Russia also. But in addition to that, what we are planning now is to encourage some of the packing industry, the tea packing industry in India so that they will be able to export more packed tea also whereby they can export value-added products. We are now evaluating different markets. As the hon. Member must have realised, the tea prices have improved because of our efforts. We are making efforts with other countries. We have started taking efforts with various South American countries also. I am sure that very soon we will be able to capture the other markets also.

[Translation]

#### Loans to unemployed youths

\*393. DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to simplify the procedure for providing loans to the educated and trained unemployed youths to set up small scale industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the concrete steps taken by the Government for the development of small scale industries ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) Banks provide loan to educated and trained unemployed youth under various schemes such as Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). The procedure to sanction loan under PMRY includes receipt of applications from eligible persons by District Industries Centre (DICs), scrutiny by task force and sponsoring to the concerned bank. A managerial training is then provided depending on the trade selected by the beneficiary. Banks have been advised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to dispose of such loan applications within a specified time.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that based on the recommendations of the Nayak Committee, it has simplified the procedure for providing credit to Small Scale Industries (SSI). All commercial banks have been instructed by RBI to sanction working capital limits of less than Rs. one crore to SSI Units on the basis of 20% of their projected annual turnover. There is a simple application form for borrowers up to Rs. 2 lakhs, which constitute nearly 90% of all SSI borrowers. Banks have also been advised by RBI that all loan applications up to credit limit of Rs. 25,000/- should be disposed of within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.

Further, RBI have issued following guidelines to all scheduled commercial banks with regard to credit to small scale sector :

- (i) At least 40% of the advances under SSI segment within priority sector should be granted to cottage industries, khadi and village industries, artisans, tiny industries;
- (ii) To operationalise at least 100 specialised SSI branches in 1995-96 and 100 more branches in 1996-97 in 85 identified districts in country (i.e. districts where there are at least 2000 SSI units);
- (iii) To consider requests for increase in limits expeditiously and take prompt decisions; and
- (iv) To ensure that all cases of rejection/curtailment of limit of SSI units are looked into by next higher authority so as to ensure that entrepreneurs are not put to unnecessary hardship.

[Translation]

DR. AMRIT LAL BHARATI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question was whether the Government have take any decision to simplify the procedure for providing loans to the educated and trained unemployed youths to set up small scale industries. In reply to this question it has been stated that so and so recommendations have been made by the Nayak Committee Constituted by the RBI but there is no mention as to which recommendation was accepted and from where they were implemented. Even today a large number of unemployed youths are running from pillar to post to get loans and the business of middlemen is flourishing. There is no provision for simplifying the procedure. It has been stated that request was made by RBI for making the procedure simplified and for that purpose Nayak Committee was constituted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question ? Please ask question.

DR. AMRIT LAL BHARATI : Sir, I would like to know whether the Government have taken any decision to simplify the procedure for providing loans to the educated and trained unemployed youths to set up small scale industries ?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the principal scheme for providing credit to educated unemployed is the PMRY scheme. I have, in my answer, given the procedure for the PMRY scheme. I have not stopped there. Assuming that the question also relates to the procedure for getting loans for setting up SSI units I have given that procedure also. I understood to mean the hon. Members supplementary is : Will you further simplify

the procedure relating to PMRY scheme ? The answer to that is 'Yes'. I intend to review it myself and further simplify the procedure for granting loans under the PMRY scheme . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : He asked question whether you have done anything to simplify the procedure for granting loans.

DR. AMRIT LAL BHARATI : I would like to know whether the Government will increase the number of SSI during the year 1997-98 with a view to provide employment opportunities to educate and trained unemployed youths ?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If the question is : "Will I increase the number of SSI units ? The answer is : That is not in my control." That will depend upon the number of people who come forward to set up SSI units. If the question is : "Will we improve the achievement of target under the PMRY ? My answer is yes." That is within my control. I will try to ensure that the target is better achieved in 1997-98 for PMRY.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : If any unemployed educated youth applies to the District Industries Centre for a loan under PMRY to start a new industry or a business, the District Industries Centre recommends the case to a nationalised bank after satisfying the necessary norms. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You ask the question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He is asking, Sir, following your example. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : I am coming to the point. The pity is that on so many occasions, the nationalised bank is not functioning for disbursing the loan amount. I give you an example. A poor educated man had applied for a loan to purchase a Xerox machine about two years back. The DIC had forwarded the case to Canara Bank, Madurai by suggesting to grant loan at the rate of 80 paise per print. Two years have passed. The unemployed youth has run from pillar to post. This is a case of the PMRY scheme. May I know from the hon. Minister, who is known for his wisdom and quick action, whether he will take steps to simplify the procedure and take immediate action for disbursement of loans ? I also want to know whether he will take stern action against indifferent bank officials who are indifferent for PMRY scheme. I know, they are very liberal to their customers. But they are very indifferent to new-comers. I want a categorical reply from the hon. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I think, the hon. Member is right. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Do you want to answer him ? . . . (Interruptions) I think, the hon. Member is absolutely right. I have no doubt about it. All the hands that are raised are going to ask me questions on similar lines. Let me tell you my own experience.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If he is able to satisfy all, I think, than there will be no other supplementary.

(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : This is a very important subject.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I think, this is a serious subject and all of us are interested in it. Please allow me two to three minutes to give a detailed answer. I have sat on the DRDA and the other meetings of my district. I have sat as a Minister, as an MP. I have reviewed this sanction of PMRY and the disbursement under the PMRY. I have found that it is completely unsatisfactory. The mere fact that I have become the Finance Minister will not make it satisfactory overnight. What has happened is that these attitudes have got so deeply entrenched in the banking system that we will have to break this attitude. Let me give you figures which will show how a good project launched by the Government has suffered in the hands of indifferent bankers. This started some time in October 1993. Let us forget about 1993-94 which is the beginning year. In 1994-95, against the target of Rs. 2,20,000, the sanctioned amount of loan was Rs. 1,94,000 and the disbursed amount was only Rs. 1,11,000. In 1995-96, against the target of Rs. 3,21,000, the amount sanctioned was Rs. 2,94,000 and the amount disbursed was Rs. 1,67,000. First of all, against the target, achievement in terms of sanctions is only about 70 per cent or so.

Against sanctions, disbursement is only 55 per cent or so. So, I have asked them why it is so. Between the disbursing authority's letter and the sanction, they allow them eight weeks. Now, I do not see why eight weeks should be allowed. It is the banker who sits as a member of the sponsoring authority. When the sponsoring authority issues a letter, there is no reason why the bank should take eight weeks to issue the sanction letter. I intend to cut down this period. This is the first step.

The second step is, between sanction and disbursement, there has to be six weeks' training in management,

which is correct. But six weeks' training in management and the disbursement should take place within two months or so. They have allowed them six months to disburse the loan, and my friend has stated that even after two years, the loan is not disbursed.

Sir, I intend to look at it. I have made it very plain that I will not accept this. In 1997-98, I intend to achieve the targets better. We need to simplify procedures. This is not the correct way to go about it. We need to achieve our targets. So, I will take action well in time. In 1997-98, I promise you, there will be a considerable improvement.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister of Finance is already aware of this problem. We should not forget the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojna. It is a very noble scheme for unemployed who are suffering from frustration.

I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister, what action he is proposing to take against the bankers if they fail to achieve their targets. What concrete steps he is going to take in future to see that every banker is afraid if he does not achieve the target and does not keep up the simplified procedures for disbursing the amount within a specified time ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, let me take action and then report to you. There is no point my telling you, what action I will take and then not take any action. Let me take action and then I will come and report . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to speak on this. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Samik Lahiri.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is some scam in it. Poor people are not getting loan . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has said that he will take action.

My question is this. In the previous eight months, what action has been taken by the Ministry of Finance against the bank authorities who have not been able to disburse the loan ? I want a categorical reply. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is asking as to what are the action taken during these eight months.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Take action against the corrupt bank officials.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, the question asked, has not been replied.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is replying. Please listen, he is telling as to what actions have been taken in eight months.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : No action has been taken in eight months. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, if this is the system, what can I say.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow the Minister to answer.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You are a Minister and you can go to fields and see that unemployed people are not getting loans *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you allow the Minister to reply or not ? He is replying. One hon. Member has asked a question. Let him reply to him first.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : He is not giving any satisfactory reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him reply first.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I do not see why the hon. Member is agitated. I have myself said that I am not satisfied with it. . . *(Interruptions)* What is the point in his shouting ? Just because he shouts, I am not going to do anything. . . *(Interruptions)* Sir, I refuse to answer if he shouts like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you allow him to reply or not ? He is replying as to what action he has taken in these eight months. Why are you disturbing ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am willing to give a reply. But I will not be shouted at by an hon. Member. I am willing to give a reply. . . *(Interruptions)* I may not satisfy you. But I am not hiding anything. This is not a scheme I started. I have given you figures about this scheme for the last three years to show how it is unsatisfactory. I share with you my dissatisfaction. I cannot take action sitting as Minister against an officer. . . *(Interruptions)* If you shout like that I am not going to respond to you. If you shout, I would not respond to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not respond to him.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He cannot shout like that. I will not respond to him. This is a serious matter. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please maintain silence only then there will be silence in the House.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is answering to the question of an hon. Member. He has a right to be heard. You should not disturb him.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I know the concern of the hon. Member. I am sharing the concern. I am not hiding anything. I have never run away. My friend Shri Ghuman Mal Lodha knows, I will answer every question to the best of my ability.

The point is, this is not satisfactory. You have asked what action I have taken. I cannot take action directly against an officer. I can only ask banks to take action because they are employees of banks. But I have now made it clear in three concrete cases because I am going to take action against the higher officers. I have asked for concrete replies in cases which have been brought to my notice by Shri Chittan. I have to pick up the worst cases and take exemplary action. When I take exemplary action against one General Manager or one Regional Manager, the message will trickle down to the Branch Managers. I cannot take action against 62,000 Branch Managers. That

is why I told my friend Shri. T. Subbarami Reddy what is the point of my saying something and not being able to do it. Let me first take action and then I will come and report to you. I will take action against senior officers whose business is to supervise and not the Branch Managers. It is the duty of the senior officers to supervise, so that the message will trickle down that if you do not act, swift and quick action will follow.

SHRI M.K. PREMCHANDRAN : I appreciate the stand taken by the hon. Finance Minister. I hope the sentiments expressed by the entire House are taken into account by the hon. Finance Minister.

We are also having the same bitter experience with the bank officials. Even requests of hon. Members of Parliament are not being taken into consideration by the bank officials. I would like to ask a specific question pertaining to a suggestion. Would the Government consider forming advisory committees consisting of Members of Parliament or MLAs or people's representatives to review the Programme ? If there is an advisory committee to scrutinise this programme, then, definitely, it will go towards achieving the target. Will the Government consider this proposal ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I have no objection in principle to forming advisory committees but I have serious doubts about the utility of such committees. The DRDA is an agency which has the Collector, the MP and MLAs in it, but yet, its advice seems to be falling on deaf ears. What is important is to take action.

Now, the Reserve Bank has taken a critical study of the PMRY. I thought, that would be more interesting than some other things which I am saying. The total loan sanctioned so far is Rs. 3366 crore in six lakh cases but disbursement is about one half. As I said, about Rs. 1800 crore has been disbursed so far. Average disbursement against a ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh is about Rs. 58,000. So, it is quite clear that smaller loans are being disbursed while the higher loans are not being disbursed. I know where the problem is.

Secondly, recovery is about fifty per cent, which is much higher than that of IRDP. Therefore, it is quite obvious that these schemes are quite successful if money is given to the unemployed youth.

The average monthly income of the man who takes the loan turns out to be Rs. 2,000 in sixty per cent cases and Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 in the remaining cases. So, it is quite clear that this scheme is a good scheme because it gives good income. I intend to make a success of this scheme. Give me time. Let me take action and come back and report to you. I will make a success of this scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question will be the last supplementary on this. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, the lady Member must get a chance. Give her a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give give her a chance after Shri Dhananjaya Kumar.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, now it is amply clear that this Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana has remained only a decorative programme. Even after mentioning the term 'Prime Minister', if a bank officer cannot positively respond and the hon. Minister is all along pleading helplessness, I cannot help him, but I can only sympathise with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Come to the question, Shri Dhananjaya Kumar.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, my question is this. Apart from simplifying the procedure, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is seriously considering changing the name of this Programme from PMRY to some other name so that at least disregard to and degradation of the name of the Prime Minister could be avoided.

He has mentioned about three parties. This is a very specific question He has mentioned about giving loans up to Rs. 2 lakh for SSI units. Recently the Reserve Bank has announced that they are removing the conditions imposed on the banks in the matter of charging interest on loans up to Rs. 2 lakh. Is this going to affect the small scale industries also, wherein a loan of up to Rs. 2 lakh is being provided under this scheme for providing employment to the unemployed youth ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I did not say that the scheme was decorative. I did not plead helplessness. All I said was, 'The scheme is being implemented in an unsatisfactory manner having regard to the targets.' I think, this is a good scheme. This has given income. Rs. 1,740 have been disbursed. We must make a success of this scheme. So, please support me. We will try to make a success of this scheme.

On the second question about SSIs, interest rates are regulated on loans from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 2 lakh and beyond Rs. 2 lakh, the interest rates are deregulated. But interest rates are regulated on loans up to Rs. 2 lakh.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question will be put by the unemployed lady !

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Sir, I thank you very much for giving a chance to an unemployed youth. The answer

given by the ideal Minister is very ideal. The hon. Minister was talking about guidelines and simplification of procedures in regard to disbursement of loans to the unemployed youth. The unemployed youth who goes to the bank to seek loan are literally harassed by the bank officials. If they do not put weight on the papers, that is bribe, their papers or proposals are not admitted at all, sanctioning of loans is far off. I have received so many complaints from the unemployed youth of my constituency regarding PMRY. I have already told you that I am an unemployed youth and we all have the same experience regarding this. Does the Government have any specific time-bound programme for taking action ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am willing to concede that she falls within the category of youth, but I am not willing to concede that she is unemployed! The fact is that in three lakh cases, disbursements have been made to the extent of Rs. 1,740 crore. I am not saying that every one of these cases went through without any kind of 'weight' that you are talking about.

Madam, please try to understand. I did not invent this scheme. This scheme has its element of corruption. I am not denying that. That is one issue. I think, where we are all concerned is that we must ensure that the targets are achieved. Just imagine, instead of Rs. 1,740 crore if Rs. 3,366 crore have been disbursed, the enormous amount of wage that it would have brought to the people. So, we must try to make a success of this scheme. There is some corruption. I am not denying this. I will do my best. But my first task is to ensure that these targets are met. I will do my best to implement this scheme.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I am glad that the hon. Minister is positive. I would like to share with him one thing. In my capacity as Chairman, I met all the bank Chairman in Calcutta. I had also met five bank officials of Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal.

Sir, my request is, when you recast this task force, you also involve other banks apart from the lead banks. It is because, suppose the task force recommends Rs. 1 lakh, when it goes to the individual bank, it becomes Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000 or something like that.

My second request is, an organisation like NABARD should be entrusted the job of identifying the viable projects. It is because everybody is asking loan for setting up a grocery shop or something like that. If too many loans are disbursed, then it is a bad game. I would request him to consider these two points.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, this question is very valid. He wants me to ensure that these guidelines are not flouted by the bank concerned taking shelter behind its power to dilute or modify the task force's recommen-

dations. The suggestion is well taken. I am not making a promise. But I am going to do my best to see that revised guidelines with penalties are issued as soon as possible.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister of Finance is considering streamlining of the procedure. One reason why it really failed is due to training which you have already identified. You must involve the NGO of the area in which the loan is going to be sanctioned. In that particular district itself you must identify the NGO which is going to give that guidance and training.

PMRY should be MPRY. You must involve the Members of Parliament at the district level where it is going to be implemented in regard to identification of beneficiaries.

I would like to raise two more important aspects. Small scale sector contributes the maximum towards exports. So, under PMRY, those units which contribute towards exports, directly or indirectly, must be encouraged. You must give special thrust to the backward areas. According to CMP you want to identify 100 districts. So, 80 per cent of the amount must go to the backward districts.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Certainly, Sir, Shri Suresh Prabhu's suggestions are all good suggestions and I will keep them in mind.

12.00 hrs.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : I almost thought that I was not getting a chance. My question relates to this. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Only half-a-minute is left, Madam. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Mr. Chairman, shall I continue ? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes:

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Sir, my question is about the unemployed youth. They all come to us because they have to give a certificate to the effect that they are educated and unemployed. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a very important questions . . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : I have 15 lakhs of such people in my constituency. . . (Interruptions) I cannot always find out whether they are really unemployed or not. So, I want to know whether they will simplify the procedure so that one can go to the local people and get the necessary certificate from them. . . (Interruptions) Sir, I cannot put my question though. . . (Interruptions).

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I have listened to the question. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Sir, I cannot put my question through. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister is replying. (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If one produces a certificate to the effect that he is Matric passed or failed, that is enough; no further certificate is required for that. . . (Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, this is a very important question. You may please allow a half-an-hour discussion on this issue . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may give a notice for half-an-four discussion.

## WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Production of Cotton

\*384. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the production of cotton in the country during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the estimated production thereof;

(c) whether the domestic consumption of cotton in the country has also been assessed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the quantum of cotton proposed to be exported during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :  
(a) and (b) The crop estimate for 1996-97, as assessed by the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) at its meeting held on February 24, 1997, is 160 lakh bales. The CAB has so far not assessed the production of cotton in the country during the cotton year 1997-98 (i.e. October 1997-September 1998) since it is too early and the sowings for cotton crop even in the northern states like Punjab begins only from April/May onwards.

(c) and (d) For 1996-97, the total consumption has been assessed by the CAB to be 152.50 lakh bales. The CAB has not assessed so far the domestic consumption of cotton for 1997-98.

(e) The Government has not decided so far about the quantum of cotton to be allowed for export during 1997-98. According to the long term policy, five lakh bales of cotton are generally allowed for export at the beginning of the cotton season, with additional quotes being announced subsequently, if required. Cotton export quotes are released after considering all relevant factors, including estimates of production, availability, consumption, likely exportable surplus, price trend, etc.

[English]

### Trade Agreement with Pakistan and Bangladesh

\*385. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ :  
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to expand trade relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether any formal proposals have come from the above countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any negotiations for liberalisation of trade with Pakistan and Bangladesh were held with the delegations of these countries recently; and

(e) if so, the details of agreements signed between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) It is Government's Policy to expand trade relations with all countries, including neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh.

2. Under The aegis of SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), the Inter-Governmental Group on Trade Liberalisation held talks to conclude the Second Round of Trade Negotiations. These talks were held in Colombo in March '96, Islamabad in September '96, New Delhi in October '96 and Kathmandu in November, 96 in which India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other member countries of SAARC participated. Following the negotiations, member countries of SAARC have exchanged tariff concessions with each other on the basis of request lists of products identified for such concessions, and submitted by them.

3. India has granted tariff concessions on 513 tariff lines at 6 digit level to Bangladesh, which include inorganic/organic chemicals, articles, of leather, wood, paper/paper board, textiles, footwear etc. The concessions were granted at two rates;

- (i) 50% of the applicable customs duty for consumer goods and
- (ii) 25% concession for the rest of the items. India has received concession of 10% of applied tariff on 204 tariff lines at 6 digit level from Bangladesh, which include agricultural products, organic and inorganic chemicals, leather, wood and wood products, paper, metal etc.

4. For Pakistan, India has granted tariff concessions in respect of 375 tariff lines at 6 digit level, which include agricultural products, inorganic/organic chemicals,

articles of wood, stone, automobile products etc. While a concession of 10% of applied tariff has been given for a majority of items, a concession of 15% apply for a few tariff lines. Pakistan has granted in return, tariff concession of 10% of the applied tariff in respect of 230 tariff lines at 6 digit level to India, which include vegetable products, inorganic/organic, chemicals, plastic & rubber articles, articles of wood, paper, base metal, industrial machinery etc.

5. During the 5th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission held in New Delhi on 10-12 March 1997, both sides reviewed the status of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. During the discussions, agreements were reached on the following :

- (i) The following additional routes would be used for both exports and imports :
- A. Haldibari-Chhilahati,  
B. Ghojadanga-Burimari,  
C. Barsora-Cherragaon,  
D. New Jalpaiguri-Tentulia,  
E. Jalabazar-Betuli-Fultala.
- (ii) A Group of Experts to be set up to examine and make recommendations on issues such as points of entry, list of tradeable produce, terms of payments, quantitative limits and customs and immigration modalities.

[Translation]

**Integrated Handloom village  
Development Scheme**

\*386. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :  
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages covered under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received more proposals from various State Governments for inclusion of more villages under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the number of schemes cleared on the basis of proposals submitted by the State Governments during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA)

(a) Altogether 188 number of projects have been sanctioned under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme since the inception of the Scheme in 1991-92. A list of projects sanctioned State-wise is given in the attached statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Central assistance for Projects under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme is sanctioned on the basis of viable project proposals received from the State and UTs. Altogether, 81 such proposals were received during the current financial year from States. Out of these, 51 Projects have been sanctioned to 8 States. 23 projects have been sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh, 14 for Assam, 1 for Gujarat, 3 for Kerala, 1 for Karnataka, 3 for Manipur, 3 for Orissa and 3 for Tripura. 15 proposals comprising 11 proposals from Assam, 1 from Madhya Pradesh and 3 from Orissa have been recently received. The remaining 15 proposals have not been sanctioned since these did not fulfil the criteria of the Scheme.

(d) Altother 105 proposals have been sanctioned under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme during the last three years i.e. from 1993-94 to 1995-96.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Projects
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3.	Assam	38
4.	Bihar	2
5.	Delhi	-
6.	Gujarat	5

1	2	3
7.	Haryana	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
10.	Kerala	9
11.	Karnataka	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10
13.	Maharashtra	2
14.	Meghalaya	2
15.	Manipur	10
16.	Mizoram	3
17.	Nagaland	—
18.	Orissa	17
19.	Pondicherry	—
20.	Punjab	—
21.	Rajasthan	2
22.	Sikkim	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	13
24.	Uttar Pradesh	15
25.	Tripura	9
26.	West Bengal	3
Total		188

[Translation]

#### National Textiles Corporation

\*387. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ CHIKHALIA :  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working of textile mills running under National Textile Corporation has improved due to the participation of the workers in management;

(b) if so, the number of such mills in which the workers have participation in management;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce participation of workers in the all mills of National Textile Corporation;

(d) whether there is any representation of workers

at the level of Board of Directors in the National Textile Corporation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :  
(a) to (c) Presently Workers participation in management has been effected in 84 out of 120 mills of NTC. Efforts are on to cover the remaining mills, where the progress is slow on account of multiplicity of trade unions and inter-union and intra-union rivalrise. The work culture and industrial relations have improved on account of workers' participation which has had a positive impact on the working of the mills. However, on account of factors like obsolete machinery, severe working capital crunch, etc. these mills have not been able to improve their overall performance.

(d) to (f) The Board of Directors of NTC and its subsidiaries are constituted as per the Articles of Association and the guidelines issued by the Government. Out of the 9 subsidiary corporations of NTC, NTC (BAB&O) Ltd. has on its Board of Directors a trade Union leader nominated by the Government of West Bengal.

[English]

#### Regional Rural Banks

\*388. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Regional Rural Banks that are running at profit and also those which are running at loss during the last three years, till date; and

(b) the steps being taken to make Regional Rural Banks effective and profitable ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), the details of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) which are running in profit and those running in loss during the last three years are as follows :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Number of RRBs in profit	Profit during the year	Number of RRBs in loss	Loss during the year
1993-94	23	2190.79	173	38886.31
1994-95	32	2895.82	164	42321.37
1995-96	44	4238.25	152	46796.56

Data provisional

(b) The RRBs are incurring losses, inter-alia, due to narrow spread, restriction on choice of clientele and area of operation, low business volumes relative to branch network, poor recoveries and high establishment costs. A number of steps have been taken to bring an improvement in the performance of the RRBs and make them-viable. These include, inter-alia, the following :-

- (i) Select RRBs have been given substantial equity support to cleanse the balance sheets. These RRBs have been selected on the basis of financial, recovery, growth and productivity parameters. A sum of Rs. 374 crores has been provided by the Government for equity support to 102 RRBs upto March 1996. During the current year, against an available budgetary allocation of Rs. 200 crores, an amount of Rs. 125 crores stands released for equity support to 15 more RRBs besides giving additional equity support to some of the RRBs already covered. The balance amount of Rs. 75 crores is likely to be released during the current year itself. Further, a provision of about Rs. 270 crores has been made for this purpose for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Bank-Specific Development Action Plans (DAPs) have been prepared for bringing improvement in the performance of the RRBs in a specified time from of three to five years. Subsequent to the prepara of DAPs RRBs have entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with their sponsor banks clearly specifying the performance obligations/commitments on their part. As at the end of December 1995, out of 196 RRBs, 192 RRBs have prepared DAPs and signed MOUs with their sponsor banks. As a part of DAPs, RRBs are required, inter-alia, to focus special attention on recovery strategies.
- (iii) Prudential accounting norms of income recognition and asset classification have been made applicable to RRBs in 1995-96 and provisioning norms have been made applicable from 1996-97.
- (iv) RRBs have been allowed better investment avenues such as fixed deposits in profit making term lending financial institutions, bonds of public sector institutions and non-convertible debentures of reputed blue chip companies. Besides, the RRBs have been permitted by RBI to deploy a part of their surplus non-SLR funds in the credit portfolio of their sponsor banks through non-risk

sharing participation certificates to be issued by the latter.

- (v) With a view to widening the range and scope of services, the RRBs have been allowed, with effect from 1.1.1994, to finance non-target group to the extent of 60% of their fresh lending.
- (vi) Seventy RRBs with disbursement of less than Rs. 2 crores during 1992-93 have been relieved of the service area obligations.
- (vii) RRBs have been allowed to relocate their loss making branches to relatively better locations within the service area.
- (viii) With effect from 26-08-1996, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deregulated the interest rates that can be charged to the ultimate borrowers by the Regional Rural Banks.

#### Investment in Infrastructure sector

\*389. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the stipulation laid down by the Government to attract substantial investment in the infrastructure sector;
- (b) the present position in the infrastructure sector; and
- (c) further steps being taken to attract more investment in this sector ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government has taken a number of initiatives in order to attract investment in the infrastructure sector. A 5-year tax holiday for companies developing, maintaining and operating infrastructure facilities such as roads, bridges, new airport, ports and railway projects, has been extended to cover water supply sanitation and sewerage projects and telecommunications. The provisions relating to foreign investment have been further liberalised to given automatic approval for foreign equity participation up to 74 per cent in key infrastructure sectors such as electricity generation and transmission, non-conventional energy generation and distribution and construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, railbeds, ports, runways, pipelines and harbours. The automatic approval list for foreign equity upto 51 per cent has been expanded to include support services for land and water transport.

(b) The present position of the infrastructure sector is not satisfactory. Six industries namely, electricity generation, coal, steel, crude oil, petroleum product and cement with a combined weight of 28.8 per cent in the

Index of Industrial Production (IIP) averaged a growth rate of 3.8 per cent in April-January, 1996-97, less than half the 8.2 per cent in April-January, 1995-96.

(c) 1997-98 Budget proposals include that Oil Exploration and Industrial Parks will qualify for the five year tax holiday under section 80IA of the Income Tax Act. An assignability agreement between the Department of Telecommunications and the financial institutions has been reached and this would facilitate funding of cellular and basic telecom projects. The Budget, 1997-98, provides for enhancement of budgetary support to the National Highways Authority of India from the existing Rs. 200 crore to Rs. 500 crore.

[Translation]

#### **Subsidence of Coal Mines**

\*390. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :  
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether incident of land subsidence taking place in several coal fields;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases came to the notice of the Government during the last three years;
- (c) the estimated loss of human lives and property on account of these incidents; and
- (d) the steps taken to provide proper safety to the people working in and living around the coal mining belt in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The problem of unplanned subsidence is mainly confined to Raniganj and Jharia coalfields of West Bengal and Bihar respectively.

There have been 25 incidents of subsidence in the above areas during the last three years i.e. 1994, 1995 and 1996.

(c) The incidents of subsidence did not result in any loss of life. However, there had been some damage to the property as given below :-

#### **Eastern Coalfields Limited**

- (i) A Kutcha hutment was partially damaged in the subsidence that took place in Pandaveswar area in 1994.
- (ii) A small wall was damaged in the subsidence that took place in Satgram Incline in 1995.
- (iii) Company's sub-stations was affected in the

subsidence that took place in Jambad OC in 1996.

- (iv) 24 company's quarters were partially damaged in the subsidence that took place in Naba Kajora in 1996.

#### **Bharat Cooking Coal Limited**

- (i) 3 unauthorised Kutcha houses developed cracks in the subsidence that took place at East Katras in January, 1995.
- (ii) 60 company's quarters were damaged in subsidence which took place at Bagdigi Colliery in August, 1995.
- (iii) 3 company's quarters were damaged in subsidence that took place at Bansdeopur Colliery in August, 1995.
- (iv) 22 dwellings and 350 quarters were affected due to subsidence at Loyabad Colliery in February, 1995.
- (v) 400 company's quarters and Agent's Office were affected in the subsidence that took place at Industry Colliery in May, 1995.
- (vi) 346 houses were affected in the subsidence that took place at East Bhuggatdih in March, 1996.
- (vii) 219 unauthorised private houses in Chouthai Kulhi area of Central Jharia at East Bhuggatdih developed cracks in October, 1996.
- (d) Some of the steps taken to protect people living over the subsidence prone areas in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields are given below :
  - (i) Wherever feasible, action is taken to stabilise unstable underground workings under the built-up area;
  - (ii) To establish an innovative technology of hydropneumatic sand stowing, field trials are being carried out in 5 localities to stabilise water-logged underground workings under the built-up area;
  - (iii) Delineation of water-logged unsurveyed underground voids has been examined through a number of research and development projects;
  - (iv) The concerned coal companies have been publishing appeals in local newspapers informing the residents about the instability of the underground workings below the built-up area and requesting them to vacate;

- (v) Regular follow-up and liaison with the District Authorities and local MPs/MLAs is maintained for evacuation of people from areas declared unsafe;
- (vi) With a view to solving the problem of subsidence and fire in Raniganj and Jharia coalfields in a comprehensive manner, a Committee has been constituted on 19.12.1996 with Secretary (Coal) as the Chairman and representatives of Planning Commission, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of West Bengal and Bihar, Director General Mines Safety (DGMS), Coal India Limited (CIL), Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), Bharat Cooking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) as members. The Committee held two meetings—one in Delhi and the other in Jharia Coalfield on 6.2.1997 and 7/8.3.1997 respectively. The Committee is expected to submit its report by June, 1997.

[English]

#### Tenth Finance Commission

\*391. SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Tenth Finance Commission has not recommended for providing Planning revenue deficit grant to States particularly Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether the State Governments are likely to face difficulty in mobilising revenue expenditure for planning and lesser resources will be available for planning;
- (c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to reconsider to provide additional central assistance to State Governments for financing of the planning and special problems of the State to supplement the resource crunch arising out of not providing the above grant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Tenth Finance Commission has not recommended plan revenue deficit grants to any State.

(b) There is a sizeable increase in the total devolutions to all States under the recommendations of the TFC over the devolutions under the recommendations of Ninth Finance Commission. Thus the revenue resources of all States including revenue resources for planning would improve.

(c) and (d) Gross budgetary support for Central and State plans depends upon the overall availability of resources with the Government of India. The distribution of Central Assistance for State plans is done by the Planning Commission on the basis of a formula. Under these circumstances and in view of the position explained at (b) above, the Govt. do not contemplate the allocation of any additional Central assistance to States over and above what is allocated by the Planning Commission.

#### Loss/Profit of public sector banks

\*392. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether public sector banks, as a group, have recorded a net loss of Rs. 371.37 crores during 1995-96 in contrast to a profit of Rs. 115.71 crore in 1994-95;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) the names of public sector banks which have recorded maximum loss;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the loss by the public sector banks;
- (e) whether the operational profit in the banks has increased during 1995-96 in comparison to 1994-95; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for losses in banks inspite of increase in operational profit ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Public sector Banks, as a group recorded a net loss of Rs. 371.36 crores during 1995-96 in contrast to a profit of Rs. 115.82 crores during 1994-95. Reasons for PSBs incurring losses during 1995-96 were :

- (i) provision for NPAs for 1995-96 and additional provisioning for under provision done for NPAs for earlier years.
- (ii) increased provisions for depreciation on investment due to increase in YTM rate; and
- (iii) provision for arrears of wages due to wage revision and provision for employees pension.
- (c) During 1995-96, Indian Banks reported the highest loss.

(d) Loss making banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank to reduce non-performing assets, increase average yield on advances and investments, reduce high cost funds and also contain credit expansion, reduce capital expenditure and not to undertake recruitment of fresh staff.

(e) and (f) The operational profit for public sector banks during 1995-96 was Rs. 7568.87 crores as compared to Rs. 5628.33 crores during 1994-95. The reasons for public sector banks incurring net losses during 1995-96 inspite of operating profit have been given above in reply to part (b) of the question.

[Translation]

#### Ban on Litigation of Public Interest.

\*393. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to impose a ban on public interest litigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received a number of representations against the said move; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No; Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Anti-dumping mechanism

\*394. SHRI RAM NAIK :  
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Board of Trade held a meeting at New Delhi on February 18, 1997 with the representative of the Confederation of Indian Industry for a strong anti-dumping mechanism;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the

outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified or proposed to identify the foreign industries which are following dumping policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The meeting broadly discussed adequacy of the mechanism in India and the need to expedite investigations in a time bound manner. The Government is continuously monitoring the progress of filling of anti-dumping petitions by the industry before the Designated Authority prescribed under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, and will strengthen the set up as and when necessary. As for expediting investigations, the various time limits have been laid down in the statutory rules (which conform to Article VI of the WTO Agreement.) These time limits are adhered to be the Designated Authority.

(c) Complaints and investigations regarding anti-dumping are specific to exporters overseas. There is no survey or identification of exporters or overseas industry for this purpose.

(d) & (e) Do not arise.

#### Low Ash Coal

\*395. SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T. : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand of low ash coke from various Industries in the country as on December 31, 1996;

(b) the main industries that require low ash coke;

(c) whether the production of low ash coke is sufficient to meet the requirement; and

(d) if not, the steps the Government propose to take to boost the production of low ash coke ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Planning Commission assess demand of raw coal sector-wise. Demand of hard coke is not assessed separately. According to the information received from Coal India neither there is any demand registered with them for low ash coke nor do they give any linkage for low ash coke.

However, private cokerries unit manufacture some quantity of low ash coke with ash content of 10% which coke is being supplied to some manufacturers of Electrodes and Carbide.

(c) and (d) Low ash coke is not manufactured in any subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. Coal Companies under CIL produce hard coke. The pricing and distribution of hard coke has since been deregulated. Production and Marketing of the same would be decided by coal companies based on the market trend and on commercial considerations.

[Translation]

#### Premium on new notes

\*396. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of substantial premium on new one, two, five, ten and fifty rupee notes and one, two and five rupee coins, as reported in "Dainik Jagaran" dated the February 21, 1997.

(b) if so, the reasons for the non-availability of new currency notes and coins in the banks; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make the currency notes and coins available in the market ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to capacity constraints, the note printing presses and the mints in the country are not able to fully meet the ever-increasing requirement of fresh notes and coins by the Reserve Bank of India. However, the Government have taken following steps for increasing availability of currency notes and coins :-

1. Modernisation of the existing two note printing presses at Nasik and Dewas.
2. Setting up of two more note printing presses, one at Salboni (West Bengal) and the other at Mysore (Karnataka) under the control of Reserve Bank of India.
3. Modernisation of Government of India mints at Mumbai, Calcutta and Hyderabad.
4. Coinisation of lower denomination notes of rupee 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and diverting the capacity

so released for printing notes of higher denominations.

5. Resorting to import of 3,600 million pieces of printed notes as well as 1000 million pieces of coins, as a one time measure.

[English]

#### Export of computer software

\*397. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of growth registered in the export of electronics and computer software during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period;

(c) whether the exporters of software are facing a number of problems in exporting their items;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items and redress the grievances of the exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) The electronics and computer software sector is a sector which has registered consistent growth in the last few years. The percentage of growth registered in the export of electronics and computer software and foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years, regionwise, is explained in Statement attached.

Government have set up the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council for the promotion of electronics and computer software and for advising Government about the difficulties faced by this sector. As and when a problem is brought to the notice of the Government, the same is taken up on priority basis for resolution. The Government have also set up a Standing Committee on Electronics and Software under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce to deal with the issues which require a coordinated response by the Government. Other steps that are taken for promotion of exports include participation in exclusive Indian Trade Shows/International Exhibitions, visits of business delegations, etc. General measures include the operationalization of the Electronic Hardware Technology Park Scheme (EHTP), Software Technology Park Scheme (STP), which are export oriented schemes designed to boost exports.

**Statement***Export of Computer Software & service during last 3 years and the major destinations**(1993-94 to 1995-96)*

Destination	1993-94		1994-95				1995-96			
	Rs. Cr.	Us \$ min.	Rs. Cr.	Us \$ min.	% Age Growth		Rs. Cr.	Us \$ min.	%Age Growth	
					In Rupee Term	In US\$ Term			In Rupee Term	In US\$ Term
USA & Canada	682.07	220.02	787.76	254.12	15.50	15.50	1638.17	489.01	107.95	92.43
Latin America	2.96	0.95	5.56	1.76	84.46	84.46	6.08	1.81	11.36	2.84
Europe (EC countries)	179.83	58.01	329.57	106.31	83.27	83.27	490.70	146.48	48.89	37.79
Europe (Non EC-countries)	53.65	17.31	79.62	25.69	48.41	48.41	82.06	24.50	3.06	-4.60
Russia & C.I.S Countries	1.94	0.63	53.30	17.19	2647.42	2647.42	28.33	8.46	-46.85	-50.79
African Countries	10.61	3.42	14.49	4.67	36.57	36.57	24.04	7.18	65.91	53.75
Middle East Countries	17.54	5.66	21.32	6.88	21.55	21.55	21.87	6.53	2.58	-5.09
Singapore Hongkong & other South Asian Countries	37.74	12.18	121.39	39.16	221.65	221.65	283.80	84.71	133.79	116.34
Japan Korea & other Far East Countries	26.21	8.45	40.74	13.14	55.44	55.44	40.67	12.14	-0.17	7.61
Australia & other Oceanic Countries	7.45	2.40	20.35	6.55	173.15	173.15	34.28	10.23	68.45	55.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>1020.00</b>	<b>329.03</b>	<b>1474.00</b>	<b>475.78</b>	<b>44.51</b>	<b>44.51</b>	<b>2650.00</b>	<b>791.05</b>	<b>79.78</b>	<b>66.37</b>

Average Exchange Rate 1993-94 &amp; 1994-95 1 US\$ = Rs. 31.00

1995-96 1 US\$ = Rs. 33.50

(Source Electronics &amp; Computer Software Export Promotion Council)

**Statement***Export of Electronic Hardware during last 3 years and the major destinations**(1993-94 to 1995-96)*

Destination	1993-94		1994-95				1995-96			
	Rs. Cr.	Us \$ min.	Rs. Cr.	Us \$ min.	% Age Growth		Rs. Cr.	Us \$ min.	%Age Growth	
					In Rupee Term	In US\$ Term			In Rupee Term	In US\$ Term
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
USA & Canada	297.60	96.01	266.30	85.19	-10.52	-10.52	428.00	127.76	60.72	48.71
Latin America	6.23	2.01	8.57	2.75	37.56	37.56	3.11	0.93	-63.71	-66.18

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Europe (EC countries)	235.87	76.08	294.05	94.35	24.67	24.67	603.46	180.14	105.22	89.92	
Europe (Non EC-countries)	13.13	4.22	13.85	4.47	5.48	5.48	20.37	6.08	47.08	36.02	
Russia & C.I.S. Countries	28.22	9.11	182.10	58.76	545.29	545.29	147.57	44.05	-18.96	-25.03	
African Countries	25.89	8.35	45.91	14.80	77.33	77.33	39.56	11.81	-13.83	-20.20	
Middle East Countries	123.84	39.96	161.49	52.10	30.40	30.40	127.95	38.19	-20.77	-26.77	
Singapore Hongkong & other South Asian Countries	320.35	103.34	470.04	151.62	46.73	46.73	931.46	278.05	98.17	83.39	
Japan Korea & other Far East Countries	22.09	7.13	48.47	15.64	119.42	119.42	78.70	23.49	62.37	50.19	
Australia & other Oceanic Countries	4.78	1.54	16.22	5.23	239.33	239.33	19.82	5.92	22.19	13.19	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1078.00</b>	<b>347.75</b>	<b>1507.00</b>	<b>436.13</b>	<b>39.80</b>	<b>39.80</b>	<b>2400.00</b>	<b>716.42</b>	<b>59.26</b>	<b>47.37</b>	

Average Exchange Rate 1993-94 & 1994-95 1 US\$ = Rs. 31.00

1995-96 1 US\$ = Rs. 33.50

(Source Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council)

#### Dues of Coal Companies

\*398. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total outstanding dues of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries from all sections of consumers as on March 1, 1997;

(b) the percentage of this amount due from the State Electricity Boards and other power utilities; and

(c) effective steps being taken to realise these outstandings particularly from the State Electricity Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The total outstanding dues from all sectors of consumers to Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries as on 1.3.1997 is Rs. 3584.35 crores (provisional).

(b) The dues from the Power houses (both SEBs and other Power utilities) accounted for nearly 80% of the total dues.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government/Coal India Limited to recover the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards :-

- (i) Coal India Limited (CIL) have been advised to supply coal to power utilities only against advance payment or Letter of Credit. Cash and Carry Scheme has been implemented with greater rigour since 1.1.1997.
- (ii) Recovery of dues by way of adjustment against energy bills is also being done in respect of certain power utilities.
- (iii) State Governments have been requested to persuade/enable SEBs to clear their outstanding dues at the earliest.
- (iv) Recovery from Plan Assistance to National Capital Territory Delhi towards dues to CIL and the Railways against coal supplies to Badarpur Thermal Power Stations was made in 1995-96. This is being continued for 1996-97.
- (v) Umpires have been appointed for resolving the disputed dues between coal companies and State Electricity Boards.

### Royalty on Coal

\*399. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of royalty, being paid by Coal India Limited to the coal producing State Governments;

(b) whether the Union Government are considering, to increase the rate of royalty share of the State Governments;

(c) if so, the extent of increase likely to be made; and

(d) the details of the royalty paid to the Government of Maharashtra during 1995-96 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The rates of royalty on coal being paid by the Coal India Limited to the coal producing State Governments are given attached statement.

(b) and (c) The entire royalty on coal collected by the coal companies is paid to the concerned coal producing State Governments. The rates of royalty are fixed by the Central Government in exercise of power provided in section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957. The rates were last revised on 11.10.1994. In terms of the proviso to section 9(3) of the MMRD Act, 1957, the rates of royalty cannot be enhanced more than once during any period of three years. Therefore, the next revision of the rates of royalty on coal will be due after 11.10.1997. A Study Group has been constituted on 28.1.1997 to go into all aspects of the revision of the royalty rates and to submit its report within a period of three months. The extent of revision in the royalty rates will be known after the Government takes a decision taking into account the recommendations of the 1997 Study Group.

(d) An amount of Rs. 217.90 crores has been paid to the Government of Maharashtra as royalty on coal during 1995-96.

#### Statement

(A) *Rates of Royalty on coal produced in all States and Union Territories except the States of West Bengal and Meghalaya.*

(i) Group I Coals

(a) Coking Coal	One hundred and ninety
Steel Grade-I	five rupees only per
Steel Grade-II	tonne.
Washery Grade-I	

(b) Hand picked coal	One hundred and fifty
produced in the State	rupees only per tonne.
of Arunachal Pradesh,	
Assam and Nagaland.	

(ii) Group II Coals

(a) Coking Coal Washery	One hundred and thirty
Grade-II	five rupees only per
Coking Coal Washery	tonne.
Grade-III	

(b) Semi-Coking Coal	
Grade-I	
Semi-Coking Coal	
Grade-II	

(c) Non-Coking Coal	
Grade-A	
Non-Coking Coal	
Grade-B	

(d) Ungraded run of Mine	One hundred and twenty
Coal produced in the	rupees only per tonne.
State of Arunachal	
Pradesh, Assam and	
Nagaland.	

III. Group III Coals :

(a) Coking Coal Washery	Ninety five rupees only
Grade-IV	per tonne.
(b) Non-Coking Coal	
Grade-C	

IV. Group-IV Coals :

(a) Non-Coking Coal	Seventy rupees only
Grade-D	per tonne.
(b) Non-Coking Coal	
Grade-E	

V. Group-V Coals :

(a) Non-Coking Coal	Fifty rupees only
Grade-F	per tonne.
(b) Non-Coking Coal	
Grade-G	

Lignite : Two rupees fifty paise only per tonne.

VI. Group-VI Coals :

Coal produced in the State	Seventy five rupees only
of Andhra Pradesh.	per tonne.

(B) *Rate of Royalty on coal produced in the State of West Bengal and Meghalaya.*

- (i) Group I Coals
- (a) Coking Coal Steel Grade-I  
Steel Grade-II  
Washery Grade-I      Seven rupees only per tonne.
- (b) Hand picked coal produced in the State of Meghalaya      One hundred fifty rupees only per tonne.
- (ii) Group II Coals
- (a) Coking Coal Washery Grade-II  
Coking Coal Washery Grade-III      Six rupees and fifty paise only per tonne.
- (b) Semi-Coking Coal Grade-I  
Semi-Coking Coal Grade-II      Six rupees and fifty paise only per tonne.
- (c) Non-Coking Coal Grade-A  
Non-Coking Coal Grade-B      Six rupees and fifty paise only per tonne.
- (d) Ungraded run of Mine Coal produced in the State of Meghalaya.      One hundred and twenty rupees only per tonne.
- III. Group III Coals :
- (a) Coking Coal Washery Grade-IV      Five rupees and fifty paise only per tonne.
- (b) Non-Coking Coal Grade-C
- IV. Group-IV Coals :
- (a) Non-Coking Coal Grade-D      Four rupees and thirty paise only per tonne.
- (b) Non-Coking Coal Grade-E
- V. Group-V Coals :
- (a) Non-Coking Coal Grade-F      Two rupees and fifty paise only per tonne.
- (b) Non-Coking Coal Grade-G

**Exports of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals**

\*400. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of drugs and pharmaceuticals exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during 1995-96, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of drugs and pharmaceuticals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Export performance for drugs and pharmaceuticals sector is monitored in value terms and the total value of export during 1995-96 is Rs. 3366.17 crores. Country-wise details of exports are annexed.

(b) A number of schemes are available under the Exim Policy of the Government for promotion of exports including that of drugs and pharmaceuticals. These schemes inter alia include Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG), Duty exemption Scheme, Export Oriented Units/Export Processing Zone Scheme and Deemed Export Scheme. Besides these schemes, Government also extends Market Development Assistance, promotes participation in trade fairs abroad, facilitates visits of trade delegations and dissemination of commercial information for promoting exports.

**Statement**

*Country-wise details of Export of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals during 1995-96*

Sl. No.	Country	Value
1.	Afghanistan	5.04
2.	Albania	1.75
3.	Algeria	2.74
4.	Ameri Samoa	1.07
5.	Angola	0.40
6.	Antigua	0.0006
7.	Argentina	4.85
8.	Armenia	0.0095
9.	Australia	14.39
10.	Austria	1.36
11.	Azerbaijan	0.56
12.	Bahamas	0.01

Sl. No.	Country	Value	Sl. No.	Country	Value
13.	Baharain Is.	1.36	45.	Denmark	22.06
14.	Bangladesh	45.99	46.	Djibouti	2.60
15.	Belgium	53.41	47.	Dominic Rep.	1.94
16.	Benin	0.11	48.	Dominica	0.40
17.	Bhutan	0.02	49.	Equador	0.33
18.	Bolivia	0.26	50.	Egypt A Rep.	14.61
19.	Botswana	1.90	51.	El Salvador	0.11
20.	Brazil	15.34	52.	Estonia	0.07
21.	Br Virgin Is	0.04	53.	Ethiopia	3.16
22.	Brunei	0.07	54.	Equitl Guinea	0.0039
23.	Bulgaria	3.13	55.	Finland	2.97
24.	Burundi	2.42	56.	Fiji Is.	0.0065
25.	Belarus	7.17	57.	France	37.73
26.	Cambodia	4.15	58.	Gabon	0.08
27.	Cameroon	2.58	59.	Gambia	0.52
28.	Canada	33.84	60.	Georgia	0.14
29.	C Afri Rep.	0.32	61.	German F. Rep.	336.92
30.	Chad	4.57	62.	Ghana	21.23
31.	Channel Is.	1.16	63.	Greece	5.48
32.	Chile	32.97	64.	Guadeloupe	0.01
33.	Chinese Taipei	25.78	65.	Guatemala	0.58
34.	China P. Rep.	30.05	66.	Guinea	1.28
35.	Cristmas Is.	0.12	67.	Guinea Blsu	0.13
36.	Columbia	3.61	68.	Guyana	0.02
37.	Comoros	0.63	69.	Haiti	1.53
38.	Congo P. Rep.	0.29	70.	Honduras	0.24
39.	Cook Is.	0.01	71.	Hong Kong	188.91
40.	Costa Rica	0.82	72.	Hungary	4.51
41.	Croatia	1.04	73.	Iceland	1.17
42.	Cuba	0.07	74.	Indonesia	19.42
43.	Cyprus	13.54	75.	Iran	61.58
44.	Czech Rep.	3.86	76.	Iraq	1.01

Sl. No.	Country	Value	Sl. No.	Country	Value
77.	Ireland	7.48	108.	Mexico	40.68
78.	Israel	10.44	109.	Moldvia	0.10
79.	Italy	68.60	110.	Montserrat	0.04
80.	Ivory Coast	0.53	111.	Morocco	0.53
81.	Jamaica	0.18	112.	Mozambique	0.61
82.	Japan	47.78	113.	Namibia	0.05
83.	Jordan	15.54	114.	Nauru Rep.	0.11
84.	Kazakhstan	3.58	115.	Nepal	62.31
85.	Kenya	59.63	116.	Netherland	142.56
86.	Korea DP Rep.	2.42	117.	Netherlandantll	0.21
87.	Korea Rep.	53.84	118.	New Caledonia	0.0026
88.	Kuwait	0.50	119.	New Zealand	3.58
89.	Lao PD Rep.	0.63	120.	Nicaragua	0.48
90.	Latvia	0.56	121.	Niger	0.25
91.	Labanon	0.14	122.	Nigeria	118.41
92.	Lesotho	0.06	123.	Norway	0.22
93.	Liberia	0.54	124.	Oman	8.08
94.	Libya	0.07	125.	Pakistan	9.91
95.	Lithuania	2.65	126.	Panama Rep.	1.45
96.	Macao	0.24	127.	Panama Cz.	0.22
97.	Maceoernia	0.14	128.	Papua N Gna	1.65
98.	Malagasy Rep.	0.08	129.	Paraguay	2.61
99.	Malawi	2.59	130.	Peru	4.14
100.	Malaysia	30.85	131.	Philippines	14.44
101.	Maldives	2.95	132.	Poland	13.33
102.	Mali	2.15	133.	Portugal	2.65
103.	Malta	7.88	134.	Puerto Rico	0.16
104.	Martinique	0.77	135.	Qatar	0.42
105.	Mauritania	0.0034	136.	Reunion	0.0024
106.	Mauritius	6.57	137.	Romania	2.61
107.	Myanmar	2.16	138.	Russia	297.80

Sl. No.	Country	Value	Sl. No.	Country	Value
139.	Rwanda	0.23	170.	U.K.	112.61
140.	Saudi Arabia	38.69	171.	Ukraine	25.50
141.	Senegal	0.23	172.	U.S.A.	418.63
142.	Yugoslavia F Rep.	0.13	173.	Uruguay	7.51
143.	Seychelles	0.18	174.	Uzbekistan	6.89
144.	Seirra Leone	2.09	175.	Vanuatu Rep.	0.12
145.	Singapore	77.91	176.	Venezuela	1.70
146.	Slovania	0.12	177.	Vietnam Soc. Rep.	87.27
147.	Solomon Is.	0.56	178.	West Samoa	0.05
148.	Somalia	0.16	179.	Yemen Rep.	11.16
149.	South Africa	23.48	180.	Zaire Rep.	32.31
150.	Spain	74.04	181.	Zambia	6.12
151.	Sri Lanka	82.57	182.	Zimbabwe	7.94
152.	Sudan	8.24			
153.	Surinam	0.01			
154.	Swaziland	1.94			
155.	Sweden	9.14			
156.	Switzerland	58.78			
157.	Syria	1.61			
158.	Tajikistan	1.17			
159.	Tanzania Rep.	20.92			
160.	Thailand	46.71			
161.	Togo	0.28			
162.	Tonga	0.16			
163.	Trinided	1.18			
164.	Tunisia	0.05			
165.	Turkey	8.62			
166.	Turkmenistan	0.05			
167.	Tuvalu	0.0005			
168.	Uganda	23.73			
169.	United Arab Emts.	50.33			

#### Rubber Plantation

4238. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tripura and some of the States of N-E regions have come forward to rehabilitate tribals for shifting cultivation through rubber plantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have to face a lot of problems for arranging land for rubber plantation since the Union Government have yet not declared rubber as forest goods;

(d) if so the whether there is any proposal to declare rubber as forest goods;

(e) if so, details thereof; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Govt. of Tripura has set up a Tripura Rehabilitation Plantation Corporation for rehabilitation of tribals resorting to shifting cultivation. The Corporation has rehabilitated about 2246 families during 1995-96. The State Governments of Meghalaya and Assam have also taken up projects for resettlement of such tribals.

(c) No Sir.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Rubber is not considered a forestry species under the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act.

#### World Bank

4239. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many States in the country are defaulter of the World Bank as per the research report of Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States and amount of default ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Production of Coco

4240. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of coco in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce any comprehensive plans for enhancing and production of coco in Kerala; and

(c) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total state-wise production of coco has been as under :-

S.No.	State	Production of tonnes		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Kerala	5323	5262	4291
2.	Karnataka	1464	1397	1422
3.	Tamil Nadu	34	42	-
Total		6821	6701	5713

(b) and (c) For enhancing production and productivity of coco in the country, a comprehensive Central Sector Scheme for Development of Coco in Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh is being implemented during the 8th plan period with an outlay of Rs. 3.00 crores. Under this scheme, the following programmes are being implemented in Kerala during 8th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 1.22 crores :-

(i) Establishment and maintenance of demonstration plots to encourage scientific manuring and plant protection;

(ii) Assistance for setting up of irrigation units;

(iii) Establishment of demonstration plots of high yielding clones in farmers fields;

(iv) Production and distribution of coco grafts;

(v) Rejuvenation of unproductive coco gardens; and

(vi) Financial assistance to coco producers for organising marketing and processing of cocoa beans.

#### SC/ST Employees of I.T.P.O.

4241. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaint has been received by India Trade Promotion Organisation, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, regarding violation of procedure for maintenance of roster and fixation of seniority of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Complaints have been received relating to violation of procedure for maintenance of roster, irregularities in appointment of SC/ST candidates and promotion of SC/ST employees and non-submission of the report of the consultant appointed to look into the problems of SC/ST employees in ITPO.

(c) The Government has asked the ITPO to look into the allegations sensed in the complaints ITPO has replied as follows :

(i) The appointments that the reservation rosters are not maintained is not true.

(ii) The appointments in ITPO are made under the provisions of prescribed recruitment rules with due regard to the recruitment policy of the Government for SC & ST categories and availability of suitable candidates.

(iii) The seniority of employees of various categories including SC/ST employees has been fixed as

per recruitment rules in vogue.

- (iv) The Consultant appointed to look into various matters relating to SC/ST employees in ITPO has already submitted his reports which are being considered as and when occasion arises.

#### Problems of exporters and importers

4242. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether according to the World Banks study deficiencies in transport, ports, power and telecommunication are the basic impediments in the growth of export competitiveness of the country;
- (b) whether according to the Asian Development Bank, obsolete equipment, poor management and low labour productivity are the other problems faced by the exporters-importers of the country;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the action the Government propose to take to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The world Bank in its country Economic Memorandum 1996 has indicated that deficiencies in transport, ports, power and telecommunications are a major handicap for India's growth and export competitiveness

(b) The Asian Development Bank has not commented that obsolete equipment, poor management and low labour productivity as the problems faced by the exporters-importers of the country.

(c) and (d) Government of India on its own has, however, taken a number of steps to improve the efficiency in transport, port, power & telecommunication sectors. The steps like providing a number of fiscal incentives extended to these sectors, tax holidays, exemption from income tax on the income of dedicated infrastructure funds, formation of new Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC), resources for the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), private sector entry in these fields, proposal for creation of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) etc. are some of the steps taken by the Government in this direction.

#### Merger of Banks

4243. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to merge various

smaller banks and to set up a bigger bank in order to compete with global banks; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government at present.

- (b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Recruitment of Handicapped and Women in PSUs

4244. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of handicapped and women recruited in the public sector undertakings during each of the last three years, till date; and
- (b) the schemes formulated and the target fixed for recruitment of such people in each undertaking during the years 1997 and 1998 ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As per the information available from 194 public sector undertakings, 257 handicapped persons and 6,393 women were recruited in public sector undertakings during the period of three years from 1994 to 1996.

(b) As far as handicapped persons are concerned, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act was passed by Parliament which is an important step in the empowerment of persons with disabilities through creation of equal opportunities and protection of their rights. With the enactment of this law, the reservation to physically handicapped persons which was provided only in Group 'C' and 'D' posts has now been extended to identified Group 'A' and 'B' posts filled through Direct Recruitment. Instructions have been issued to the effect that not less than 3% for persons or class of persons with disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision (ii) hearing impairment (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy, in the posts identified for each disability.

As far as women are concerned, no specific reservation has been provided in employment matters and they are considered on merit for various positions in public sector undertakings.

### Petitions of Public Interest

4245. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petitions of public interest filed in the Supreme Court and High Courts of the country till date, courtwise;

(b) the number of petitions of public interest pending in Delhi High Court and Supreme Court at present; and

(c) the number of petitions out of these related to Government scams and non-Government scams separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Investment of Nationalised Banks in Industrial sector

4245. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total investment made by nationalised banks in industrial sector during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : The data reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generated information in the manner asked for. As per the present reporting system, scheduled commercial banks, are required to furnish to RBI on a quarterly basis, the data in respect of cumulative amount of advances of Rs. 5 crore and above, sanctioned and outstanding as at the end of the respective quarters, in respect of each borrower. The position in respect of advances sanctioned and outstanding to the industrial sector as on the last Friday of the quarter ended June 1993, June 1994 and June 1995 is as under :

(Rs. crore)

	Industrial Sector	
	Limits Sanctioned	Amount Outstanding
June 1993	41557.3	29060.2
June 1994	53078.6	28973.5
June 1995	52247.3	37473.2

### Textiles Quota Policies

4247. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have appointed a task force for reviewing the current garment and textiles quota policies;

(b) if so, whether task force has also been asked to suggest changes for new quota policy to be introduced from 1997 onwards ;

(c) whether the Government have asked the Apparel Export Promotion Council in the meeting which was called for ascertaining their views;

(d) if so, the number of exporters attended the meeting and the suggestions made therein; and

(e) to what extent the Government have accepted their suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (e) : The Government had constituted a Task Force in June 1996 to give its recommendations on the new long term Textiles Export Entitlement Policy for the period 1997-1999 and for making changes, if felt necessary, in the extant Garments Exports Entitlement Policy. The Task Force received suggestions from different Textile Export Promotion Councils, including the Apparel Export Promotion Council, exporters associations, individual exporters and also held open house meetings with exporters interest groups in Mumbai, Madras and New Delhi. The Task Force submitted its report to the Government on 31 July, 1996. After detailed examination of the recommendations of the Task Force the Government announced the Textiles Export Entitlement Policy and Garments Export Entitlement Policy valid for a period of three years (1997-99), on 14.10.96 and 16.10.96 respectively.

### Setting up Car Unit by Toyota

4248. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up car unit in Andhra Pradesh by Toyota Motor Corporation of Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have given clearance of the said project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the agreement thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Passenger car industry is delicensed and no approval of Government is necessary for setting up a car unit. Government has also not received any foreign collaboration proposal from Toyota Motor Corporation of Japan for setting up a car unit in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Public sector Banks in Bihar

4249. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of each of the Public Sector Banks regarding deposits, loan distributed etc. during the last three years in Bihar; and

(b) the target fixed and loans granted in agricultural and industrial sectors and also under self-employment scheme by each of the banks during the above period.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The aggregate deposits and gross bank credit of public sector banks for the last three years in Bihar as furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given in the attached statement-I.

(b) The targets and achievements of public sector banks in respect of loans sanctioned to agriculture and Small Scale Industries and others under Annual Credit Plan in Bihar, for the last three years are given in the attached statement-II

The target fixed, loans sanctioned and disbursement made by public sector banks in Bihar under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for educated unemployed youth and the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) during the last three years are given in the attached statement-III and IV respectively.

#### Statement-I

Aggregate deposits and Gross Bank Credit of public Sector Banks in Bihar as on Last Friday of March of 1994, 1995 and 1996

(Amount in Rs. Thousand)

Bank Group/Name	March 1994		March 1995		March 1996	
	Deposit	Credit	Deposit	Credit	Deposit	Credit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	43556402	16601627	51819029	18485531	60908558	21432493
State of Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	328141	122740	379814	130942	437032	132235
State Bank of Patiala	70984	20116	78445	20549	126528	18640
Bank of Baroda	3257057	1025958	3814317	1048479	4292722	1054554
Allahabad Bank	7709146	2567995	8658637	2467694	10099064	1658848
Bank of India	11962960	4313921	16348320	4909505	19233124	6545044
Bank of Maharashtra	27032	6182	44572	7745	49206	13669
Canara Bank	6542451	3000375	7657880	1599763	9022697	2343571
Dena Bank	376401	145938	396568	138840	467295	168055
Indian Bank	1054972	296553	1163725	436945	1334126	360819
Indian overseas Bank	1327989	258855	1570244	275634	2026222	519560
Central Bank of India	11916199	3070053	3934742	4725704	16272976	5221375

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Union Bank	3152531	971007	3955902	1182904	4315778	1274019
Punjab National Bank	12530632	4000901	3041974	4921109	18621350	5327754
United Bank	3691096	1195021	4318082	1118014	4741217	11044118
UCO Bank	4900324	1812063	5999694	1700374	7048178	1017547
Syndicate Bank	883942	167533	1108537	205973	1273491	221831
Andhra Bank	172864	28993	203830	31380	216205	30545
Corporation Bank	822594	26666	676370	46427	664825	63088
Oriental Bank of Commerce	254444	42355	218162	44913	419799	77461
Punjab & Sind Bank	519232	216879	587991	251334	629099	300339
Vijaya Bank	679373	105520	779120	175918	782570	18366

#### Statement-II

*Bankwise Targets & Achievement of Public Sector Banks as on 31st March, 1994  
under annual credit plan 1993-94*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Agriculture	Small scale Industries (SSI)	Other priority sectors (OPS)	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1.	Bank of India	*Target	4994.75	2973.68	2671.05	10639.48
		*Achievement	2047.85	2047.85	1200.19	3770.03
		%	41	18	45	35
2.	Central Bank of India	T	4089.43	2688.46	1816.10	8593.99
		A	1194.27	393.31	540.13	2127.71
		%	29	15	30	25
3.	Punjab National Bank	T	6012.90	4212.03	3260.82	13485.75
		A	1465.57	774.03	820.02	3059.62
		%	24	18	25	23
4.	State Bank of India	T	13774.19	10201.46	5370.19	2934.84
		A	4567.00	3313.00	1797.00	9671.00
		%	33	32	23	33

1	2		3	4	5	6
5.	UCO Bank	T	1729.74	1151.91	1018.90	3900.55
		A	631.26	170.00	354.52	1155.82
		%	36	15	35	30
6.	Allahabad Bank	T	2192.55	1623.94	1102.13	4918.62
		A	789.00	312.00	448.00	1549.00
		%	36	19	41	31
7.	Bank of Baroda	T	1151.90	714.99	897.20	2764.09
		A	277.00	220.00	365.00	862.00
		%	24	31	41	31
8.	Canara Bank	T	1467.74	1037.04	1156.68	3661.46
		A	502.63	199.06	348.62	1050.31
		%	34	19	30	29
9.	Indian Bank	T	243.29	146.57	150.52	540.38
		A	70.16	13.96	30.02	114.14
		%	29	10	20	21
10.	Indian Overseas Bank	T	79.94	222.03	136.99	438.96
		A	28.75	31.57	18.37	78.69
		%	36	14	13	18
11.	Syndicate Bank	T	88.89	121.48	110.56	320.93
		A	16.65	15.42	15.66	47.73
		%	19	13	14	15
12.	United Bank of India	T	864.53	702.86	468.71	2036.10
		A	248.10	110.25	119.90	478.25
		%	29	16	26	23
13.	Union Bank of India	T	770.65	790.10	816.99	2377.74
		A	314.78	291.57	274.40	880.75
		%	41	37	34	37
14.	Vijaya Bank	T	16.11	89.74	99.21	205.56
		A	4.05	22.31	94.16	121.02
		%	25	25	95	59

\*T : Targets; A : Achievement.

## Annual Credit Plan 1994-95 (As on 31st March 1995)

(Amount in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Bank		Agriculture	Small scale Industries (SSI)	Other priority sectors (OPS)	Total
1	2		3	4	5	6
1.	Bank of India	*Target	3419	1723	2265	7387
		*Achievement	1117	897	1691	3705
						% 50.15
2.	Central Bank of India	T	4495	1804	1644	7943
		A	1220	1163	839	3222
						% 40.56
3.	Punjab National Bank	T	4076	2021	2137	8234
		A	1385	1088	1103	3576
						% 43.42
4.	State Bank of India	T	10691	4314	3635	18670
		A	8136	2327	3600	14063
						% 75.32
5.	UCO Bank	T	3761	792	723	5276
		A	405	80	247	732
						% -
6.	Allahabad Bank	T	1075	310	417	1802
		A	601	410	278	1289
						% 71.53
7.	Bank of Baroda	T	726	159	509	1394
		A	401	63	244	708
						% 50.75
8.	Bank of Maharashtra	T	-	16	24	40
		A	-	-	-	N.A.
						% -
9.	Canara Bank	T	828	495	955	2278
		A	913	453	543	1909
						% 83.80
10.	Dena Bank	T	9	25	27	51
		A	-	-	-	N.A.
						% -

1	2		3	4	5	6
11.	Indian Bank	T	146	73	87	306
		A	84	15	70	169
						% 54.90
12.	Indian Overseas Bank	T	89	115	166	371
		A	12	25	65	102
						% 27.49
13.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	T	2	60	28	90
		A	0	13	10	23
						% 25.55
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	T	18	61	69	148
		A	1	9	38	48
						% 32.43
15.	Syndicate Bank	T	62	45	142	250
		A	21	12	53	86
						% 34.87
16.	Union Bank of India	T	482	30	544	1379
		A	456	516	656	1628
						%118.05
17.	United Bank of India	T	87	57	119	263
		A	48	18	68	131
						% 49.80
18.	Vijaya Bank	T	26	21	44	92
		A	6	41	57	104
						%113.04
19.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	T	3	2	49	79
		A	1	33	28	62
						% 78.48

T : Targets; A : Achievement.

*Annual Credit Plan 1995-96 (as on 31st March 1996)*

(Amount in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the Bank		Agriculture	Small Scale Industries (SSI)	Other priority sector (OPS)	Total	% of Achievement
1	2		3	4	5	6	7
1.	Bank of India	T	3212	1658	2959	7829	
		A	1782	895	3275	5952	76.02

1	2		3	4	5	6	7
2.	Canara Bank	T	2212	996	2022	5230	
		A	1982	506	2746	5234	100.08
3.	Central Bank of India	T	4182	2476	2240	8898	
		A	1617	1445	1518	4580	51.47
4.	Punjab National Bank	T	4506	2648	2909	10063	
		A	2756	1645	2658	7059	70.15
5.	State Bank of India	T	10538	4500	5545	20583	
		A	8273	4743	5078	18094	87.91
6.	UCO Bank	T	1997	1002	1210	4439	
		A	545	380	605	1530	34.47
7.	Allahabad Bank	T	1163	545	542	2250	
		A	598	597	557	1752	77.87
8.	Andhra Bank	T	2	9	25	36	
		A	-	3	6	9	25.00
9.	Bank of Baroda	T	839	155	526	1520	
		A	620	103	278	1001	65.85
10.	Bank of Maharashtra	T	-	18	5	23	
		A	-	16	7	23	100.00
11.	Corporation Bank	T	42	86	53	181	
		A	-	25	95	120	66.30
12.	Dena Bank	T	15	25	49	89	
		A	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Indian Bank	T	121	42	51	214	
		A	108	26	121	255	119.16
14.	Indian Overseas Bank	T	109	194	308	611	
		A	56	103	129	288	47.13
15.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	T	47	132	55	234	
		A	2	153	33	188	80.34
16.	Punjab & Sind Bank	T	14	72	93	179	
		A	2	11	16	29	16.20
17.	Syndicate Bank	T	100	53	156	309	
		A	99	16	123	178	57.60

1	2		3	4	5	6	7
18.	Union Bank of India	T	654	1431	937	3022	
		A	802	825	806	2433	80.51
19.	United Bank of India	T	420	222	478	1120	
		A	116	30	46	192	17.14
20.	Vijaya Bank	T	76	370	436	882	
		A	97	375	338	810	91.83
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	T	3	17	3	57	
		A	1	22	33	56	98.25

\*T : Targets; A : Achievement.

### Statement-III

*Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated unemployed Youth (PMRY)*

*Report showing performance for the quarter ended last March 1994 in the State of Bihar*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Bank	Target	No. of applns. recd.	All public sector banks			
			Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
			No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	1273	1063	758	4.00	656	399.02
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	16	39	12	11.65	11	9.00
Allahabad Bank	216	379	177	148.41	108	73.85
Bank of Baroda	84	127	33	26.55	33	25.05
Bank of India	323	478	282	262.75	106	65.00
Canara Bank	55	148	46	30.87	46	30.76
Central Bank of India	403	611	288	229.22	208	146.12
Corporation Bank	10	15	4	2.05	4	2.05
Indian Bank	31	47	11	8.20	-	-
Indian Overseas Bank	-	13	8	5.72	5	3.58
Oriental Bank of Commerce	4	8	-	-	-	-
Punjab National Bank	291	519	212	185.10	143	106.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Punjab Sind & Bank	3	3	3	3.01	5	3.75
Syndicate Bank	34	38	11	5.90	8	5.01
Union Bank of India	77	142	59	51.56	50	38.27
United Bank of India	123	194	51	41.70	14	9.00
UCO Bank	—	183	31	27.60	—	—
Vijaya Bank	18	33	14	5.84	12	5.55
Total	2961	4040	2000	1050.13	1409	922.75

*Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY) Programme Year-1994-95*

*Report showing performance in the State of Bihar for the quarter ended 31st March 1995*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Bank	Target	No. of applns. recd.	All Public Sector Banks			
			Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
			No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	6746	8230	4114	3023.00	781	415.00
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	59	86	25	19.49	24	15.59
State Bank of Patiala	3	4	2	0.91	1	0.21
Allahabad Bank	1608	2267	683	512.44	648	445.01
Andhra Bank	18	28	8	7.25	8	6.50
Bank of Baroda	691	641	245	177.67	193	130.79
Bank of India	2683	3091	1576	1399.00	572	303.00
Canara Bank	732	1154	640	392.00	161	103.00
Central Bank of India	2724	3967	1379	1037.76	1240	882.12
Corporation Bank	22	40	15	10.50	14	8.76
Dena Bank	10	112	32	24.85	11	10.65
Indian Bank	156	189	53	34.16	47	28.22
Indian Overseas Bank	106	177	47	35.39	17	9.98
Oriental Bank of Commerce	13	17	4	2.32	2	1.14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Punjab National Bank	3505	4701	1521	1103.19	1163	824.78
Punjab & Sind Bank	73	89	35	25.17	11	5.63
Syndicate Bank	169	235	68	37.37	55	31.99
Union Bank of India	578	1010	440	334.81	371	252.42
United Bank of India	425	893	300	115.43	18	15.09
UCO Bank	1346	1540	134	85.12	29	15.65
Vijaya Bank	71	120	43	29.97	38	25.79
Total	21738	28591	11364	8407.80	5404	3531.32

*Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY) programme year-1995-96*

*Report showing performance in the State of Bihar for the quarter ended 31st March 1996*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Bank	Target	No. of applns. recd.	All Public Sector Banks			
			Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
			No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	6746	13114	5749	4163.00	5169	3312.00
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	63	84	28	21.00	18	10.85
State Bank of Patiala	3	3	3	2.30	3	2.30
Allahabad Bank	1608	2416	934	720.98	483	353.05
Andhra Bank	29	45	23	21.30	18	16.30
Bank of Baroda	691	1261	706	484.56	466	302.47
Bank of India	2723	1812	625	425.00	116	45.36
Canara Bank	805	1370	887	573.17	699	449.21
Central Bank of India	2724	4763	1909	1443.50	1350	896.37
Corporation Bank	28	60	24	15.87	14	8.65
Dena Bank	28	109	31	25.58	20	13.67
Indian Bank	156	267	61	43.64	48	31.27
Indian Overseas Bank	106	231	112	64.34	84	40.27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Oriental Bank of Commerce	28	29	10	7.71	6	4.69
Punjab National Bank	3454	6328	2561	2032.18	1820	1338.33
Punjab & Sind Bank	35	91	20	13.40	6	2.76
Syndicate Bank	169	363	118	87.55	93	64.50
Union Bank of India	587	978	617	471.47	388	268.50
United Bank of India	650	1568	202	173.55	175	120.69
UCO Bank	1346	1875	555	482.97	232	209.46
Vijaya Bank	69	187	67	50.39	56	41.31
Total	22048	36954	15242	11287.46	11264	7532.01

#### Statement-IV

##### Scheme of Union Micro Enterprises (SUME)

Performance of Public Sector Banks in the State of Bihar for the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

(Amount in Rs. Lakh)

Name of the Bank	1993-94				1994-95				1995-96			
	Loan sanctioned		Loan disbursed		Loan sanctioned		Loan disbursed		Loan sanctioned		Loan disbursed	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
State Bank of India	1365	84.00	1191	65.00	1632	87.93	1368	71.66	495	52.15	458	40.98
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	11	1.04	14	0.14	1	0.10	1	0.12	4	0.23	3	0.49
Allahabad Bank	268	20.10	96	7.23	258	21.03	223	16.09	56	2.30	56	2.30
Bank of Baroda	80	3.92	62	3.24	131	7.14	125	6.75	81	7.79	75	7.40
Bank of India	177	9.97	—	9.97	135	8.75	92	5.55	313	15.16	255	11.58
Canara Bank	187	9.72	168	7.04	409	21.27	297	12.58	56	4.70	48	3.90
Central Bank of India	648	49.66	577	37.46	259	15.98	246	15.01	254	20.58	115	9.57
Dane Bank	4	0.16	4	0.16	12	0.48	12	0.48	11	1.00	11	1.00
Indian Bank	70	5.41	70	3.65	63	6.10	63	6.10	24	2.15	19	1.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Indian Overseas Bank	9	0.93	9	0.92	16	1.47	16	1.40	62	1.54	43	1.44
Punjab National Bank	533	50.75	367	33.75	379	37.33	289	33.92	238	23.12	222	20.41
Syndicate Bank	15	1.00	15	1.00	18	1.68	18	1.68	5	0.38	5	0.38
Union Bank of India	90	5.66	13	0.92	110	11.09	74	6.68	111	9.97	106	8.55
United Bank of India	187	6.87	50	4.84	171	18.94	168	17.64	181	13.94	181	13.81
UCO Bank	178	9.56	158	8.37	209	15.00	209	15.00	110	0.06	110	0.06
Vijaya Bank	31	3.16	31	2.61	-	-	-	-	12	1.85	12	1.85

(No State-wise target was fixed)

(Target 8900)

(Target 9283)

**Central Assistance to TTAADC**

4250. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of Central (Special) assistance allocated to the TTAADC (Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council) during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether the Union Government have got any proposal from the TTAADC, Tripura during 1996-97 regarding additional financial assistance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) TTAADC has not been given any special Central assistance during the Annual Plans 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97. Normal Central Assistance is released to the States by this Ministry in the form of Block loans and Block grants for financing their Annual Plans and no separate allocation of Central assistance is made for individual sectors/schemes/areas. The State Government further allocates funds for various sectors/schemes/programmes out of the State Plan outlay.

Allocation of Plan outlay under special area programmes for TTAADC for the three years is given below :-

Year	Allocation (Rs. crore)
1994-95	19.80
1995-96	21.34
1996-97	21.34

(b) There is no proposal for additional financial assistance for 1996-97 in respect of TTAADC.

(c) Does not arise.

**Export of Rice and Wheat**

4251. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of rice and wheat exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last six months; and

(b) the quantum and value of these two commodities imported during the last three months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total quantity and value of rice and wheat exported during the period April-December, 1996 is as under :-

Quantity : in lakh MTs  
Value : Rs. in crores

Commodity	Quantity	Value
Rice (Basmati)	3.42	794.11
Rice (Non-Basmati)	16.17	1563.73
Wheat	10.92	679.00

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(b) No rice was imported during last three months. 4.61 lakh tonnes of wheat has been imported upto 25.02.1997 at an average C & F cost of Rs. 6227/- PMT approximately.

[Translation]

### LIC Scheme to Women

4252. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :  
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Life Insurance Corporation has introduced an exclusive plan for women;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) how is it beneficial to common woman as well as the Indian economy; and
- (d) the steps taken to popularise the said plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India have reported that they have introduced a new plan 'Jeevan S-neha', exclusively for women. The salient features of the plan are given below :-

- (i) Provision for survival benefit at periodic intervals; full sum assured payable on death irrespective of the survival benefit(s) paid earlier.
- (ii) Guaranteed additions to the sum assured at the rate of Rs. 70 per thousand, payable on death or maturity.
- (iii) Provision for loyalty addition after the policy has been in force for 5 years.
- (iv) No forfeiture of the policy for non-payment of premium in the first three years if the premium has been paid for two years.
- (v) Option for advance payment of premium in three instalments on which a rebate is allowed.
- (vi) Coverage of pregnancy and child birth risks.
- (vii) Built in accident benefits.
- (viii) Provision for option for pension (annuity) on maturity.
- (ix) Flexibility in claiming the survival benefits. If not claimed or opted for on due date then increased survival benefit would be payable.

The plan benefits the women by providing insurance cover in case of death due to childbirth and pregnancy. In addition to the normal death cover, Further, the survival benefit under the plan at specified intervals is meant to provide assistance in times of need like education, marriage, sickness etc. The plan also provides payment of interest on the amount of the survival benefit, if not claimed on due date(s).

Like all other plans of insurance operated by LIC the premium income received under this plan will be invested in terms of the statutory prescribed investment pattern which is heavily loaded in favour of the socially oriented sector.

The Scheme is being widely publicised by LIC through field personnel and advertisements in newspapers, television and other mass media. According to LIC these measures, coupled with the built-in features of the plan and the rebate and exemption available under the Income Tax Act, are expected to popularise the scheme.

### Modernisation of Textiles Mills

4253. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some textile mills are being modernised in Madhya Pradesh with the foreign assistance;
- (b) if so, the names of such textile mills;
- (c) the names of the countries and financial institutions which provided assistance for modernisation; and
- (d) the amount of assistance provided by them during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Reported by, no textile mill in Madhya Pradesh is being modernised with foreign assistance.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

### Coal Mine Accident

4254. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether an accident in coal mines of Jammu and Kashmir occurred recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the main cause of the accident; and
- (c) the number of coal mine workers killed/injured in the accident; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to investigate into the matter and provide compensation to the families of the affected workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An accident occurred at 1.15 P.M. on 3.3.1997 at New Moghla coal mine of J&K Minerals Limited, District Rajouri, State of Jammu and Kashmir due to ignition of fire damp.

As a result of the accident, 10 workers lost their lives and 12 sustained injuries.

(Source : J&K Minerals Ltd.)

(d) J&K Minerals Ltd. as well as Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) have ordered investigation into the cause of accident.

In addition to the compensation payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act and payment of Coal Mines Provident Fund and family pension under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Act, J&K Minerals have paid an ex-gratia of Rs. 25,000/- to legal heirs of each deceased worker and Rs. 5,000/- each to the injured worker. Besides, employment to one of the legal heir of the deceased has also been ordered.

State Government of Jammu and Kashmir have also announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 1 lakh to the legal heirs of each deceased worker and Rs. 5,000/- each to the injured worker.

Source : J&K Minerals Ltd.)

#### Monitoring and Control on the Excess of Imports over Exports

4255. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up any executive machinery to monitor and control excess of imports over exports and to exercise constant vigilance to keep the imports and exports on a balanced scale;

(b) if so, the details of monitoring being undertaken in this regard;

(c) the main reasons for excess of imports over exports in general; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to substitute such imports by internally generated national resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, trade performance is observed by the Government as part of the overall macro economic management.

(c) Exports are dependent inter alia on international market conditions, export competitiveness of domestic industry, supportive infrastructure, policy framework etc. while imports are made as per requirement including that of the export sector

(d) Steps are taken from time to time which include inter alia changes in policies and procedures to provide

export friendly environment and for efficient import substitution, incentives for quality improvements, involvement of the State Governments in export promotion, consultations with Trade and Industry etc.

[Translation]

#### Development of Textile Industry

4256. SHRI JAYSINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided assistance to encourage textile industry during the last three years;

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

(c) the position of Gujarat in textile industry;

(d) the quantum of textile manufactured in the State; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage the exports of textile manufactured in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) and (b) The Union Government has taken various measures to encourage the Textile Industry in the country, which is equally applicable to all states including Gujarat.

The Indian Textile industry comprises of various segments; namely will sector, powerloom, handloom etc. Depending on the needs of each segment of the industry policy interventions involving formulation of financial and administrative steps by the government for various segments is a continuous process keeping in mind the broad objectives laid down in the Textile policy 1985. The government have taken various steps from time to time to encourage textile production in each segment. These include;

Liberalisation of licensing provision; fiscal restructuring; permitting import of textile machinery under OGL; and reduction of custom duty on such imports; research and development activities; setting up of laboratories facilities; simplification of quota system; setting up of BIFR to inquire into working of sick industrial units, and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, scheme for revival of mills; reserving certain items for manufacture by handloom sector only; by way of running Powerloom Services Centres, Computer Aided Design Centres; improving quality of textile products and boosting their value addition through various Textile Research Associations; removal of restrictions on the creation and expansion of capacity, subject only to locational guidelines; working on various programmes for the promotion on export of the various segments of the Indian Textile Industry through various Export Promotion Councils under M/o Textiles;

upgrading of testing facilities at the Textiles Committee and other Public Textile Laboratories to facilitate quick, affordable and reliable test result to the exporters; and promoting quality consciousness among to promote acceptability of Indian goods abroad.

(c) The State of Gujarat has a prominent position in the country. As far as the Textile Industry in concerned, it can be ranked as No. 3 in terms of the overall turnover in the Textile Industry.

(d) The quantum of production of spun yarn and cloth in the state of Gujarat during 1995-96 is given below :

Item	Production in Gujarat
Spun Yarn (Mn. Kg.)	183.7
Mill Cloth (Mn.sq. mtr.)	451.6

Information on the total cloth produced in Gujarat State is not available.

(e) Steps for promotion of exports is not taken separately for each State. However, in order to boost textile export, the Govt. have been taking a number of steps which include encouraging exporters to participate in Buyer-Seller meets, participation in fairs and exhibitions in major markets; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines; products development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programmes; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

[English]

#### Fifth Pay Commission

4257. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high empowered Committee of Secretaries has been appointed to give their recommendations on the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details of members of the above committee;

(c) whether a meeting with the Joint Consultative Machinery was held on March 3, 1997 to seek their views for the implementation of the above report;

(d) if so, the outcome of the said meeting;

(e) the time fixed by the Government to submit the recommendations by the Committee of Secretaries;

(f) whether any proposal for the retirement age benefit is under consideration and that no employee will be discriminated; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the established procedure, an Empowered Committee is constituted to screen the recommendations of the Pay Commission. The Empowered Committee comprises of the following :

1. Secretary, Deptt. of Expenditure	Chairman
2. Secretary, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension	Member
3. Secretary, Ministry of Defence	"
4. Secretary, Deptt. of Revenue	"
5. Secretary, Deptt. of Posts	"
6. Secretary, Deptt. of Telecom.	"
7. Secretary, Deptt. of Health	"
8. Secretary, Deptt. of Sc. & Tech.	"
9. Member (Staff), Railway Board	"
10. Dy. Comptroller & Auditor General of India	"
11. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	"

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Staff Side of the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery have suggested improvements in respect of certain recommendations of the Commission.

(e) The decisions will be taken as soon as feasible.

(f) and (g) The Commission, inter alia, has recommended increase in the age of retirement from 58 years to 60 years, except in respect of those employees who are on extension and the personnel of the Central Police Organisations and the Armed Forces. A decision on this recommendation will be taken alongwith other recommendations.

#### Assistance to Industries by Financial Institutions

4258. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of assistance sanctioned and released by the Financial and investment institutions to the industries in backward and under developed areas of Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of units apply for these loans every year; and

(c) the details of guidelines adopted for considering the applications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As per information provided by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the details of financial assistance

sanctioned and disbursed by All India Financial Institutions/ Investment Institutions to industrial units in Assam during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

(Rs. crores)		
Year	Sanctions	Disbursements
1993-94	69.9	82.9
1994-95	127.3	78.1
1995-96	643.4	125.7

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

(c) IDBI has reported that the decision to locate a project in a particular State/Region vests with the promoters and they in turn are guided by such factors as availability of infrastructure, raw materials, skilled labour, proximity of the location of the market for their products and incentives from the State Government. Financial Institutions assess the location State Government. Financial Institutions assess the location from the angle of its suitability to the project.

IDBI has further reported that all financially, economically, commercially viable and technically feasible projects are supported by institutions irrespective of their location.

#### Health Insurance Scheme

4259. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise health insurance scheme;

(b) if so, whether any time frame and guidelines in this regard has been issued; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Finance Minister in the Budget Speech has made the following announcement :-

.....GIC has frankly admitted that its Mediclaim policy has not been successful and that it would like to promote joint ventures in this line of business. GIC is also confident of facing competition in the health insurance business. Accordingly, I propose to move necessary amendments to enable GIC to float joint ventures and also to allow entry of selected Indian players in the health insurance sector."

Before these proposals could be implemented, relevant Sections of General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 require appropriate amendments. A time frame for formulation of guidelines in this regard will arise only after carrying out necessary legislative changes.

[Translation]

#### Printing of Indian Currency in Foreign Countries

4260. SHRIMATI SÙMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to print Indian Currency in foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether any assessment of its effect on the future of the employees working in various presses has been assessed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As a one time measure, Government has asked RBI to import 3600 million pieces of notes - 2000 million pieces of Rs. 100 and 1600 million pieces of Rs. 500 denominations.

(b) to (d) This will not have any adverse effect on the future of employees working in the various presses as the present import is resorted to as a one time measure because there is a wide gap between the printing capacity of these presses and the demand of RBI for fresh notes.

[English]

#### Amendments In the Article 124 of the Constitution

4261. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to consult all political parties on its proposal to amend Article 124 of the Constitution dealing with the Union judiciary;

(b) if so, whether the amendment to the article has been found necessary in the wake of the recent judgement of the Supreme Court which vested all rights relating to the transfer and appointment of judges in itself;

(c) if so, the whether the Government have obtained the approval of all the parties in introducing this legislation; and

(d) if so, by when the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (d) The Government proposes to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in the Parliament to make changes in the existing system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of the High Courts, Judges of the High Courts and transfer of Judges of the High Courts.

### Smuggling of Antiques

4262. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :  
DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of antiques from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of priceless antiques together with their value smuggled to abroad; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to prevent such smuggling and to recover such antiques which have been smuggled abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b)  
A few antiquities have been stolen from the centrally protected monuments and sites during the years 1993-94 to 1996-97 (upto 31.12.96). A list showing the name of places from where the antiquities have been stolen is given in the attached statement.

(c) Information is not available.

(d) Steps have been taken by the Archaeological Survey of India in concert with the customs authorities to check the theft of antiquities and their smuggling by careful vigilance and intensifying checking at Customs exist points as well as strict enforcement of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. Armed Police guards have been deployed at selected centrally protected monuments and sculpture sheds. Details of Action taken to recover smuggled antiques are being ascertained.

### Statement

Name of State	Name of the Temple/monuments & Museums (under ASI) and the District	Description of the object
1	2	3
Bihar	Mahadeva Temple, Rajgir, Distt., Nalanda	One stone object (Architrave)
Karnataka	Solah Khamba mosque inside Bidar Fort, Bidar	Guided copper finial
Madhya Pradesh	1. Vishnu Varaha Temple, Karitalai Distt. Jabalpur	Three sculptures
	2. Virateshwar Temple Sohagpur Distt. Shahdol	One sculpture of Apsara
	3. -do-	One Shivalinga
	4. -do-	Loose Stone Kalasa
Rajasthan	1. Kalyan Rajji's Temple Distt. Tunk	Stone image of Ganesha
	2. Somnath Temple at Deo Som Nath Distt. Dungarpur	Two stone sculptures (i) Apsara (ii) A bracket figure
	3. Hasrat Mata Ka Mandir Avaneri Distt. Dausa	Broken piece of black stone (foot of a deity)
Tamil Nadu	1. Siva Temple Trumbanadu Distt. Pudukkottal	Two lion Sculptures
	2. Dharmashwar Temple Manimangalam Distt. Chengalpattu, MGR	Skanda
	3. Rajgiri Fort Gingee, Distt. Villupuram-Ramaswamy Padayachiyar	Stone Ganesha
	4. Bund of the Village tank at Madarapatti Distt. Pudukkottal	Three stone sculptures

1	2	3
	5. Dharmeshwar Temple, Mainimangalam Distt. Chengalpattu	Nataraja Shivakami & Ganeshha
Uttar Pradesh	1. Varaha Temple Deogarh Distt. Lalitpur	One stone varaha sculpture
	2. Model Room Residency Lucknow	One lithograph
	3. Kalingar Fort Kalingar, Distt. Banda	Two stone sculptures (Bust of Devis)
Orissa	Udayagiri, Distt. Cuttack	A head of the Buddha
Andhra Pradesh	Archl. Museum, Nagar Juna, Kondo	7 Nos. architecture stone fragments
BUA	Archl. Museum, Goa	One sliver Portugeese coin.
Madhya Pradesh	Archl. Museum, Sanchi	One copper bell & ring on the top
Westt Bengal	Hazarduari Palace Museum, Murshidabad	Two sliver plates.

### Bhagwati Committee

4263. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the P.N. Bhagwati Committee, appointed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India to review regulations governing corporate takeover, has proposed to define 'control' of companies

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other main recommendations and suggestions submitted in its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the Justice Bhagwati Committee, the new Take-overs regulations notified by SEBI on 20th Feb., 1997 defines the terms control as follows : "Control" shall include the right to appoint majority of the directors or to control the management or policy decisions exercisable by a person or persons acting individually or in concert, directly or indirectly, including by virtue of their shareholding or managements rights or shareholders agreements or voting agreements or in any other manner.

(c) The recommendations of the Bhagwati Committee set up by SEBI to review the take-over regulations, inter alia, relate to :

- (i) definition of terms such as acquirer, persons acting in concert, control over the company, promoter etc.;
- (ii) specific circumstances under which the regulations would be inapplicable;

(iii) consolidation of holdings by existing shareholders;

(iv) creation of a graded escrow accounts,

(v) specific timeframe for various stages of take-overs;

(vi) system of filing instead of vetting of offer document by SEBI;

(vii) elaborate disclosure requirements; and

(viii) modifications in the post-take-over minimum shareholding to allow 100% acquisition by the acquirer.

[Translation]

### Bank Dacoity

4264. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of banks where the incidents of looting and dacoity took place during 1996-97 so far, state-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed and the amount looted therein and the amount recovered; and

(c) the details of effective measures being taken by the Government for the safety of the banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) State-wise details of bank dacoities reported to Reserve Bank of India by public sector banks during 1.4.1996 to 15.3.1997 is given in the statement attached.

(c) The public sector banks have been advised of several measures for strengthening their security arrangements. These include classification of branches into specified categories depending on various factors, setting up of Central Security Cell in Reserve Bank of India for looking

into all aspects of security and to provide guidelines to banks relating to security arrangements, constitution of State level security committees, etc. Security measures implemented by the banks are reviewed on an on-going basis and such further action as considered appropriate is taken.

#### Statement

Statement Showing State-wise details of Bank Dacoities during 1.4.1996 to 15.3.1997.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Banks	No. of cases	Amount involved	Amount recovered	No. of persons killed	
						Staff & outsiders	Dacoits
1.	Assam	6	8	151.62	20.00	1	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	11.60	—	—	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	5.00	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	9	32	55.29	—	5	1
5.	Delhi	1	1	1.00	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	2	4	46.86	21.05	—	—
7.	Haryana	1	1	2.50	—	1	—
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	5.73	0.42	—	—
9.	Maharashtra	3	3	16.60	—	—	—
10.	Orissa	1	1	19.86	—	—	—
11.	Uttar Pradesh	6	13	33.59	3.68	2	2
12.	West Bengal	4	4	4.76	—	—	—

(Data provisional)

#### Ceiling on Export of Wheat and Rice

4265. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a ceiling on export of rice and wheat has been put during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether ceiling on export of processed food items and other agricultural produce is applicable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The current Export and Import Policy provisions regarding

export of wheat and rice are as under :-

- (i) Basmati Rice – Exports allowed subject to registration of contracts with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA);
- (ii) Non-Basmati Rice (fine and super varieties)- Exports allowed without quantitative and price restrictions; and
- (iii) Wheat—Exports allowed against quantitative ceilings and minimum export price as may be notified by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) from time to time and Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCACs) issued by APEDA.

It is the policy of the Government to allow the exports of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise the food security system. For the current year a ceiling 10 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat and 5 lakh tonnes durum wheat has been released for exports. Further, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been authorised to export/sell for exports 5 lakh tonnes of fine and superfine varieties of rice and 5 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat from the public stocks against the carry-over commitment made in 1995-96. However, in case of wheat the quantity to be exported/sold for exports by FCI would be within the overall ceiling of exports of wheat.

(c) and (d) The current Export and Import Policy provisions on export of processed food items and other agricultural produce for which ceilings are notified are as under :

- (i) Wheat Products – Export allowed against quantitative ceilings and minimum export price as may be notified by DGFT from time to time and Registration-cum-allocation Certificates (RCACs) issued by APEDA.
- (ii) Coarse Grains [Grains and flour of Barley, Maize, Bazra, Ragi, Jowar (excluding Hybrid Jowar grown as Khariff crop.)] – Exports allowed against quantitative ceilings as may be notified by DGFT and RCACs issued by APEDA.
- (iii) Pulses-Exports of pulses including processed pulses are permitted under licence.
- (iv) Milk & Milk Products [Power milk (skimmed or full cream) whole and infant milk food, pure milk ghee, and butter, except when exported as branded products in consumer packs, not exceeding 5 Kgs. in weight, for which these conditions shall not apply.]-Exports allowed against Quantitative ceilings as may be notified by DGFT and RCACs issued by APEDA.
- (v) Sugar-(i) Prior to 13.02.1997, exports allowed subject to the provisions of the Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958-Exports allowed subject to quantitative ceilings issued by Ministry of Food.  
(ii) On or after 13.02.1997, exports allowed against quantitative ceilings to be notified by DGFT and RCACs issued by APEDA.
- (vi) Castor Seeds – Exports permitted under licence.

For the year 1996-97 :-

- (i) A ceiling of 1.50 lakh metric tonnes of wheat

products has been released for exports during the period 01.10.1996 to 31.03.1997.

- (ii) A ceiling of 1 lakh metric tonnes of coarse grains has been released for exports.
- (iii) A ceiling of 10,000 metric tonnes of pulses has been released for exports.
- (iv) a ceiling of 10,000 metric tonnes of Milk powder (skimmed) or full cream/whole or infant Milk Food has been released. A ceiling of 2,000 metric tonnes of milk ghee and butter has been released.
- (v) A ceiling of 6.50 lakh metric tonnes of sugar has been released for exports.
- (vi) A ceiling of 75,000 metric tonnes of castor seeds has been released for exports.

[Translation]

#### Manufacturing of Cigarettes

4266. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Public and Private Sector companies which are manufacturing cigarettes in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the names of Multinational Companies which have been permitted by the Government to set up cigarette manufacturing units of their popular brands in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The names of the cigarette manufacturing units in the organised sector in the country, state-wise, are given in the Statement attached.

(b) Manufacture of cigarettes attracts compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation), Act, 1951. Since the announcement of the New Industrial Policy, 1991, following firms have been granted industrial licences for the manufacture of cigarettes :-

1. M/s. Laxmi Distributors Ltd., Bhilai, Madhya Pradesh.
2. M/s. Modi RJR Ltd., New Delhi. (a joint venture company between R.J. Reynold Tobacco International S.A., Switzerland and M/s. Modipon Ltd., U.P.). The Unit which is located in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, is yet to report commencement of production.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	Name of Unit
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	
1.	M/s. Vazir Sultan Tobacco Co. Ltd.
2.	M/s. National Tobacco Co. Ltd.
3.	M/s. Universal Tobacco Co. Ltd.
4.	M/s. Nava Bharat Tobacco Co. Ltd.

**Bihar**

1. M/s. I.T.C. Ltd.

**Gujarat**

1. M/s. Golden Tobacco Co. Ltd.

**Jammu and Kashmir**

1. M/s. J&K Cigarettes Ltd.

**Karnataka**

1. M/s. I.T.C. Ltd.

**Maharashtra**

1. M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Ltd.
2. M/s. Golden Tobacco Co. Ltd.
3. M/s. I.T.C. Ltd.
4. M/s. Crown Tobacco Co. Ltd.
5. M/s. Masters Tobacco Co. Ltd.

**Tamilnadu**

1. M/s. Asia Tobacco Co. Ltd.
2. M/s. Asia Tobacco Co. Ltd.

**Uttar Pradesh**

1. M/s. I.T.C. Ltd.
2. M/s. International Tobacco Co. Ltd.

**West Bengal**

1. M/s. I.T.C. Ltd.
2. M/s. National Tobacco Co. Ltd.

**Madhya Pradesh**

1. M/s. Laxmi Distributors Ltd.

*[English]***Export of Tobacco to Russia and CIS Countries**

4267.DR. M. JAGANNATH :  
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra and Karnataka Tobacco Farmers' Federation has urged the Government to remove the hurdles in the debt repayment mechanism to Russia and CIS countries and increase the tobacco exports to these countries to a minimum of 30 billion kilogrammes this year;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the exports of tobacco to Russia and CIS countries during 1996-97 and 1997-98; if so, the action

(c) whether any preliminary negotiations have been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed as to taken to boost the exports of tobacco to Russia and CIS States;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes. Sir. Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka Tobacco Farmers Federation in their representation have suggested for :

(i) Enhancement of exports quota to Russia under the debt repayment from 20,000 to 30,000 metric tonnes and (ii) for removal of hurdles in exports under the debt repayment route.

(b) to (e) Under a bilateral perspective plan agreement, the Russian Government allocates rupee repayment funds to facilitate import of Tobacco upto 20,000 metric tonnes from India each year. The perspective Plan is at present operational for the period 1995-97. Some of the steps taken/being taken to assist farmers and to enhance exports includes :

(i) Exploring possibilities of entering into long term supply contracts with the tobacco processing plants in Russia.

(ii) Persuading Russian authorities through bilateral discussions to fully utilise the funds allocated under the rupee repayment funds for purchase of tobacco from India.

(iii) Facilitating contacts between importers from Russia and others CIS countries with Indian tobacco manufacturers and exporters through visit of trade delegations.

(iv) Permitting stock and sales of tobacco in CIS

countries and exports on consignment basis against payment in freely convertible currencies.

- (v) Encouraging Indian exporters to set up offices in CIS countries.
- (vi) Opening of 3 additional auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh to facilitate the growers to sell their produce early.
- (vii) Persuading the Indian Tobacco Association, Exporters, manufacturers and other Traders to participate actively in the auctions to absorb the tobacco crop produced.
- (viii) Negotiating with tobacco trade to declare a Minimum Guarantee Price (MGP) for tobacco purchase which is higher than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government.
- (ix) Assisting the tobacco trade in obtaining larger quantum to credit from the financial institutions for making purchases of tobacco.
- (x) Participating in trade fairs & exhibitions abroad and arranging buyer-seller meet to enhance tobacco exports.

[Translation]

#### P.M.R.Y. in Rajasthan

4268. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn the news item captioned, "Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana - Rajasthan to discontinue scheme" appearing in 'The Statesman' dated February 11, 1997;

(b) if so, whether major shortcomings have been identified in the effective implementation of the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana in Rajasthan;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to take action to bring and improvement in the implementation of the above scheme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item in 'The Statesman' dated 11.02.1997. But the State Government has stated that they

had not made any mention about discontinuance of the said scheme.

(b) to (e) The scheme is reviewed from time to time at District, State and Central level for improving its implementation. Recently, Union Industry Minister reviewed the scheme with State Governments, banks and the RBI on 11.02.97. Amongst other measures, it was decided that sponsoring of applications, sanctions and disbursements under PMRY should be speeded up.

#### Demand of Newsprint

4269. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL. LODHA :

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the annual demand of newsprint in the country;

(b) if so, the total demand of newsprint estimated during each of the last three years and for 1997-98; and

(c) the measures taken to meet the future demand of the newsprint in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The total demand of standard newsprint estimated during the last three years and for 1997-98 has been as under :-

Year	Demand (in lakh MT)
1994-95	6.00
1995-96	6.30
1996-97	6.62
1997-98	6.95

(c) Government has taken following steps to meet the demand of the newsprint in the country :

(i) Newsprint has been placed under OGL.

(ii) Under the New Industrial Policy, newsprint and writing & printing paper units based on minimum 75% pulp derived from bagasse, agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials have been exempted from compulsory industrial licensing subject to locational policy.

(iii) Customs duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint has been abolished.

(iv) Newsprint is exempted from excise duty if the mills manufacturing newsprint are included in Schedule-I of the Newsprint Control Order, 1962.

### Simplification of Export Policy

4270 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :  
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new simplified export-import policy (1997-2002);
- (b) whether the Government have consulted the representatives of Trade and Industry while formulating the above policy;
- (c) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcomes thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the new export-import policy is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

As part of the exercise for formulating the new Export & Import Policy, Consultations with Trade and Industry through Export Promotion Councils and Apex Organizations like FIEO, FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM etc. have taken place and their various suggestions pertaining to the Export Promotion Schemes have been examined. Those found acceptable will be reflected in the new Export & Import Policy 1997-2002 to be implemented from April, 1997.

[English]

### Tocklai Tea Research Centre

4271. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Tocklai Tea Research Centre, Jorhat has faced acute financial crisis at present;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide sufficient and for the smooth functioning and research work at the said centre ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Tocklai Tea Research Centre, Jorhat under the Tea Research Association has been facing financial problems at present, mainly due to non receipt of regular contributions from members belonging to tea industry.

- (c) Funds have provided by the Government to Tea Research Association through the Tea Board from time to

time to meet its share of expenditure.

### Investment in Shares

4272. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :  
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :  
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that a number of companies are forfeiting their partly paid-up shares as the investors have failed to pay up the final call money to their respective companies due to the Company's price has always been quoting at discount to the offer price;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the action of the companies are under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956;
- (d) if so, whether a large number of small investors will be affected by such a move on the part of the companies;

(e) if so, the reasons for taking such discriminatory decision by the companies against the interest of the general investors; and

- (d) the measures the Government propose to take to curb such practices adopted on the part of the companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (f) Such cases do get reported sometime in the Press. But companies have the option to forfeit partly paid shares under certain circumstances as per provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Section 292 (1) (a) of the Companies Act empowers the Board of Directors to make calls on shareholders in respect of money unpaid on their shares. The members of a company by virtue of Section 36 of the Act are bound by the provisions of the Articles of Association. Those companies which have incorporated in their articles provisions similar to Articles 29 to 35 of Table A (Regulations for Management of the Companies Limited by Shares) of *Schedule-I* of the Companies Act, as per Section 28 of the Act, such companies acquire the powers for forfeiture of shares held by a member if he fails to pay any call or instalment, as and when such a call is made by the Board of Directors of the company.

[Translation]

### Export Oriented Units in Gujarat and Bihar.

4273. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :  
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any export oriented units have been set up in the country particularly in Gujarat and Bihar particularly in tribal areas;

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

(c) if not the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of such States where export oriented units have been set up, State-wise and location-wise;

(e) the details of those units which have fulfilled their export commitments and their earning from exports;

(f) the details of such units which have failed to fulfil their export commitments and the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the performance of these export oriented units and to fulfil their export commitments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (g) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Seizure of Gold Biscuits

4274. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized gold biscuits weighing 62 Kg. worth over Rs. 3.21 crore in Delhi on December 26, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of the seizure;

(c) the number and details of gold seizures made by DRI and other enforcement investigating, intelligence or security agencies in the country during 1996; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent gold smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Acting on specific intelligence, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 531 gold biscuits weighing 61.93 Kgs. valued at Rs. 312.00 lakhs on 26.12.1996 from a Maruti Gypsy. Two persons have been arrested and remanded to judicial custody in this regard.

(c) and (d) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has during 1996 seized gold weighing 182 Kg. worth Rs. 936 lakhs in 20 cases. During the same period 890 Kgs. of gold worth Rs. 4616 Lakhs has been seized by other Anti-Smuggling agencies (figures are provisional). Steps taken to prevent smuggling of gold includes further liberalization

of gold imports under Passenger Baggage scheme, besides high alert being maintained by anti-smuggling agencies to detect and prevent smuggling of gold into the country by surveillance over sensitive areas, targeting of intelligence and use of sophisticated equipments like metal detectors, colour baggage X-Ray machine etc.

[Translation]

#### Recommendation of Chellaiah and Rekhi Committee

4275. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ASSOCHEM has stated in its Memorandum submitted to the Government that a Custom and Excise Duty Settlement Commission should be set up immediately on the recommendations of Chellaiah and Rekhi Committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is still under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

[English]

#### Export of Handicrafts

4276. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts has explored problems faced by Handicraft Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has identified the infrastructural problems faced by the handicraft centres which mainly relate to the areas like frequent power cuts, lack of telecommunication facilities, bad condition of roads, distant location of passport offices & foreign post offices, inadequate Rail & Air transport facilities, availability of seasoning plants for wood etc.

The remedial action is an on-going process. However, the action recently taken by the Government, inter-alia, include; setting up of telephone exchange with 4000 lines at Moradabad, earmarking Rs. 50.00 lakh for establishing a growth centre at village Chaudharpur in Moradabad by

Government of Uttar Pradesh, provision of Rs. 10.00 crores by the central Government for establishing a separate electrical grid for meeting the power requirements of Moradabad.

Also action has been taken to set up wood seasoning plants and common facilities service centres at Tirupati, Jodhpur, Trivandrum, Mysore & Chennapatna. Besides, three seasoning plants have been set up at Saharanpur.

#### Branches of Nationalised Banks and RRBs in Gujarat

4277. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :  
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- the number of nationalised banks and rural banks functioning in Gujarat during the last three years;
- whether the Government propose to open the branches of these banks in every district and village in Gujarat; and
- if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of branches of Nationalised Banks and Regional Rural Banks functioning in Gujarat as at the end of March 1994, March 1995 and March 1996 are given below :

Period	Nationalised Bank branches	Regional Rural Bank branches
March 1994	2229	428
March 1995	2231	429
March 1996	2245	424

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India have reported that having broadly achieved the objectives of providing adequate banking infrastructure with branch network of over 60,000 at the end of 1985-90, it was decided that there was no need to evolve any branch expansion programme with specific targets, such as, population coverage, as was being done in the past. Accordingly, in the 1990-95 Branch Expansion Programme and thereafter, the decision to open branches at centres of their choice has been left to the discretion of individual banks.

RBI has further reported that on the basis of proposals received during the period 1.4.95 to 28.2.97 from the banks, 37 centres have been allotted to Nationalised Banks

and 5 centres to Regional Rural Banks for opening branches in Gujarat.

[Translation]

#### Use of Hindi

4278. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- whether his Ministry has modern gadgets installed such as computer, telex, teleprinting etc. which are in Roman script and these are being converted into bilingual;
- if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets likely to be put into use by the Ministry;
- the manner in which the use of Hindi likely to be promote projected
- whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their offices located in Region ('A' where work has to be done cent per cent in Hindi; and
- if so, the reasons of for giving such as exemption ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) Modern gadgets such as computer and telex machines have been installed in the Ministry of Textiles and are functioning bilingually.

The use of these gadgets bilingually facilitates the progressive use of Hindi in official work.

- No, Sir
- Does not arise.

[English]

#### Permission to Proceed Against Fis

4279. DR. B.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

- whether the Government have made obligatory to seek its permission by premier investigating agencies before proceeding against Financial Institutions;
- if so, the details of the financial institutions against which investigating agencies have sought permission to proceed against them; and
- in how many cases permission have been given or denied by the Government during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a)

According to the Single Directive, issued by the Department of Personnel & Training, as amended from time to time, in regard to any person who is or has been a decision making level officer (Joint Secretary or equivalent or above in the Central Government or such officers as are or have been on deputation to a Public Sector Undertaking; Board Level Officers in Public Sector Undertakings; Officers of the Reserve Bank of India of the level equivalent to Joint Secretary or above in the Central Government, Executive Directors and above of the Securities & Exchange Board of India and Chairman & Managing Directors and Executive Directors and such of the Bank Officers who are one level below the Board of Nationalised Banks), there should be prior sanction of the Secretary of the Ministry/Department concerned before Special Police Establishment (Central Bureau of Investigation) takes up any enquiry (PE or RC), including ordering search in respect of them.

(b) and (c) No reference from Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) concerning term lending Financial Institutions has been received. CBI have however reported that during 1995 and 1996 only one reference involving officials of Life Insurance Corporation of India and Unit Trust of India has been referred to the Ministry of Finance seeking concurrence for registration of a case. The matter was examined in the Finance Ministry and based on the material available in the Ministry relating to the case, the Ministry came to the conclusion that the registration of a regular case did not seem to be warranted. The Ministry has accordingly forwarded the relevant documents to the CBI with a request to examine them and revert to the Ministry for concurrence if considered necessary.

#### Ceramic Industry

4280. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for providing natural gas to Rajasthan for the development of a ceramic complex;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No proposal for providing natural gas has been received in this Ministry for development of a ceramic complex in Rajasthan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) there is no proposal from this Ministry to provide natural gas for development of ceramic complex in Rajasthan.

[Translation]

#### Hard Coke Oven and Plant

4281. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hard coke oven and plants in the country in 1982-83;

(b) the number of those ovens and plants in working condition at present;

(c) the quantum of coal consumed in manufacture of hard coke in oven and plants during 1982-83;

(d) the consumption of coal in the said works at present;

(e) the number of employees working in these ovens and plants during 1982-83 and the number of those working at present;

(f) whether most of the employees working in these plants have now been engaged in other works; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Management Information System maintained by Coal companies does not give information on the number of Hard Coke Ovens and the Plants in the country in 1982-83 or the quantum of coal required/consumed by them in that year.

As per the information made available by CIL, currently 180 such plants are drawing raw coal from CIL sources. The monthly requirement of these plants is around 4.20 lakh tonnes.

(e) to (g) Coal companies do not have any information on the number of employees working in various Hard Coke Ovens in the country in 1982-83 or even at present. Presently, more than 180 Coke Oven Units are operational in the small and medium sectors spread over the length and breadth of the country. The coal companies do not maintain any information of the employees of these Coke Oven Plants.

[English]

#### Sales Tax on Companies

4282. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as directed by the Supreme Court the Government are considering to establish a mechanism to

decide inter-State dispute over the levy of sales tax on companies which do country wide business; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/under consideration in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

#### **Raj Mahal Coal Project**

4283. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the parameters adopted by the Government to fix compensation for land and houses acquired for Raj Mahal Coal Project;

(b) whether the compensation rate fixed for land and houses acquired for Raj Mahal Coal Project is less as compared to compensation rate fixed for National Capital Territory of India;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the families displaced due to this coal project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Compensation for land is paid as decided by the Land Acquisition Department of Government of Bihar. Compensation for houses is paid on the basis of assessment made as per the current schedule of rate of the PWD, Government of Bihar.

(b) and (c) Rates of compensation for land and houses vary from place to place according to local conditions. Since coal is not mined in the National Capital Territory comparison of rates of compensation is not feasible.

(d) Rehabilitation of families is done as per prevailing rehabilitation policy of CIL duly approved by Government of India. Besides payment of compensation for land and existing house structure, displaced families are provided with a free house hold plot in the rehabilitation site finalised after discussion with the affected persons people's representatives and district administration, with infrastructure facilities like drinking water, road, school, community centre, shopping centre, pond, play ground, place of worship, drain etc. are also provided by the Coal Companies at the rehabilitation site.

#### **Closure of Industries**

4284. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Industries closed during the last three years till date, sector-wise;

(b) the reasons for closure of these industries;

(c) whether the Government have any policy of revival for closed industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Financial Irregularities**

4285. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Arbon ke ghotale ko 'imbalance' keh kar dabaane ki tayari" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated 18 December, 1996.

(b) if so, the facts of the points raised thereon; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take to check the financial irregularities and also to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

#### **Export Growth**

4286. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day seminar on Industry, Trade, Commerce and Banking was held recently in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether he has stressed the need to step up exports in order to make the country's economy bouyant;

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to improve the growth of exports during 1997;

(d) whether the growth of exports during 1996 was below the target; and

(e) if so, to what extent programmes are being made to improve the exports during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) A high level meeting was held on 4.1.1997 at Hyderabad where various issues pertaining to exports were discussed.

(c) Export promotion measures are continuously being taken which include, inter alia, changes in policies & procedures for export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion and consultations with trade and industry etc.

(d) The growth of exports during 1995-96 was not below target. As per D.G.C.I.&S data export growth in dollar terms during April 96-Jan. 97 is placed at 6.19%.

(e) The Exim Policy for 1997-2002 will attempt to provide a more export friendly policy regime which will be applicable from 1997-98 onwards.

[Translation]

#### SIDBI's Assistance to Maharashtra

4287. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Small Industries Development Bank of India to Maharashtra as on February 28, 1997, Scheme-wise;

(b) whether the allocation made to Maharashtra is less as compared to other States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps taken to ensure the equal allocation to all the States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has reported that it does not follow the system of allocating resources State-wise as SIDBI pursues the principle of need based assistance approach to the small scale industries in all the States of the country. SIDBI ensures that no worthwhile proposal is denied credit by it for want of funds. However, the scheme-wise assistance sanctioned in the State of Maharashtra during the period April 1990-February 1997 is given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

#### Statement

*Scheme-wise assistance sanctioned (Provisional) by SIDBI in Maharashtra*

(Rs. crore)

Refinance	1680.35
Refinance-Line of Credit (LOC)	8.10

Bills Rediscounting Scheme	272.42
Direct Discounting Scheme (DDS) (Equipment)	508.11
DDS (Components)	949.13
Project Finance Scheme	39.11
Equipment Finance Scheme	5.17
Technology Development and Modernisation Fund Scheme	7.13
Marketing	3.87
Ancillary	6.02
Direct Equity Assistance	0.22
Infrastructure Development Scheme	0.23
Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme	3.00
Short-term loans to Industrial concerns	15.15
ISO 9000	0.29
Pre-shipment Credit in Foreign Currency (PCFC)	2.52
Venture Capital	5.37
State Small Industries Development Corporation (SSIDC)	15.00
LOC to SFCs/SIDCs/banks/other industrial concerns	85.00
LOC for PCFC to banks	12.52
Leasing	515.00
Seed Capital	15.12
Others	6.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>4155.36</b>

[English]

#### Export of Aluminium Wares

4288. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of aluminium wares exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the countries identified so far by

National Corporation of Small Scale Industries for export of aluminium wares;

(c) the names of the countries to whom the said export is likely to be made; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of aluminium wares during 1997-98.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total quantity of Aluminium wares exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years is given below :

Year	(Quantity in KG)	
	Quantity	Value
1993-94	2218428	35.81
1994-95	2504016	42.13
1995-96	2892323	46.31
1996-97 (April-August '96)	1735970	18.17

(b) The countries to which exports have been made by the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., are U.K. Australia, Holland and Portugal.

(c) The Countries to which exports of aluminium are likely to be made by the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., are Germany and Middle East.

(d) Promotion of exports has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures taken to boost exports of engineering goods including aluminium wares, consist of various incentives under the Export-Import Policy like Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licence, Duty Drawback Scheme, exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act and assistance from Market Development Fund.

[Translation]

#### Bank Branches in U.P.

4289. SHRI BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present number of banks in Uttar Pradesh Particularly in Azamgarh district are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the people of rural areas;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government

to open more branches of bank; and

(c) the time by which new bank branches are likely to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) As per the extant Branch Licencing Policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the decision to open branches is left to the judgement of the individual banks. Proposals for opening rural branches in the service area of applicant banks, duly recommended by the concerned State Governments are considered by RBI.

As on the last Friday of March 1996, there were 8670 branches of scheduled commercial banks in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The RBI have reported that the following allotments for opening branches in Uttar Pradesh have been made during the last two years i.e. 1995-96 and 1996-97 :

Rural	-	10
Semi Urban	-	37
Urban	-	35
Metro	-	8

This includes one semi-urban branch allotted for District Azamgarh.

(c) RBI have also reported that after allotments for opening of branches are made, banks are required to obtain licences on completion of all infrastructural arrangements. The new branches may be opened generally within two to three years.

#### Model Code for Concluding Contract

4290. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any model code of purchase has been framed and is applicable/binding on all Ministries/ Departments while concluding contract and arranging supplies;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether officers posted in various Ministries/ Departments after decentralisation of DGS&D have been directed to follow purchase policy framed by his Ministry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and

(b) The basic principles governing Government purchases are laid down in the General Finance Rules (GFRs). No model code of purchase has been framed which is applicable/binding on all Ministries/Department.

(c) and (e) Various Central Government Ministries/Departments may have evolved their own purchase procedures keeping in view the aforesaid provisions of GFRs. Officers of DGS&D transferred to these Ministries/Departments consequent upon decentralisation of purchases would thus have to follow the purchase procedure adopted by the concerned Ministry/Department.

#### Pending Appeals before Income Tax Tribunals

4291. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of appeals pending before the Income Tax Tribunals as on December 31, 1996;

(b) whether the Government are constituting more Tribunals and appointing Additional Members;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) other steps taken for expeditious disposal of pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) the number of appeals pending before the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal as on 31st December, 1996 was 2,99,334.

(b) and (c) Government has recently decided to establish 15 new benches of the Tribunal at the following places :

Name of Station	No. of benches
1. Rajkot	1
2. Agra	1
3. Bangalore	2
4. Mumbai	5
5. Chandigarh	1
6. New Delhi.	2
7. Jodhpur	1
8. Panaji	1
9. Vishakhapatnam	1

(d) Does not arise.

(e) More members have been conferred single member powers for hearing appeals. Members are sent on tours to stations where either the pendency is more or the regular Benches are not functioning. Grouping of appeals involving common issues for hearing, scrutiny of cases covered by earlier judgements for quick disposal and arranging camp courts at various places are some of the other steps taken for quick disposal of pending cases.

#### Export of Agarbathi

4292. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of agarbathi exported during 1996-97;

(b) whether the Government are aware that due to non-availability of bamboo splits for agarbathi industry it is difficult to achieve the estimated export from Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of agarbathi;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As per data available with DGCI&S, the total value of export of agarbathi during April-December, 1996 is Rs. 56.36 crores.

(b) and (c) the matter was represented before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Court in their order dated 4.3.97 have clarified that their directions dated 12.12.96 imposing a ban on felling of trees are not applicable to minor forest produce including bamboo. This is likely to improve the availability of bamboo for agarbathi industry.

#### Losses in Public Sector and Rural Banks

4293. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of rural and semi-urban branches of the public sector banks that are running into losses and how does that compare with the branches of private sector banks running into these very rural and semi-urban areas, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : The number of rural and semi-urban branches of the public sector banks and private sector banks running into losses during the last two years i.e., 1994-95 and 1995-96, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, is given below :

Year (As on 31st March)	No. of loss making branches			
	Public Sector Banks		Private Sector Banks	
	Rural	Semi Urban	Rural	Semi Urban
1994-95	6993	1756	320	142
1995-96	4601*	1120*	347	171

\*Except State Bank of India.

#### Sebi Action Against Brokers

4294. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of brokers against whom Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken action during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) SEBI has taken action against 66 stock-brokers during the last 3 years. The year-wise break-up is given below :-

Year	Number of stock brokers
1994-95	19
1995-96	10
1996-97 (upto Feb., 97)	37

Besides, SEBI has issued during the year 1996-97, show cause notices to 58 stock-brokers and in some of these cases, enquiry proceedings have also been initiated.

(b) SEBI has informed that it has taken action against stock-brokers as indicated above for the following reasons :

- (i) failure of comply with the conditions subject to which the stock-brokers were granted registration; and
- (ii) contravention of the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992, SEBI (Stock-Brokers and Sub-Brokers) Rules and Regulations, 1992, Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957 and the Rules, Bye-laws and Regulations of the respective Stock Exchanges.

#### Reservation of Backward classes by PSUs

4295. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy of the Government for implementation of reservation of Backward classes in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any complaint has been received for non-implementation of reservation policy in some PSUs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations made by the 2nd Backward Classes Commission (Mandal Commission) and following the Supreme Court judgement thereon, suitable instructions have been issued to all public sector undertakings to provide reservation of vacancies filled through direct recruitment.

(c) and (d) The responsibility for implementing the reservation policy for OBCs rests with the Head of the Department both in the administrative Ministries and public enterprises. Complaints, if any, are looked into at appropriate levels for taking remedial measures from time to time.

#### Export of Sandalwood and Jasmine

4296. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of conditions imposed on export of sandalwood oil and jasmine concentrate; and

(b) the reasons for sudden curb on exports of these items;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Export of Sandalwood Oil is permitted subject to (i) production of Certificate of Origin from the Principal/Chief Conservator of Forests of the state concerned; (ii) No objection Certificate from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India; and (iii) Any other condition, including a ceiling that may be imposed by the Director General of Foreign Trade. A ceiling of 5,000 Kgs. of Sandalwood Oil has been permitted for exports during the year keeping in mind the availability of Sandalwood from legal sources and the requirements of various domestic industries.

The decision to allow the export of Sandalwood oil subject to the above mentioned conditions was taken on the recommendation of Ministry of Environment & Forests on the ground that Sandalwood oil being a forest produce and not a machine finished product, its exports cannot be freely permitted.

So far as Jasmine Concentrates is concerned, the same is not appearing in Negative List of Exports, and hence is freely allowed for export to all permissible destinations subject to any other law for the time being in force.

#### Jute Mills

4297. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the jute mills in Assam are lying closed since long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive the jute mills in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) No Sir, the mill (ACJM) is in operation continuously since 1986.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### Technology Insurance

4298. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a technological insurance in the interest of the industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration of the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC).

(b) Does not arise.

#### Build Operate Lease and Transfer in Infrastructure

4299. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the existing scheme for private investors opting for Build Operate Lease and Transfer (BOLT) in infrastructure sectors such as roads, railways, power ports and telecommunications;

(b) if so, the details of options from private investors received so far in respect of each project and Governments response thereto;

(c) the details of concessions enjoyed by the private investors under the scheme;

(d) whether the Government propose to offer more sops to the private investors to make the scheme attractive; and

(e) if so, the details of fresh incentives ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Build Operate Lease and Transfer (BOLT) scheme is largely applicable in the Indian Railways. The BOLT scheme is reviewed from time to time and necessary changes, as are considered acceptable, are made therein to make the scheme successful.

(b) The scheme has not been very successful in respect of infrastructure projects such as Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Electrification of lines. So far, only four projects (2 of Gauge Conversion and 2 of Rolling Stock) have been awarded under this scheme. Even out of these 4, one contract of Gauge Conversion has been terminated as the contractor had abandoned the work.

(c) to (e) 5 years Tax Holiday is permitted on the income of the agencies executing infrastructural projects under the BOLT scheme. This is in addition to the normal depreciation benefits available under extant rules.

#### Export to Russia Under Debt Repayment Scheme

4300. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow consignment exports to Russia under the debt repayment scheme to prevent diversion of exports of hard currency areas (switch trade) and ensure timely availability of Indian goods in Russian Market; and

(b) if so, the details of proposals finalised so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. During the Third Meeting of the Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held at Moscow on January 23-27, 1997, both the sides, inter-alia, agreed that in order to ensure quick and regular availability of Indian goods in Russia, a scheme for consignment exports to Russia under the debt repayment track should be prepared. For this purpose, Reserve Bank of India has already written to Vnesheconombank, the

Russian Bank dealing with State Credit. In the meantime, in principle approval for consignment exports of tea to Russia under the debt repayment track has already been given by Reserve Bank of India.

### Production of Textiles

4301. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of textiles in the country during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality and quantity of the textile to make it more competitive in the international market ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) The production of textiles (yarn and cloth) during the last 3 financial years in the country has been as under:

Financial Year	Production	
	Total Yarn (Spun + filament) (MN. Kg.)	Total cloth (Mn. Sg. Mtr)
1993-94	2530	27898
1994-95	2608	28606
1995-96	2978	31891

(b) The Indian textile industry comprises of various segments; namely mill sector, powerloom, handloom etc. Depending on the needs of each segment of the industry policy interventions involving formulation of financial and administrative steps by the government for various segments is a continuous process keeping in mind the broad objectives laid down in the Textile Policy 1985. The government have taken various steps from time to time to encourage textile production in each segment.

These include :

Liberalisation of licensing provision; fiscal restructuring; permitting import of textile machinery under OGL; and reduction of custom duty on such imports; research and development activities; setting up of laboratories facilities; simplification of quota system; setting up of BIFR to inquire into working of sick industrial units, and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, scheme for revival mills; reserving certain items for manufacture by handloom sector only; by way of running Powerloom Service Centres, Computer Aided Design Centres; improving quality of textile products and boost their value addition through various Textile Research Associations; removal of restrictions on the creation and expansion of capacity, subject only to

locational guidelines; working on various programmes for the promotion on export of the various segments of the Indian Textile Industry through various Export Promotion Councils under M/o Textiles; upgrading of testing facilities at the Textiles Committee and other Public Textile Laboratories to facilitate quick, affordable and reliable tests result to the exporters; and promoting quality consciousness among exporters to promote acceptability of Indian goods abroad.

### Formation of Regional Trade Groups

4302. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that while World Trade Organisation strives towards global free trade, a contradictory process has been started by various regional power group forming themselves into regional trade blocs like the NAFTA, European Union APEC, ASEAN and other;

(b) whether the objective of these blocs is regional protection and trade-cooperation is opposed to free global trade; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard and the action taken by the Government to protect the India's economic and trade interests in the face of these regional trade groups;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) An important exception to the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) concept in the multilateral trading system established under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) Article XXIV exception for customs unions and free trade areas. The trend towards regional integration implicit in this has uncertain consequences for the multilateral trading system, as the consequences would be a balance of trade creation and trade diversion effects of the preferential trading arrangements.

A Committee on Regional Trade Agreements that has been set up in the WTO on 6 February 1996 will, inter alia, carry on an examination of regional trade agreements and consider the systemic implications of such agreements and regional initiatives for the multilateral trading system and the relationship between them. Membership of this Committee is open to all WTO Members.

### Overdraft by States

4303. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV :  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the States which have taken overdraft from the Reserve Bank of India during 1996-97 alongwith the amount taken in each case alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the R.B.I. has dishonoured the cheques of some of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) the amount of advance released by the Union Government to the States facing financial crises during the above period, Statewise; and

(e) the steps suggested by the Union Government to the States to avoid the overdraft situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The position of cash balances and overdrawal, if any, of State Governments may vary from day-to-day and State to State. Transactions between a State and the R.B.I. is conducted as per an agreement between the two. Since it is a matter of relationship between the banker and the client (between the R.B.I. and the State Government), such information is not publicised by the Government of India.

(d) A statement is attached giving details upto February, 1997.

(e) The State Governments are advised, from time to time, to take various measures for control of non-essential expenditure, to improve collection of revenue and raise additional resources to have a sound financial position and to avoid overdraft.

#### Statement

Sl.No.	State	Date of release	Amount release (Rs. in crores)	Type of release
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28 June, 1996	200.00	Ways & Means advance
		24 Oct., 1996	26.72	-do-
		11 Nov., 1996	50.00	-do-
2.	Assam	19 June, 1996	2.00	-do-
		30 Aug., 1996	20.82	Adv. release of Central Assistance
		27 Sept, 1996	30.64	-do-
		25 Oct., 1996	38.25	-do-
		30 April, 1996	66.60	-do-
		16 May, 1996	95.84	-do-
		19 June, 1996	95.82	-do-
		31 June, 1996	45.00	-do-
		30 April, 1996	95.83	-do-
		27 Sept., 1996	95.83	-do-
		28 Oct., 1996	95.83	-do-
		28 Nov., 1996	96.81	-do-
		30 Dec., 1996	96.81	-do-
		29 Jan., 1997	96.81	-do-
		27 Feb., 1997	155.00	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Himachal Pradesh	11 April, 1996	53.10	Ways Means advance
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	24 April, 1996	58.24	Advance release of NCA
		27 May, 1996	116.87	-do-
		28 June, 1996	97.57	-do-
		26 July, 1996	116.87	-do-
		29 Aug., 1996	116.87	-do-
		27 Sept, 1996	116.87	-do-
		28 Oct., 1996	116.87	-do-
		28 Nov., 1996	116.87	-do-
		28 Dec., 1996	108.12	-do-
		29 Jan., 1997	122.30	-do-
		26 Feb., 1997	50.00	-do-
		24 April, 1996	56.76	Advance release of share in Central taxes
		29 Nov., 1996	68.67	-do-
		29 Jan., 1996	68.67	-do-
		26 Feb., 1996	126.00	-do-
5.	Manipur	11 April, 1996	22.80	Ways & Means Adv.
		30 April, 1996	16.00	Adv. release of share
		20 Dec., 1996	19.13	in Central Taxes
6.	Mizoram	8 April, 1996	25.50	Ways & Means Adv.
		25 July., 1996	0.75	-do-
7.	Punjab	11 April, 1996	51.10	Ways & Means Advance
		11 April, 1996	170.70	-do-
8.	Rajasthan	11 April, 1996	127.70	-do-
		17 Dec., 1996	33.00	-do-
		20 Jan., 1997	143.64	Advance release of NCA
		15 April, 1996	9.00	-do-
		5 June, 1996	37.30	-do-
		1 Oct., 1996	37.30	-do-
9.	Sikkim	19 June, 1996	15.00	Ways & Means Advance

[Translation]

### New Credit Policy

4304 SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently announced a new credit policy;
- (b) if so the objectives thereof and the details of the changes made in the new policy in comparison to the previous policy; and
- (c) the extent to which the control on financial sector is likely to be relaxed as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The monetary and credit policy for the second half of 1996-97 was announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on October 19, 1996. The monetary and credit policy package aims, inter alia, at further lowering of pre-emptions by reducing reserve requirements, enhancing interest rate flexibility, ensuring credit support to important sectors such as agriculture, small scale industry and exports, freeing the banking system to provide foreign currency loans to its customers, freeing banks to set down their own ground rules for consortium lending arrangements and allowing banks to purchase share/debentures in secondary market.

The salient features of the policy were as follows:-

- (i) Lowering of the Cash Reserve Ratio by 2 percentage points between October 1996 and January, 1997 in four equal phases of 0.5 percentage points each with effect from the fortnights beginning October 26, 1996, November 9, 1996, January 4, 1997 and January 18, 1997 respectively.
- (ii) Lowering of the export credit refinance limits of banks from the fortnight beginning November 9, 1996.
- (iii) Raising the target for export credit by 2 percentage points to 12 per cent of net bank credit to be achieved by the end of March, 1997.
- (iv) Lowering the ceiling interest rate on term deposits of 30 days and upto one year by one percentage point to 'not exceeding 10.0 per cent per annum' effective October 21, 1996.
- (v) Rationalisation of the interest rate prescription on post-shipment export credit effective from October 21, 1996,

whereby a larger part of export credit would be required to be provided at lower interest rate.

(vi) Advice to banks to announce the maximum spread over Prime Lending Rate (PLR) that they would charge borrowers in the category (with credit limits of over Rs. 2 lakh) to whom PLR stipulations apply. (PLR is the minimum rate applicable to large borrowers with credit limits over Rs. 2 lakhs).

(vii) Exemption from selective credit controls for commodities which were subject to the controls, except buffer stocks and unreleased stocks of sugar to sugar mills, with effect from October 21, 1996. The minimum margins on unreleased stocks of sugar was lowered by 5 per cent effective October 21, 1996. In the case of buffer stock of sugar, the prescription of a zero per cent margin would continue.

(viii) Permitting banks to provide foreign currency denominated loans to their customers out of their resources under the Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Banks) (FCNR) (B) deposit scheme.

(ix) Freeing banks to lay down their own ground rules for consortium lending arrangements.

(x) Extending the coverage of the loan system for delivery of credit and modifying the scheme to impart more flexibility.

(xi) Allowing banks to purchase shares and debentures in the secondary market within the existing ceiling of 5 percent of the incremental deposits in the previous year (for purchases) including from the primary market and through development through underwriting and investments in mutual funds.

Further, in order to encourage borrowers to switch over to Loan System of Credit Delivery, banks were advised in February 1997 that they could prescribe PLRs and spreads over PLRs separately for Loan Component and Cash Credit Component in the Credit Delivery System with approval of their respective Boards.

### Financial crises in PSUs

4305. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings facing grave financial crises;
- (b) whether some units of Public Sector do not have working capital and if so, the details of such units; and

(c) the steps taken to provide assistance to these units so as to make them commercially viable ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The requirement of funds by the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and the means for meeting the requirement keep varying from time to time and depend upon general conditions in the money market and availability of funds with the PSUs and the Government. Need based financial assistance through plan as well as non-plan budgetary support is provided by the Government to overcome resource constraints including working capital requirement, subject to the availability of funds.

#### High Court Benches

4306. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :  
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :  
SHRI A. SAMPATH :

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

(a) whether the Government have received some proposals from the State Governments for establishing additional benches of High Courts in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) No specific, complete proposal has been received from any State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, for establishing a bench of the High Court away from its principal seat.

[English]

#### Acquisition of Land

4307. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the area of land acquired by the Government for coal mining under the coal bearing areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, during the last three years;

(b) the number of such coal mines in which mining operation has been started; and

(c) the reasons for not starting mining in other mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) During the last three years 5,188.47 hectares of land in all rights and 12,178.46 hectares of land in mining rights have been acquired for coal mining under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957.

(b) Out of 29 mines, mining is under operation in 24 mines.

(c) Reasons for not starting mining in other five mines are as under :

(i) In four mines the project is under process sanction.

(ii) In one mine the project is under formulation and mining operation will start in Xth Plan.

#### Grant to Tea Gardens of West Bengal

4308. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1603 dated August 16, 1995 regarding unauthorised Tea Gardens in West Bengal and state :

(a) whether the Government have provided any grant to the tea gardens;

(b) if so, the criteria for sanctioning grants to these tea gardens;

(c) whether such a grant has been sanctioned to the tea gardens of West Bengal during the last three years;

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

(e) whether such a grant has also been sanctioned in respect of unauthorised tea gardens; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Tea Board, through its development schemes, has been rendering financial assistance by way of long-term loan, subsidy, grant-in-aid and interest subsidy on bank loan to all segments of the tea industry.

(b) Since the industry is composed of units of different sizes and of varying economic strength, the developmental schemes of Tea Board are designed to

water to the necessities and requirement of different segments according to their and financial requirements.

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

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### SC/ST/OBC Employees in STC.

4309. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of SC/ST and OBC personnel working against the total strength of the personnel required in State Trading Corporation offices;

(b) the reasons for the short-fall in SC/ST/OBC staff; and

(c) the time by which the backlog of these personnel is likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Total number of SC/ST and OBC personnel in STC is as under :

SC	-	325
SC	-	62
OBC	-	89

While there is no backlog in the category of SC, STC is having a backlog of five posts in the category of ST and one post in the category of OBC, which could not be filled up due to non-availability of eligible candidates. However, recruitment action to fill up the backlog of the reserved posts is in process and it is the endeavour of STC to liquidate the same during the currency of the calendar year.

#### Unutilised Foreign Loans

4310. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of loans sanctioned by all foreign countries/institutions lying unutilised as on March 30, 1996, country/institution-wise; and

(b) the break up of such unutilised loans, State-wise and project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As per the attached Statement-I.

(b) As per the attached Statement-II and III.

#### Statement-I

Statement Showing Donor-Wise Unutilised Loans as on 31.3.96 (Provisional)

(Donor Currency in million)

S. No.	Country/ Institution	Currency	Undrawn Balance as on 31.3.96
1.	ADB	US Dollars	2252.531
2.	IBRD	US Dollars	4029.645
3.	IDA	US Dollars	4936.944
4.	IFAD	US Dollars	98.283
5.	OPEC	US Dollars	34.721
6.	P.P.F.	US Dollars	15.792
7.	Australia	US Dollars	1.957
8.	Austria	Austrian Schilling	8.062
9.	Belgium	Belgain Franc	297.068
10.	Denmark	US Dollars	15.000
11.	France	Deutsche Mark	0.319
12.	France	French Franc	1625.673
13.	Germany	Deutsche Mark	691.154
14.	Japan	Japanese Yen	407432.900
15.	Kuwait Fund	Kuwati Dinar	9.868
16.	Saudi Fund	Saudi Riyal	183.678
17.	Sweden	Swedish Kroner	214.358
18.	Switzerland	Swiss Franc	23.655

#### Statement-II

Statement Showing State-Wise Unutilised Loans as on 31.3.96 (Provisional)

(in Rs. crore)

S.No.	State	Undrawn Balance as on 31.3.96
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2466.21
2.	Bihar	379.34

1	2	3	1	2	3
3.	Gujarat	65.42	10.	Punjab	264.23
4.	Haryana	943.92	11.	Rajasthan	824.05
5.	Karnataka	1161.01	12.	Tamil Nadu	2699.65
6.	Kerala	201.13	13.	Uttar Pradesh	2001.38
7.	Madhya Pradesh	544.64	14.	West Bengal	2065.34
8.	Maharashtra	5102.09	15.	Multistates	5243.65
9.	Orissa	1181.37		Total	25143.65

### Statement-III

Statement Showing Projectwise Unutilised Loans as on 31.03.96 (Provisional)

(Donor currency in Million)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Currency	Undrawn Balance as on 31.3.96
1	2	3	4
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>			
1.	Andhra Pradesh Forestry Project	US Dollar	79.258
2.	IDP-43 Srisaillam Left Bank Power I	Japanese Yen	7485.300
3.	IDP-85 Srisaillam Power Transmission	Japanese Yen	3804.000
4.	IDP-94 Srisaillam Left Bank Power	Japanese Yen	4708.100
5.	IDP-95 Srisaillam Left Bank Power	Japanese Yen	9546.000
6.	Kothagudam 'A' Thermal Power	Japanese Yen	4769.800
7.	Rayalseema Thermal Power	US Dollar	38.303
8.	A.P. State Highway	US Dollar	1.646
9.	Hyderabad Water Supply & Sanitation	US Dollar	46.560
10.	A.P. Referral Health system	US Dollar	140.951
11.	A.P. Tribal Development	US Dollar	13.007
12.	AP Participatory Tribal Devt.	US Dollar	24.910
<b>Bihar</b>			
1.	Bihar Plateau Development	US Dollar	109.735
2.	Eastern Gandak Canal	Japanese Yen	11.300
3.	Bihar Power Sector Restruc.	US Dollar	1.500

1	2	3	4
<b>Gujarat</b>			
1.	Gujarat Rural Roads	US Dollar	17.720
2.	Gujrat Urban Development	US Dollar	1.481
<b>Haryana</b>			
1.	Mewat Area Development Pjt.	US Dollar	13.880
2.	Haryana Power Restructuring	US Dollar	0.298
3.	Highway Upgrading	US Dollar	0.848
4.	Water Resource Consolidation	US Dollar	262.026
<b>Karnataka</b>			
1.	Raichur Thermal Power Station Expansion Project	Japanese Yen	4013.800
2.	Kalinadi Hydro Electric Station II	Kuwaiti Dinar	2.984
3.	Mysore Paper Mills Modernisation & Renovation Proj.	Japanese Yen	2315.100
4.	Upper Krishna Ph-II Irri.	US Dollar	18.396
5.	Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation	US Dollar	93.054
6.	Raichur Hospital	US Dollar	9.000
7.	Karnataka State Comprehensive Land Management	Japanese Yen	16050.000
<b>Kerala</b>			
1.	Kerala Fisheries Prawn Culture	Kuwaiti Dinar	6.884
2.	Kerala Rainfed Farming	US Dollar	10.000
3.	Kerala Power	US Dollar	26.425
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>			
1.	MP Forestry	US Dollar	54.915
2.	MP Forestry 2700-IN	US Dollar	0.187
3.	Lake Bhopal Conservation	Japanese Yen	6997.000
4.	Rewa Hospital	US Dollar	9.891
5.	MP Rural Water Supply	DM	42.913
<b>Maharashtra</b>			
1.	Maharashtra Forestry	US Dollar	105.938
2.	Maharashtra Power	US Dollar	183.155
3.	Second Maharashtra Power	US Dollar	270.444

1	2	3	4
4.	Ghatghar Pumped Storage Project	Japanese yen	1378.000
5.	Uran Combined Cycle Power Station	DM	12.329
6.	Maharashtra SEB	DM	29.740
7.	Second Bombay Urban Tpt.	US Dollar	3.000
8.	Maharashtra Irrigation	US Dollar	-7.518
9.	3rd Bombay Water Supply	US Dollar	23.281
10.	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply	US Dollar	79.374
11.	Maharashtra Rural Credit	US Dollar	27.102
12.	Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake	US Dollar	198.674
13.	Bombay Sewage Disposal 2763-IN	US Dollar	20.000
14.	Bombay Sewage Disposal 3923-IN	US Dollar	167.000
15.	Ujjani HE Project	Japanese Yen	187.900
16.	3rd Bombay Water Supply 2769-IN	US Dollar	20.000
<b>Orissa</b>			
1.	Orissa Water Resource Consolidation	US Dollar	276.693
2.	Upper Kolab Irrigation	Japanese Yen	1590.400
3.	Upper Indravati Irrigation	Japanese Yen	1791.700
4.	Lift Irrigation, Orissa	DM	46.259
5.	Exploration & Management of Ground Water Tranch II	US Dollar	1.957
6.	Orissa Tribal Development	US Dollar	4.973
<b>Punjab</b>			
1.	Punjab Irrigation 2076-IN	US Dollar	77.554
<b>Rajasthan</b>			
1.	ADP Rajasthan Agriculture Development	US Dollar	72.900
2.	Indira Gandhi Afforestation	Japanese Yen	6137.500
3.	Afforestation Aravalli Hills	Japanese Yen	4424.900
4.	Rajasthan Forestry Devt. IDP-104	Japanese Yen	4033.100
5.	Rajasthan Power Sec. Restruction	US Dollar	1.925
6.	Rajasthan Command Area	US Dollar	6.783
7.	Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Project-I	DM	1.426
8.	Rural Water Supply Ph-I	DM	85.083

1	2	3	4
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>			
1.	Tamil Nadu Agriculture Development	US Dollar	40.408
2.	Tamil Nadu agriculture Development	US Dollar	20.000
3.	Basin Bridge Gas Turbine II	Japanese Yen	1888.900
4.	North Madras Thermal Power	US Dollar	31.019
5.	Second North Madras Thermal	US Dollar	83.669
6.	Tamil Nadu Small Scale Industrial Development	Japanese Yen	3153.200
7.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation	US Dollar	270.462
8.	Madras Water Supply & Sanitation	US Dollar	17.296
9.	2nd Tamil Nadu Nutrition	US Dollar	24.084
10.	Tamil Nadu Women's Development	US Dollar	5.045
11.	Tamil Nadu Urban Development	US Dollar	73.734
12.	Madras Sewerage Reno. & Func.	Japanese Yen	17098.000
13.	Tamil Nadu Water Supply 1454-IN	US Dollar	-11.567
14.	Tamil Nadu Water Supply	US Dollar	29.958
15.	IIInd Madras Water Supply	US Dollar	269.806
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>			
1.	U.P. Sodic Land Reclamation	US Dollar	51.384
2.	Anpara Power Transmission	Japanese Yen	14711.700
3.	Anpara 'B' Thermal Power	Japanese Yen	94.700
4.	Anpara 'B' Thermal Power IDP-88	Japanese Yen	14330.300
5.	U.P. Power Sector	US Dollar	0.361
6.	II U.P. Tubewells	US Dollar	0.753
7.	U.P. Primary Education	US Dollar	128.106
8.	Basti Dist. Hospital	US Dollar	4.897
9.	U.P. Urban Development	US Dollar	33.419
10.	Bridge Across River Yamuna	Japanese Yen	10036.900
<b>West Bengal</b>			
1.	Sunderban Development	US Dollar	1.830
2.	West Bengal Forestry	US Dollar	14.799
3.	Industrial Pollution Control	Japanese Yen	1524.600

1	2	3	4
4.	Teesta Canal HFP IDP-40	Japanese Yen	1439.700
5.	Teesta Canal HE IDP-72	Japanese Yen	3747.500
6.	IDP-89 Bakreshwar Thermal Power	Japanese Yen	26862.900
7.	Bakreshwar IDP-97 Thermal Power Unit 3	Japanese Yen	8613.400
8.	Purulia Pumped Storage	Japanese Yen	20479.700
9.	Kolaghat Thermal Power	Japanese Yen	5.700
<b>Multistate</b>			
1.	Integrated Watershed Development Plains Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa	US Dollars	38.740
2.	Integrated Watershed Development Hills HP J&K, Punjab, Haryana	US Dollars	46.780
3.	Shrimp & Fish Culture A.P., Bihar, Orissa, U.P., W.B.	US Dollars	89.340
4.	National Senculture A.P., J&K, Karnataka, T.N. W.B.	US Dollars	44.840
5.	Ind National Highway Haryana, Orissa, Punjab, T.N.	US Dollars	125.370
6.	State Road Project Bihar, Maharashtra, U.P., Rajasthan	US Dollars	31.670
7.	Road Improvement Project A.P., Karnataka, T.N.	US Dollars	54.980
8.	Ind Road Project A.P., U.P., Orissa, W.B.,	US Dollars	105.470
9.	Ind Port Project A.P.	US Dollars	38.430
10.	Tourism Infrastructure Development Bihar, U.P.	Japanese Yen	5838.130
11.	Dam Safety Project M.P., Rajasthan, Orissa, T.N	US Dollars	125.060
12.	National Hydrology Project A.P., Karnatak Maharashtra, M.P. Orissa, Kerela, T.N. Gujarat	US Dollars	142.000
13.	Dam safety Project M.P. Rajasthan, Orissa, T.N.	US Dollars	23.000
14.	Tech. Education II A.P., Assam, Harayana, H.P Maharashtra W.B. T.N. Punjab	US Dollars	193.490
15.	5th Population Project T.N. Maharashtra	US Dollars	15.000
16.	Tech. Education I Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, U.P., Orissa, Goa, M.P.	US Dollars	115.190
17.	ICDS A.P. Onssa, MP	US Dollars	38.370
18.	Ajanta & Ellora Conservation Maharashtra	Japanese Yen	3206.350

\*Statewise allocation of Undrawn Balance for Multi-State projects is not available.

### OGI Status to Newsprint.

4311. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the introduction of Open General Licence status to newsprint, exemption of excise duty and removal of 2&1 ratio of indigenous to imported newsprint, consumption have led the newsprint industry to a serious crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the existing newsprint policy and reintroduce the excise duty and newsprint, consumption ratio as was the earlier practice to save the indigenous industry;

(d) if so, the time by which this review is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) The Policy for import of newsprint has been recently reviewed and in terms of Ministry of Commerce Notification No.24/12-97 dated 05.03.1997, import of newsprint is now permitted without an import licence by actual users who hold 'Registration Certificate' issued by the Registrar Newspapers of India (RNI) on submission of necessary documentary evidence, duly authenticated by the RNI, to the satisfaction of the Customs authorities at the time of clearance of goods. This restriction on import has been placed keeping in view the problems of domestic newsprint manufacturing industry. Excise duty on newsprint has been exempted for many years and no adverse effect is perceived on account of this exemption. There is no proposal to reintroduce the newsprint consumption ratio for import of newsprint.

### Competition with China in Exports

4312. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has been facing stiff competition from China in the export of both traditional items and that China has virtually captured the export markets in the non-communist countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which India's exports have dwindled as a result thereof;

(c) the major factors responsible therefor; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government to evolve a strategy to face the competition and to regain

the lost export market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) There is a divergence of the traditional and non-traditional items of export by India and China. Therefore, India's markets in non-communist countries have not been lost to China.

(b) and (d) Does not arise.

### Export of Coconut and its Products

4313. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of coconut and its products exported and the foreign exchange therefrom during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total quantity and value of coconut and coir products exported during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Quantity : in MTs. Value: in Rs. Lakhs			
	Coconut (Fresh, desiccated and dried)		Coir Products	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1993-94	29	4.83	37951	12936.75
1994-95	160	13.26	48086	17165.25
1995-96	174	44.49	48276	20684.65

(b) Exports are mainly in the coir products segment which has shown a positive trend during the last three years. Some of the steps taking during the Eighth Five Year Plan for enhancing production & productivity of coconut and exports of coir products inter-alia include :

- (i) Production and distribution of quality plant material;
- (ii) Promotion of Integrated farming in coconut holdings;
- (iii) Area expansion;
- (iv) Implementation of Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar;
- (v) Undertaking of joint publicity programmes with

British and German Coir Associations for promoting consumption of Indian coir by Coir Board;

- (vi) Participation in important fairs/exhibitions;
- (vii) Organising seminars for popularising the use of coir geo-textiles.

#### GIC'S Vocational Training

4314. SHRI ANANDARAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether General Insurance Corporation had conducted vocational training course after the completion of +2 level all over the country;

(b) whether all the persons given vocational training have been provided employment;

(c) if not, the reasons for giving advertisement for employment to outside candidates; and

(d) the steps being taken to give employment to those who have been provided training ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) It has been reported by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) that a two year 'job-linked' insurance vocational course at 10+2 level was introduced in 1988 in a few schools in selected cities by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in collaboration with the GIC on a 'pilot project' basis. The student pass-outs upto 1994 have since been absorbed as Assistants in the industry. It was found difficult for the general insurance industry to absorb such large numbers on a continuing basis and therefore, the job-guarantee was withdrawn from 1994 onwards. Even though there is no job-guarantee since 1994, the GIC and its subsidiaries permit the successful students from the vocational stream to compete along with general candidates even though they do not satisfy other requisite qualifications for the Assistant's post from time to time.

[Translation]

#### Smuggling of Narcotics

4315. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of smuggling of narcotics detected during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the number of convicts sentenced;

(c) whether the Government have any scheme for

increasing the reward amount to those who were instrumented in detecting the cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The State-wise number of cases of smuggling of narcotics detected during the last two years is as given in the attached statement

(b) As per information available, 2456 and 2727 persons were convicted during the years 1995 and 1996 respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Statement

##### Statewise Number of Cases of Smuggling of Narcotics

S.No.	State/U.T.	1995	1996 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	531	163
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12	1
3.	Assam	73	60
4.	Bihar	54	31
5.	Goa	20	53
6.	Gujarat	251	164
7.	Haryana	94	21
8.	Himachal Pradesh	52	38
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	55	55
10.	Karnataka	2	-
11.	Kerala	178	201
12.	Madhya Pradesh	125	337
13.	Maharashtra	414	548
14.	Manipur	149	170
15.	Meghalaya	76	125
16.	Mizoram	250	12
17.	Nagaland	49	55
18.	Orissa	5	73

1	2	3	4
19. Punjab		377	285
20. Rajasthan		171	312
21. Tamil Nadu		2368	2693
22. Tirpura		38	21
23. Uttar Pradesh		6359	5417
24. West Bengal		241	97
25. Delhi		828	620
26. Pondicherry		5	—
27. A&N Islands		3	1
28. Chandigarh		19	12
Total		12799	11565

[English]

#### Trade with Bangladesh

4316. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to expand trade relation with Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details of areas identified for Indo-Bangla trade in the Ninth Plan;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) It is Government's Policy to expand trade relations with all countries, including neighbouring countries like Bangladesh.

(b) India and Bangladesh have recently exchanged tariff concessions on a number of products of mutual interest with a view to increase bilateral trade. However, no area has been identified in this regard in the Ninth Plan.

[Translation]

#### World Bank Aided Projects in Bihar

4317. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister for the STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects functioning in Bihar with the assistance of the World Bank, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Bihar Government to launch some more projects with the assistance of the World Bank;

(c) if so, the number of projects lying pending with the Union Government for clearance, location-wise; and

(d) the reasons for delay in granting them clearance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) There are four World Bank aided projects in the State of the Bihar, the location-wise details are as under :-

Name of the Project	Locations in Bihar
1. Bihar Plateau Dev.	Ranchi, Chaibara, Jamshedpur & Dumka
2. Technician Education-I (Multi-State)	Bokaro, Patna, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Muzaffarpur, Aurrangabad, Siwan, Manoharpur, Saharsa & Dumka
3. States Road (Multi-State)	Construction of a bridge over Ganga at Bhagalpur & approach roads to the bridge
4. Shrimp & Fish Culture (Multi-State)	Eastern Champaran, Muzaffarpur & Begusarai

Besides these projects there is one Project Preparation Facility extended to the State of Bihar to undertake diagnostic studies for Reform & restructuring of the State power sector and many other Central Sector project with the World Bank assistance in which the State of Bihar is one of the beneficiary.

(b) to (d) There are a number of proposed projects for World Bank assistance to the State of Bihar. Some of these are Bihar Forestry, Submrekha Irrigation and Bihar Primary Education project. These projects are at various stages of processing and the details including the amount in respect of these projects will be known only after the finalisation of aid negotiations with the World Bank.

[English]

#### Legislative Ceiling on Public Debts

4318. SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sought a legislative ceiling on Public debts;

(b) if so, the action has been taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) whether the RBI also called upon the Government for higher inflows of foreign savings to supplement

domestic savings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (h) The Reserve Bank of India, in its Annual Report for 1995-96 has suggested, inter alia, setting up a legislative ceiling on public debt. The Bank has been requested to prepare a discussion paper on the issue.

(c) and (d) The RBI again in its Annual Report for 1995-96, while emphasizing the need for higher foreign capital to supplement domestic savings, had also indicated that the level of the current account deficit should be sustainable and consistent with the macro economic balance. There has been a restructuring of capital flows, and as a result the share of non-debt creating flows in the form of direct and portfolio investment in total capital flows has increased considerably in recent years.

#### **Infrastructure Development in Border Areas Alongwith N.E. Region.**

4319. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals of the development of infrastructure in the border areas received from the Government of Mizoram and Manipur are pending with his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its financial outlays;

(c) whether his Ministry has announced any package for the development of infrastructure in the border areas of the North-Eastern region alongwith Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh and China Borders;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith its financial outlays during each of the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to sanction those proposals during 1997-98, in view of part (a) and (b) above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Commerce has received certain suggestions from the Government of Manipur which, inter alia, include the issues relating to development of infrastructure in the border areas. Since these suggestions were of general nature, the State Government has been requested to send specific proposals for consideration of this Ministry. A proposal has been received from the Government of Mizoram for creation of border township at Champai which

has been referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs for their consideration.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. While no separate package has been announced for development of infrastructure in the border areas, the Ministry makes continuous efforts to facilitate international trade on these borders by providing adequate banking, customs, immigration and other related trading arrangements.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **National Cooperative Bank**

4320 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to State National Co-operative Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a society by the name 'National Co-operative Bank of India' has sought a licence to conduct banking business. RBI has further informed that grant of such a licence will require amendment of the Banking Regulation Act.

#### **Export Quota of Textile**

4321. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allotted export quota of textile product; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of total export of the country if forms ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (b) There are quantitative restrictions (quotas) on exports of certain textile and clothing items from India, applied by the U.S.A., the European Community Countries, Canada and Norway. These quotas are allocated among exporters under the provisions of the Garment and Textiles Export Entitlement Policies, notified by the Government.

Presently in value terms, the exports of quota items contribute approximately 41% to our total exports of textile and clothing items.

#### **Banking Division of KVIC**

4322. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Banking Division is functioning under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date of its existence;

(c) the total expenditure on salaries, T.A., perks etc. incurred by the KVIC on the personnel of the said Banking division since its formation; and

(d) the manner in which the assistance is being provided by the said Banking Division to the KVIC in implementing its programme ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) In August, 1995, the Commission took a decision to create a fullfledged Banking Division for looking after the work of Appraisal Cell, Monitoring and Recovery Cell. At present, five officers from State Bank of India including some Khadi & Village Industries Commission officials are working in the Newly created Banking Division in Khadi & Village Industries Commission.

(c) The total expenditure on Salaries, TA, Perks, etc. incurred by Khadi & Village Industries Commission on the personnel of the said Banking Division since its formation are as under:-

Post	No. of posts	Rs. in lakhs
General Manager	1	9.58
Dy. General Manager	1	4.71
Managers	3	7.79
Total		22.08

(d) The type of assistance being provided by the said Banking Division to the Khadi & Village Industries Commission in implementing its programme is in areas like building up of project appraisal system, training, operationalisation of the system, building up monitoring-cum-recovery system etc., etc. Banking Division is also providing assistance for settling various issues relating to Consortium funding on an ongoing basis by interacting with the Consortium Leader viz. State Bank of India.

#### Infrastructure Development

4323. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any agreement with the United Kingdom for infrastructure development in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether U.K. has extended any financial assistance for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the assistance extended by U.K. during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Though no specific agreement has been signed with the Govt. of DK for Infrastructure Development in the country, some projects being implemented are for infrastructure development.

The details of these projects signed during the last three years are as under :-

Name of the project	Signed on	Amount (Pds Mln)
1. Import of Heat Treated Rail (Railway Sector Grant 1990)	26/9/94	15.2
2. Andhra Pradesh Energy Efficiency Project	22/12/94	42.7
3. Orissa Power Sector Reform	20/8/96	75.0
4. Jhanjhra Coal Project	28/10/96	3.4

#### Suggestions Made by FICCI

4324. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has submitted a proposal to his Ministry for increasing the insurance cover given by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. to cent per cent of the total value of exports from the present level of ninety per cent;

(b) if so, the other suggestions made by the Federation in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As regard FICCI's suggestion for increasing the insurance cover given by Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC) from 90% to 100%, credit insurers would over do not after 100% cover. Therefore, the request for 100% cover cannot be agreed to.

The other suggestions by FICCI concerning ECGC mainly relate to disbursement of claims within six weeks, payment of the claims in US \$ and giving option to exporters to seek insurance coverage from foreign insurance company.

Payment of claims is done by ECGC according to established procedures. Time is required for correctly ascertaining the loss. A cap of six weeks is very low and cannot be presently agreed to by ECGC. However, the average time taken for settlement of claims in terms of short term policies has come down from 156 days during 1992-93 to 134 days as on December 31, 1996. Similarly, payment in USD is not possible from foreign exchange angle. As regards, the question of allowing to seek cover from foreign insurance companies, credit insurance has not been made compulsory in India. Exporters can avail of insurance from a foreign company if they so desire after fulfilling the necessary formalities.

#### Tax Arrears Against Film Industry

4325. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of Income Tax and Wealth Tax due for payment by each film star, Director and Producer as on 1996-97 and the amount of Income Tax and wealth Tax paid by them in that financial year;

(b) whether any efforts are being made to collect the Income Tax and Wealth Tax due on them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The names of the film stars, Directors and Producers etc. against whom income-tax demand exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs remained outstanding as on 31.12.1996 are given in the attached statement as per latest information available.

The information regarding wealth-tax demand due for payment against the film artists and the amount of income-tax and wealth-tax paid by them during 1996-97 is not centrally available and will have to be collected from the field formations spread all over the country. Further, collection and compilation of such information would be time consuming and the time and labour involved may not be commensurate with the objectives sought to be achieved. However, if the Hon'ble Member desires to have the information about any particular film artist, the same can be collected and furnished.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. High priority is given to the work of collection/reduction of arrears demand and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken to reduce the same. In bigger cases, the dossiers are maintained and the position is reviewed regularly. Request is made to the appellate authorities for early disposal of cases. Wherever, the recovery proceedings are stayed by the courts, steps are initiated to get the stay vacated. Coercive measures like attachment and sale of property,

levy of penalty etc. are also taken in suitable cases for speedy recovery of demand.

#### Statement

S.No.	Name of the film stars directors and producers etc.	Income-tax demand outstanding as on 31.12.1996 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
	S/Shri	
1.	Late Kishore Kumar Ganguly	41.92
2.	Shahrukh Khan	16.68
3.	Deluxe Picture	12.58
4.	Pankaj Udhas	22.45
5.	Sawankumar Production P. Ltd.	10.57
6.	Amrish Shah	34.68
7.	Jackie Shroff	27.64
8.	New Excelsior Theatre Ltd.	34.32
9.	Jairam Reddy	21.83
10.	Dada Kondke	15.52
11.	Savitaben D. Shah	35.50
12.	Sushilaben P. Shah	32.38
13.	Nazhat Khan	18.04
14.	Nadiadwala Grand Son's	43.52
15.	Nassir Husain Films Pvt. Ltd.	46.81
16.	Ayesha Shroff	93.23
17.	B.R.T.V.	11.28
18.	Kaplishwar Film Pvt. Ltd.	14.28
19.	N.K. Tulshan	17.27
20.	Parvez Ahmed	11.00
21.	Raj Babbar	14.08
22.	Raja Ray	12.41
23.	Rajan Sippy	51.14
24.	Ratan Khatri	243.06
25.	Ramnord Research Lab P. Ltd.	38.20

1	2	3	1	2	3
26.	Rajesh Khanna	42.81	58.	Deepthi Pictures	16.67
27.	Sawan Kumar Tak	32.37	59.	T. Gauthmi	10.54
28.	Guru Dutt Films Pvt. Ltd.	10.18	60.	Prabhakar	20.05
29.	G. Madhavi	29.87	61.	K. Chanderalekha	10.68
30.	G.M. Gulbani	43.07	62.	Kishore Sarja	11.08
31.	Mukesh Duggal	20.16	63.	Renukamba Distributors	12.15
32.	F.A. Farooq	13.88	64.	Gopal Films	10.83
33.	L.R. Mirchandani	14.15	65.	Misrilal Pictures P. Ltd.	69.42
34.	S. Mukherji	11.83	66.	Motion Pictures Distributers	57.63
35.	R.N. Shankar	26.02	67.	Janta Cinema Properties and Finance Ltd.	36.12
36.	P.M. Production	11.88	68.	Santi Film Corp.	10.78
37.	Novrang Cine Centre P. Ltd.	83.30	69.	Anjan Chowdhary	28.09
38.	O.P. Ralhan	74.08	70.	Manotosh Das Gupta	15.40
39.	Satram Rohra	42.39	71.	M. Moni	20.47
40.	A.K. Movies	34.39	72.	R.K. Films and Studios P. Ltd.	10.11
41.	S.C. Bhagvan	21.30	73.	Pooja Bhatt	10.29
42.	Lohri Enterprises	17.50	74.	Mahesh Bhatt	11.35
43.	M.B. Pawar	16.41	75.	Aruna International Ltd.	508.78
44.	Zafo Films P. Ltd.	14.33	76.	A. Arjun	19.63
45.	Trikha Sudesh	12.48	77.	K.C. Bokadia	242.81
46.	G.R.N. Enterprises	10.44	78.	Francis Joseph	28.31
47.	Barkha Roy	10.32	79.	G. Gopal Rao	30.63
48.	Sumeet Film	10.14	80.	G. Hanumantha Rao	27.80
49.	B. Sarasamma	20.76	81.	Kushboo Alias Nakhatkhan	12.13
50.	S. Mallika	10.06	82.	A. Kothanda Ramaiah	26.25
51.	Radha Enterprises	26.40	83.	K.T. Kunjumon	31.50
52.	R.D. Bhaskar	37.84	84.	Murlikanthan	24.31
53.	R.K. Film Associates	27.20	85.	Padmalaya Films	24.19
54.	Adlabs Films P. Ltd.	57.64	86.	R. Raj Babu	15.45
55.	Mukta Arts P. Ltd.	24.39	87.	S. Ramanathan	40.47
56.	Subhash Ghai	34.98	88.	K.S. Ramarao	19.50
57.	Ashok Ghai	11.28			

1	2	3
89.	Shanthi Theatre	27.03
90.	Sujatha Films P. Ltd.	650.42
91.	Late Smitha	10.26
92.	P. Soundarya	14.93
93.	A. Sreedevi	79.61
94.	Srividya	12.13
95.	Sushitra Mohanlal	17.90
96.	K. Subramaniam	213.75
97.	P. Vasu	32.52
98.	S.P. Venkannababu	14.39
99.	G. Venkateswaran	82.09
100.	R. Vijayachandren	34.29

#### Access of Foreign Companies to Primary Market

4326. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Foreign Companies must have access to primary market' appearing in The Hindustan Times dated March 9, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the urgency needed in the infrastructure sector and other points raised in the above referred news; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has taken a number of steps to help infrastructure projects access the primary market and encourage private sector participation in infrastructure. Any company incorporated in India and complying with all necessary statutory requirements can raise funds from the primary market. Other measures include income tax exemption for any dividend, interest or long-term capital gains arising from investments for development, maintenance or operation of an infrastructure facility : five year tax holiday for companies developing, maintaining and operating infrastructure facilities such as roads, bridges,

airports, seaports, railway projects, tele-communications, water supply, sanitation and sewerage; and tax rebate under sec. 88 for investments in approved securities of public companies if the proceeds are applied to create a new infrastructure facility or for generation/distribution of power.

To provide long term finance for infrastructure sector the Budget for 1996-97 announced establishment of an Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) with an authorised share capital of Rs. 5000 crore. The IDFC has since been incorporated under the Companies Act on January 31, 1997.

The Budget for 1997-98 has extended five year tax holiday to oil exploration and Industrial parks. The Budget has also announced other measures for telecommunication, oil, gas and power projects, coach and highways to attract more investment to these sectors.

#### Bench of Allahabad High Court in Western U.P.

4327. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have completed all the formalities regarding setting up of benches of Allahabad High Courts at Western U.P. and some other place of the States :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when these benches are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Voting Rights of Army Personnels

4328. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :  
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to streamline the postal ballot procedures in order to enable defence personnel to exercise their franchise in larger number in elections to Parliament and State Assemblies;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

#### Mining Operation by Western Coal Field Ltd.

4329. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Western Coal Fields Ltd. as started mining operations at a site near an ordnance factory in Chandipur in violation of established guidelines;  
 (b) if so, there reasons for permitting mining operation in violation of guidelines; and  
 (c) the steps taken by the Government to stop it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. As per the guidelines issued by the Director General of Mines Safety, the blasting safety zone required around an opencast mine is 500 metres. Nearest mines of Western Coal fields Ltd., namely Chargaon OC (operations started in 1992-93), Telwasa OC and Dhorwasa OC (operations yet to start) are approximately 7 Kms. away from the boundary of ordnance factory, Chandrapur. Another mine namely Bhatadih OC (operations started in 1995-96) is about 9 kms. away from the boundary of the ordnance factory.

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

[Translation]

#### Production Rate of Coal

4330. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :  
 JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) the per-labourer, per shift average rate of coal production in the country during the last three years;  
 (b) whether there is a vast difference between the rate of underground coal production and that of open cast mines;  
 (c) if so, the average rates of production thereof separately; and  
 (d) the production rate of other coal producing

countries such as Australia and America ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a difference between average rate of coal production from underground and opencast mines in CIL and SCCL. The average figures of output per manshift (OMS) of underground and opencast mines of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) for the last three years are as under :-

	CIL			SCCL		
	UG	OC	Overall (OMS)	UG	OC	Overall (OMS)
1993-94	0.56	4.00	1.52	0.71	4.38	1.05
1994-95	0.57	4.36	1.54	0.69	3.63	1.08
1995-96	0.56	4.73	1.77	0.74	3.66	1.23

(d) Based on the available figures of 1992, the OMS of underground and opencast mines of Australia and USA is as under :

	(In tonnes)	
	Underground	Opencast
Australia	15.60	34.68
USA	18.00	40.20

#### Licence for Foreign Transaction

4331. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for requesting grant of licence to NABARD by the Reserve bank of India to undertake foreign exchange transactions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Export of Dairy Items

4332. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether dairy items are being exported from the country at present;

(b) if so, the details of the dairy items being exported and the names of the countries to which these items exported during the current year;

(c) the foreign exchange earned therefor during the above period;

(d) whether any multinational companies is involved in such exports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, company-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current year skimmed milk, whole milk food for babies and other kinds of milk and cream containing fat exceeding 6% by weight; skimmed milk, whole milk, milk for babies in powder granules/other solid forms, butter, melted butter (ghee), fresh cheese, and other kinds of cheese were exported from India to Bahrain, Bangladesh, Canada, France, Ghana, Hong Kong, Italy, Kuwait, Nepal, Netherlands, Oman, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, UAE, U.K. and U.S.A.

(c) During 1996-97 (April-August), the value of exports of dairy items from India was Rs. 530.00 lakhs.

(d) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has not issued any Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate (RCAC) to multinational companies for export of milk powder, butter and ghee for which ceilings have been fixed by the Government for export.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Incentives for setting up Agro Based Industry

4333. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking any concrete measures to ensure self employment to the rural youths;

(b) if so, whether the Government are providing any incentives to set up agro based industries;

(c) if so, the types of incentives being offered in this regard;

(d) whether the Government are planning to impose a ban on setting up agro based industries by multinational

companies and big industrial Houses in the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Agro-based industry is one of the village industries being promoted by KVIC. KVIC has taken a number of steps to develop agro-based industry in the country such as providing financial assistance in the form of grant and loan on the basis of projects submitted by its implementing agencies, such as registered institutions, cooperative societies, state KVI Boards and individual entrepreneurs. In order to boost the production of these industries and to provide gainful employment to the rural artisans, KVIC has launched national programme in respect of some of the village industries. One such industry is beekeeping which is an agro-based industry.

The KVIC in collaboration with North Eastern Council has sanctioned a regional project on development of Agriculture for commercial exploitation in North Eastern region. KVIC has taken up some special schemes such as 125 Blocks Development Programme and District Special Employment programme in backward areas under which also agro-based industries are being implemented. Under KVIC training programme, it imparts training in various village industries including agro-based activities. Under project approach, projects costing upto Rs. 10.00 lakhs are eligible for 25 per cent margin money initially in the form of interest free loan and after repayment of C.E. loan with interest, the same will be converted into grant. The project costing beyond Rs. 10.00 lakhs and upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs are eligible for margin money at the rate of 25 per cent for first Rs. 10.00 lakhs and for remaining amount at the rate of 10 per cent of the balance. In case of Hill Boarder, Tribal and Weaker Section areas, SC/ST/OBC/MINORITY, SEMFEX-III and Women beneficiaries, the project upto Rs. 10.00 lakhs will get 30 per cent as margin money. Apart from KVIC's financial assistance funds are also provided through institutional financing agencies on the basis of interest subsidy eligibility certificate, under which the implementing agencies bear interest at the rate of 4 percent per annum and difference of the interest charged by bank is being subsidised by KVIC.

(d) and (e) Agro-based industries are open to any entrepreneur who fulfils the requirements under the licensing procedure.

#### Social Residential Schemes by LIC and GIC

4334. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India and General Insurance Corporation of India have started or propose to start some social residential schemes in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, both LIC and GIC grant loans at concessional interest rate of all State Governments, including Uttar Pradesh, for financing various social housing schemes as per allocations made by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment every year.

[English]

#### Woollen Mills

4335. DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI :  
SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of woollen mills in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose of set up more woollen mills in the Public/Joint Sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) A Statement is attached.

(b) There is no proposal before the Government to set up more woollen mills in the Public/Joint Sector in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Statement

The total number of woollen mills in the country, State-wise as on December, 1996 are given below

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Mills
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	6
2	Assam	1
3	Bihar	2
4	Gujarat	17
5	Haryana	117
6	J & K	11

1	2	3
7.	Karnataka	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	5
9.	Maharashtra	27
10.	Punjab	264
11.	Rajasthan	69
12.	Tamil Nadu	2
13.	Uttar Pradesh	44
14.	West Bengal	5
15.	Delhi	12
16.	Himachal Pradesh	12
17.	Chandigarh	1
Total		658

#### Tax Arrears

4336. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :  
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount payable to the Government by the corporate sector as tax arrears till date;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to realise the dues from the corporate sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has initiated any action against those industrialists and multinational companies who avoided themselves from the payment of taxes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases registered against them during 1996 and 1997 so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Indian Overseas Bank

4337. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Indian Overseas Bank branches, Extension Counters, Central Clearing Offices, Staff Training Centres, Regional Offices, Zonal Offices etc which are functioning as on December 31, 1996;

(b) the total number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other working in above Branches/Offices etc. as on December 31, 1996 and holding the post of Dy. Manager, Senior Dy. Manager, Manager, Sr. Manager, Chief Manager, Dy. Chief Officers, Chief Officers, Regional Managers, Assistant General Managers etc.

(c) the total number of Regionwise loss incurring Branches out of the above:

(d) the total number of SCs/STs and other promoted from loss incurring Branches during the last five promotions:

(e) the reasons for improper representation of SCs/STs officers in above positions posts; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The total number of branches/offices of Indian Overseas Bank as on 31.12.96 as furnished by the bank are given below :-

Branches	:	1364
Extension Counters	:	164
Central Clearing Offices	:	10
Staff Training Centres	:	11
Regional Offices	:	37
Zonal Offices	:	Nil

(b) The total number of Scheduled Castes (SCs)/ Scheduled Tribes (STs) and others (in all cadres) working in the above branches/offices of Indian Overseas Bank are furnished below :

	SCs	STs	Others
1	2	3	4
Branches	5683	860	17168
Extension Counters	130	23	385
Central Clearing Offices	77	15	210
Staff Training Centres	6	1	50
Regional Offices	290	35	1776
<b>Holding the posts as :</b>			
Deputy Managers	128	58	837
Senior Deputy Managers	-	-	-

	1	2	3	4
Managers		167	35	1044
Senior Managers		86	16	691
Chief Managers		4	1	88
Deputy Chief Managers		2	1	189
Chief Officers		1	-	68
Regional Managers		1	-	18
Assistant General Managers		-	-	42

(c) The Region-wise total number of loss incurring branches of the bank is given below :

1. Ahmedabad	5
2. Bangalore	13
3. Berhampur	26
4. Bhubaneshwar	24
5. Calcutta (M)	4
6. Calcutta (NM)	17
7. Chandigarh	3
8. Coimbatore	12
9. Ernakulam	3
10. Hyderabad	6
11. Jaipur	8
12. Kancheepuram	22
13. Karaikudi	17
14. Lucknow	8
15. Madras (M)	2
16. Madras (NM)	4
17. Madurai	23
18. Meerut	9
19. Mumbai (NM)	5
20. Nagapattinam	1
21. Nagarcoil	6
22. Goa	14
23. Pondicherry	15

24. Salem	5
25. Thanjavur	14
26. Trichy I	6
27. Trichy II	11
28. Tirunelveli	19
29. Trivandrum	4
30. Tuticorin	17
31. Vellore	22
32. Vijayawada	18
33. Vishakapatnam	21

(d) Indian Overseas Bank has furnished the data regarding last five promotions from Clerical to Officer cadre as given below :

	SC	ST	Others
1989	65	39	326
1991	76	58	361
1993	88	58	304
1994	99	49	360
1996	74	14	374

Promotion within officers cadre JMG Scale I to MMG Scale II and MMG Scale II to MMG Scale III :

	JMG Scale I to MMG Scale II.			MMG Scale II to MMG Scale III.		
	SC	ST	Others	SC	ST	Others
1991	52	14	234	13	1	111
1992	49	2	299	22	-	153
1993	67	18	815	15	6	279
1994	54	13	410	47	8	220
1996	52	14	292	19	6	153

The above data includes promotions from both loss incurring and profit making branches. The data on promotions made only from loss incurring branches is not available with the bank. However, the bank has reported that the promotions are based on the promotion policy of the bank.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

#### Textile Mills

4338. SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA :  
DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh alongwith the production capacity;

(b) the number of workers engaged in these mills alongwith the number of workers rendered jobless due to closure of textile mills during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive sick textile mills of the State and rehabilitate the workers who have lost their jobs due to closure ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) The number of cotton/man-made fibre textile mills in the states of Andhra Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh alongwith their installed capacity (as on 31.12.96) has been as under :-

State	(Cotton/Man-made fibre) (No. of Mills)	Installed Capacity		
		Spindles (000 No)	Rotors (No.)	Looms (Nos)
Andhra Pradesh	91	1883	7374	845
Uttar Pradesh	63	1868	6072	11567

(b) There were 39613 workers on the Rolls of the said 91 mills in Andhra Pradesh and 85468 workers on the Rolls of the said 63 mills in Uttar Pradesh, as on 31.12.96. During the last 3 years, 3 cotton/man-made fibre mills closed down in Andhra Pradesh and 4 such mills closed down in Uttar Pradesh. The yearwise position of the closed such mills in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh alongwith the workers affected is given below :

Calender Year	No. of Cotton/Man-made fibre mills closed down during the year	No. of workers on the Rolls of such Mills	
		Andhra Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh
1994	1	719	4917
1995	-	-	3941
1996	2	819	-

(c) The Government of India have enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA) 1985 and established the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination by a Board of Experts (BIFR) of the preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures which need to be taken in respect of such mills.

No. of Textile Mills registered with BIFR as on 31.1.97 in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are respectively 17 (including 11 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills) and 33 (including 19 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills). The cases of these mills registered with the BIFR are at various stages of enquiry, and further action in respect of these mills will be taken in the light of the findings of the BIFR.

The Government of India have so far identified 34 units all over the country as being eligible for relief under the textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) which was established to provide relief to the eligible workers of eligible closed textile mills. However, no mill in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh has been so far identified as being eligible for receiving relief under the said scheme.

#### **Permission to import Raw Materials Under EPCGS**

4339. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has urged the Government to allow import of raw materials and consumables at concessional duty under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Schemes.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the present position of import of capital goods at concessional duty under Export-Import Policy (1992-97)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

The proposal of Confederation of Industry to allow import of raw materials consumables at concessional duties under EPCG Scheme is under examination in consultation with the concerned Administrative Ministries.

The present position under the Export and Import Policy (1992-97) is that import of capital goods and components are permitted to be imported under concessional duty 15% or zero Duty subject to specified conditions and

fulfilment of export obligation. Details of the Scheme are given under Chapter VI of Export & Import Policy & Procedures 1992-97.

#### **Court Management Project**

4340. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh High Court is contemplating a court management project for speedy disposal of civil cases which have been pending with the courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to initiate such project in all the High Courts for speedy disposal of pending civil cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The information is being collecting and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Shortage of Cotton**

4341. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cotton mills functioning in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) whether the cotton mills in the State are facing difficulties in getting cotton;

(c) whether the rate of cotton are very high, and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA) (a) 63 Cotton/man-made Fibre Textile Mills were functioning in the State of Uttar Pradesh as on 31.12.96.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In the early part of the year the prices were lower compared to the previous year, while they are now marginally higher.

#### **Production of Rubber**

4342. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production and requirement of rubber and raw rubber during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the export of rubber products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total quantity of rubber products with its volume which is likely to be exported during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The production and consumption of Natural Rubber/Raw Rubber and Synthetic Rubber in the country during the last three years are as under :

(in thousands MT)

Year	Natural/Raw Rubber		Synthetic Rubber	
	Production	Consumption	Production	Consumption
1994-95	472	486	64	123
1995-96	507	525	68	134
1995-97 (e)	549	570	64	143

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase the export of rubber products include extension of Market Development Assistance, liberalisation of policy and procedures, promotional measures like exchange of trade delegations and participation in Trade Fairs abroad and exchange and dissemination of information through Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL)

(d) The estimated value of rubber products likely to be exported during 1997-98 is Rs. 1390 crore.

#### Open Cast Mine Project

4343 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Western Coalfields Limited authorities have allocated mine sites to one of the Ispat Group for Bhatadi Open Cast mine project in violation of the rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations against the allotment of site for Bhatadi Open Cast Mine project; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Bhatadih

Open cast project has not been allocated to any private organisation and is being worked by Western Coalfields Limited.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Disinvestment Fund

4344. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal regarding setting up a disinvestment fund instead of financial support from the budget for the public sector undertakings is under consideration of the Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (c) There is no proposal for setting up a disinvestment fund instead of financial support from budget for the public sector undertakings. It has, however, been decided to set up a revolving fund out of part proceeds of disinvestment to supplement budgetary support being extended as at present.

[English]

#### India Brand Equity Fund

4345. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to leverage specialised international funds to raise the Rs. 500 crore corpus for the India Brand Equity Fund;

(b) if so, the total funds tapped so far;

(c) how are these to be used to promote Indian generic products;

(d) how these funds are likely to be managed; and

(e) how the India Brand Equity Fund is expected to concentrate on some selected markets and products and its role in boosting exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b)

India Brand Equity Fund (IBEF) was registered on 11.7.1996. 12 Trust Members including Chairman consisting of eminent people in the respective field have already been appointed. The first meeting of the Trust was held on 5.12.1996. The objective of the Trust is to raise a corpus of Rs. 500 crores. The proposed source of funding of the Trust includes Government budgetary support, contribution by trade and industry and income of the Fund. Government has already given budgetary support of Rs. 50 crores to the Fund during 1996-97. As regards leveraging specialised international funds to raise the corpus of IBEF, no such decision has been taken by the IBEF Trust. However, in the first meeting of Trust on 5.12.1996, a suggestion was made by one of the Members of the Trust that efforts should be made for accessing the international financial institutions for augmenting the resources of the Fund. Total fund with the Trust presently is of the order of about Rs. 63 crores.

(c) to (e) It has been decided by the Trust that Approach Papers regarding programme content, operations, priorities etc. of the Trust would be prepared and a final view in the matter would be taken by the Trust after consulting the apex chambers, export promotion councils and commodity boards. So far as management of the fund is concerned, it has been decided to entrust the job to institutional portfolio managers, the selection process in respect of which has already started.

### Diesel Cars

4346. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :  
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :  
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of car manufacturers including Multinational Companies (MNCs) have submitted proposals for manufacture of diesel-cars;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Government thereon along with policy of the Government to promote the diesel car ?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Manufacture of passenger cars is delicensed and no approval of Government is necessary for manufacture of petrol or diesel cars. Government has, however, approved a number of proposals for foreign collaboration since the year 1992 some of which are stated to be for manufacture of cars based on petrol, some on diesel and some designed both for petrol and diesel. The details of these approved proposals are given in the Statement attached. Government does not make any distinction between the cars based on petrol or diesel and the choice is left to the manufacturers and the market forces.

### Statement

	Foreign equity participation	Project cost (Rs. in crores)	Annual capacity (fuel indicated by co.)	Implementation Schedule
1	2	3	4	5
1. Birla Group of Companies (Hindustan Motors) with General Motors of USA.	50%	300.00	25,000 (Petrol)	Production already launched (Open Astra)
2. Premier Automobiles Ltd. with Peugeot of France.	50%	318.00	60,000 (Petrol/Diesel)	-do- (Peugot 309)
3. TELCO with Mercedes Benz of Germany	51%	75.16	20,000 (Petrol)	-do- (Mercedes E-220)
4. DCM with Daewoo Motor Company of Korea	74%	653.00	1,60,000 (Petrol)	-do- (Geo)
5. Mahindra & Mahindra with Ford Motor Co. of USA	50%	2500.00	1,25,000 (Petrol/Diesel)	-do- (Escort)
6. Sriram Industrial Enterprises Limited with Honda Motor Company of Japan	90%	855.00	30,000 (Petrol)	1997-98

	1	2	3	4	5
7.	Hindustan Motors with Mitsubishi Motor Corpn. of Japan.	10%	250.00 (1st Phase) 350.00 (IInd Phase)	30,000 (Petrol)	1997-98
8.	Sipani Automobiles with M/s. Rovers Group Ltd. of UK	2.59%	104.00	15,000 (Petrol)	The company was to launch production in 1995-96 but has not done so.
9.	Hyundai Motor Company, Korea	100%	2450.00 (1st Phase) 1400.00 (IInd Phase)	1,00,000 (Petrol)	1997-98
10.	Hero Cycles Ltd. Ludhiana with BMW Germany.	51%	270.00	10,000 (Petrol)	1997-98
11.	Kamal Sabre Motors Ltd. with JD Automotive Design of South Africal and Sabre International Corpn. of UDA (Sports Car)	100% EOU	4.50	720 (Petrol)	Not indicated
12.	Maruti Udyog Limited with Suzuki Motor Co. of Japan	50%		2,50,000 (Petrol)	Esteem, Zen Gypsy

### Reintroduction of CCS for Exports

4347. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government to propose to reintroduce the cash compensation scheme (CCS) to boost the export of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) No. Sir. There is no proposal to reintroduce cash compensatory support scheme which in the light of substantial liberalisation of the trade regime and total convertibility on trade has become redundant. However, existing Export Promotion Schemes which appear in the Export & Import Policy 1992-97 are being fine tuned to help boost exports.

[Translation]

### Closure of Textile Mills

4348. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of big textile mills closed in Delhi

during the last year till now; and

(b) the amount paid by the Government for the rehabilitation of thousands of employees of those industries under Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) As on 31.12.96, 2 Cotton/Man-Made Fibre Textile Mills were reported to be closed in Delhi.

(b) These mills are not eligible for relief under the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme.

### Textile Processing Industries

4349. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the textile processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c) A proposal is under consideration to facilitate modernisation of the textile processing industry through technological upgradation.

**Use of Hindi**

4350. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his ministry has modern gadgets installed such as computer, telex, teleprinting etc. which are in Roman Script and these are being converted into bilingual;

(b) if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets will be put into use by the ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi will be promoted;

(d) whether the ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to its offices located in Region 'A' where work has to be done cent percent in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such an exemption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Most of the modern gadgets including Computers and electronic typewriters installed in the Ministry have bilingual facility.

(b) the bilingual gadgets are being put into use by training personnel to operate them in both the languages.

(c) With a view to promote use of Hindi in the Ministry various attractive incentive schemes have been introduced for doing work in Hindi. Moreover, the implementation of Official Language Policy is monitored through Quarterly Progress Reports regarding use of Hindi and periodical meetings of Hindi Salahkar Samiti and Official Language Implementation Committee.

(d) No Sir. The offices located in Region 'A' are rather inspired to do their work in Hindi.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

**Sebi Regulations**

4351. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated steps to monitor the activities of every individual involved in merchant banking as defined under the SEBI regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether sharp scrutiny of insider trading

possibilities has revealed serious irregularities by senior personnel of merchant bank staff; and

(d) if so, the details of major cases detected and action taken/proposed thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) In order to monitor the movement of personnel engaged in merchant banking activities, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has written to category I merchant bankers to provide information in regard to employees who are involved in merchant banking activities as defined in regulation 3 (2) of SEBI (Merchant Bankers) Regulations, 1992. At the time of resignation and or termination of the services of an employee the merchant bank shall inform the same to SEBI to enable it to update the data base. Similarly, if the same person joins another merchant bank it will be mandatory for the new employer to submit the information regarding the new employee.

(c) According to the information furnished by SEBI no such instance has come to its notice.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**UTI'S Housing Scheme**

4352. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :  
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India propose to introduce any housing Scheme with the assistance of Housing Development Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred on the said scheme;

(d) the names of the States where these houses are proposed to be constructed and the number and details thereof; and

(e) the details of the persons eligible for this Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Unit Trust of India has no plans to launch any housing scheme with the assistance of Housing Development Finance Corporation.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Imposition of Conditions on import of Indian  
Basmati Rice**

4353. JUSTICE GUMANMAL LODHA :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether U.S.A. has recently imposed certain new conditions on the import of Basmati rice from India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on India's basmati rice export to European countries;
- (c) whether the Government have lodged its protest in World Trade Organisation against these conditions;
- (d) if so, the reaction of WTO an action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Seizure of Narcotics in Maharashtra**

4354. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantum of narcotics seized in Maharashtra during each of the last three years;
- (b) the number of persons arrested and punished so far and the reasons for delay in finalising their cases;
- (c) whether some foreigner are also among them; and
- (d) if so, the country-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As per information available, details of narcotic drugs seized in the State of Maharashtra during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 are given as under :-

Drugs	Quantity of Drugs in Kg		
	1994	1995	1996
Opium	5.000	73.000	665.000
Heroin	194.000	116.000	115.000
Ganja	8487.000	5770.000	1876.000
Hashish	168.000	127.000	421.000
Methaqualone	721.000	3592.000	490.000

(b) As per information available, details of the number of persons arrested and convicted for drug trafficking in Maharashtra during 1994, 1995 and 1996 are given below :

	1994	1995	1996
No. of persons arrested	694	622	766
No. of persons convicted	42	39	86

The main reason for delay in finalising the cases in the huge pendency before the criminal courts which are competent to try the cases booked under the NDPS Act.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Statement showing the number of nationality-wise foreigners arrested for drug trafficking in Maharashtra is given in the attached Statement.

**Statement**

*Statement Showing the Number of Foreign Nationals  
Arrested in Maharashtra during the Years 1994,  
1995 & 1996.*

S.No.	Nationality of Persons Arrested	Number of Arrested Persons		
		1994	1995	1996
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Australian	1	1	-
2.	Belglum	-	1	-
3.	British	1	-	-
4.	Bulgarian	1	-	-
5.	Burundi	2	2	-
6.	Candian	1	3	-
7.	French	2	-	-
8.	German	-	1	1
9.	Ghanian	2	2	3
10.	Iranian	4	4	1
11.	Italy	-	-	1
12.	Kenya	6	5	1
13.	Mauntius	3	3	1
14.	Nepalese	3	-	-
15.	Nigerian	5	4	15
16.	Pakistani	-	-	2
17.	Polish	1	1	-

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Saudi Arabian	-	1	-
19.	Somalian	1	1	-
20.	Sudanese	-	1	6
21.	Sri Lanka	1	1	3
22.	Swiss	4	1	-
23.	South Africa	1	2	1
24.	Tanzanian	9	14	16
25.	Ugandan	1	-	-
26.	U.S.	1	-	-
27.	Yeman	-	1	-
28.	Zaire	1	1	-
29.	Others	4	2	1
Total		55	52	52

[English]

#### Khadi and Village Industries Commission

4355. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :  
DR. BALIRAM :  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :  
SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of funds allocated to various States/ Union Territories for implementation of various KVI Programmes for 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) whether any incidents of bungling have taken place during last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the funds properly and to avoid recurrence of such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The details of funds allocated to various States/Union Territories for implementation of various KVI programmes in 1996-97 are given in the attached statement.

(b) to (d) No incidence of bungling of KVIC funds has come to the notice of Government during last two years. Government reviews the utilisation of KVIC funds periodically.

#### Statement

Statewise details of Funds Allocated during 1996-97

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	States & Union Territories	Khadi		Village Industries	
		Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>States</b>					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.95	126.08	0.20	1122.47
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	10.78
3.	Assam	24.06	184.27	0.19	176.88
4.	Bihar	1.92	209.92	0.55	89.36
5.	Goa	-	-	-	91.51
6.	Gujarat	23.43	45.49	-	566.73
7.	Haryana	-	60.64	0.97	1036.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.05	16.15	0.20	608.58
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	9.91	-	341.42
10.	Karnataka	1.17	82.70	-	746.15
11.	Kerala	7.33	126.19	-	781.79
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2.21	137.94	0.27	134.39
13.	Manipur	-	7.25	0.48	108.11
14.	Maharashtra	3.23	79.76	1.19	1245.40
15.	Meghalaya	8.74	20.27	0.34	29.83
16.	Mizoram	3.24	-	0.28	163.32
17.	Nagaland	10.23	3.37	0.05	131.56
18.	Orissa	1.32	103.83	1.51	539.92
19.	Punjab	-	62.04	1.60	852.39
20.	Rajasthan	45.68	80.21	0.75	306.62
21.	Sikkim	8.84	-	0.79	10.24
22.	Tamilnadu	-	114.08	-	2002.07
23.	Tripura	35.38	-	0.38	11.37
24.	Uttar Pradesh	17.25	2847.57	0.46	1949.86
25.	West Bengal	6.48	186.34	2.46	814.68
<b>Union Territories</b>					
1.	Andman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	1.48	-
2.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	9.15
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-
5.	Delhi	-	3.96	-	57.06
6.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	40.31
7.	Pondicherri	1.76	-	-	32.27
Total		203.28	4508.03	14.15	14011.21

#### LIC Premium Rates

4356. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the LIC Premiums are linked-up with the mortality rate of the country;

(b) if so, whether the LIC premiums are rated highest in the International Life Insurance Sector inspite of the mortality rate of the country is going down;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the existing high premiums of LIC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has reported that its premium rates are linked with the mortality rates of its policyholders. LIC has also reported that its premium rates are not the highest in the international life insurance sector.

(c) and (d) LIC has informed that it continuously monitors the mortality experience of its policyholders and benefits, if any, due to improvement in mortality experience are passed on to the policyholders by way of reduction in premium rates in case of 'without profit' policies and by increasing the rate of bonus in case of 'with profit' policies. LIC has informed that based on improvement in the mortality rates it reduced the premium rates under 'without profit' policies in 1970, 1980 and 1986 and has been declaring increase in bonuses to its policyholders from time to time.

#### NIFT Centre in Karnataka

4357. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a branch of National Institute of Fashion Technology in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the proposed Institute ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed centre will initially conduct two courses, viz. Diploma in Fashion Design and Post Graduate Diploma in Apparel Merchandising and Marketing. Each Course will have an intake capacity of 30 students per year.

(c) The estimated expenditure on the proposed NIFT centre is as follows :-

(i) Non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 265 lakhs to be incurred over a period of 3 years, to be provided by the Central Government; and recurring expenditure of Rs. 235 lakhs over a period of 5 years, of which the NIFT centre is expected to generate an income of Rs. 102 lakhs over 5 years, with the balance revenue deficit of Rs. 133 lakhs to be met by grants-in-aid from the State Government over 5 years.

#### Import of MICA

4358. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of Mica imported with its value during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the impact of import of Mica on our domestic industry and the reasons for import of Mica; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to curb import of Mica particularly from non-mica producing countries of the world ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total import of Mica made during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 has been as follows\* :-

Year	Quantity	Qty : Tonnes
		Value : Rs. 000
1994-95	124	74,817
1995-96	214	87,734
1996-97	Not Available	

(b) and (c) India is a major exporter of Mica and mica products, but due to certain specialised applications of Mica, small quantities of Mica are also imported by the domestic industry. This import has no impact on the domestic industry. Hence the need for Governmental action to curb import is not warranted.

\*Source : Indian Bureau of Mines.

#### Duty Draw Back Scheme for Exports

4359. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian exporters have been enthusiastic about the duty drawback scheme for exports;

(b) if so, whether this scheme has improved the competitive edge of Indian exporters in the International market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the actual amount claimed by the exporters so far during 1995 and 1996 under the above scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since the Scheme compensates the exporters for duties of Customs and Central Excise suffered on the inputs used in the manufacture of export goods, it improves the competitive edge of Indian exporters in the International market. The actual amount disbursed during 1995 and 1996 is approximately Rs. 2315 and 3035 crores respectively.

#### Anti Dumping Duty on Acrylic Fibre

4360.DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding dumping of acrylic fibre by South Korea and Taiwan in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to protect the domestic industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) M/s. Indian Acrylic Ltd. and M/s. Pasupati Acrylon Ltd. have jointly filed a petition in accordance with the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1995 and Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-Dumping on Dumped Articles for the Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995, before the Designated Authority alleging dumping of Acrylic Fibres from the USA, Thailand and the Republic of Korea. Designated Authority has initiated investigations against imports from these countries on 13.9.96. Preliminary and/or final findings have not been announced yet. However, no complaint has been filed against Taiwan. The findings are notified in the official Gazette by the Designated Authority after following a quasi-judicial process and the order of the Designated Authority is appellable before the Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal.

#### Market Extension Centre

4361.DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to open market service extension centre for handicrafts at Nalbari in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) to (c) No, Sir. At present there are 47 Marketing and Service Extension Centres functioning in various parts of the country including two centres in Assam at Gauripur and Jorhat. The craftsmen of Nalbari are getting marketing support and extension facilities from these centres.

#### Export of Railways Spare Parts

4362.DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether railways spare parts particularly broad-gauge engines are being exported;

(b) if so, the details of spare parts and engines exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The value of exports of Railway spare parts including that of broad gauge engines are given below :-

(foreign exchange equivalent in  
(Rs. Crores)

Year	Value
1993-94	20.29
1994-95	46.06
1995-96	10.62
1996-97 (April-August'96)	17.26

The export of Broad-gauge engines has been made by RITES only during 1995-96 to Sri Lanka to the tune of Rs. 6.53 Crores 0.23 US \$ Mn.

The major importers of Indian railway spare parts are Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Malaysia, USA, UK, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia. Country-wise details are available in the DGCI&S publication "Foreign Trade Statistics of India" in the Parliament Library.

(c) Promotion of exports has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures taken to boost exports of engineering goods including railway spare parts, consist of various incentives under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licence, Duty Drawback Scheme, exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, assistance from Market Development Fund, Rail India Technical & Economic Service (RITES) & IRCON (Indian Railway Construction Company) have been nominated by Government of India, Ministry of Railways to undertake export of locomotives and rolling stock manufactured in the factories of Indian Railways, who are undertaking aggressive marketing for boosting export of Railway spare parts.

### Export of Textiles

4363. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government propose to liberalise textiles export;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) to (b) There are no restrictions on the exports of textile products from India, other than an annual quantitative ceiling on cotton yarn exports, which is announced after careful consideration of all relevant factors such as production and domestic demand in respect of cotton, production and prices of cotton yarn, requirement of yarn or the decentralised handloom sector etc.

However, the U.S.A., the E.C. countries, Canada and Norway apply quantitative restraints (quotas) on the import of certain textile and clothing products from India and other countries. These importing countries have to remove the quantitative restrictions on all textile products, in a phased manner, by 1.1.2005, in terms of the provisions of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) of the WTO.

### World Bank Assistance for Rubber Production

4364. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought any financial assistance from the World Bank to boost production of rubber in the country;

(b) if so, the amount sought for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government of Tripura has also sought any financial assistance from the World Bank; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government and the World Bank in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A rubber project with assistance from the World Bank has been under implementation from 1993-94. The total cost of the Project is Rs. 445.20 crores out of which IDA credit is US \$ 92.0 million (Rs. 290.08 crores).

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### Import of Garments

4365. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the import of readymade garments made during each of the last three years and the amount spent thereon; and

(b) the country from where these readymade garments are being imported ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) The amount spent on import of Readymade Garments during the last three years has been as follows :-

Year	Rs. in Crores
1993-94	5.31
1994-95	5.28
1995-96	5.99

(b) The Philippines, Hong Kong, the U.S.A., South Korea, Italy, China and the U.K. are some of the major countries from where readymade garments have been imported.

### Production and Export of Coffee

4366. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the production and export of Coffee made during 1996-97 upto December 31, 1996 and the foreign exchange earned during the same period;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to bring more areas under Coffee cultivation in non-conventional Coffee growing areas like Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and N.E. States during the above period;

(c) the exhibitions or trade fairs in which Coffee Board participated during the above period; and

(d) the amount spent on publicity in India and abroad by Coffee Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Production of coffee estimated in Coffee Year 1996-97 (July to June) and exports of coffee from 1.4.96 upto 31.12.96 and the foreign exchange earned are as follows :-

Production	2,05,000 tonnes.
Export	1,38,994 tonnes
Value realised	Us \$ 325.76 million
From export of coffee	(Rs. 1066.64 crores)

(b) During the year 1996-97, the Coffee Board continued to support the establishment of coffee cultivation in Non-conventional coffee growing States through various research and extension programme :-

(c) The Coffee Board participated in the following five trade fairs during 1996-97 (upto December, 1996) :

1. SPAFF-96, St. Petersburg, Russia 27-31, May' 96
2. Unitrex-96, Rotterdam, Holland 5-8, June' 96
3. INI, Trade Fair, Trieste, Italy 21-30, June' 96
4. SIAL Food Fair, Paris, France 20-24, Oct, 96
5. Foodapest-96, HUNGEXPO, Budapest, Hungary 20-23, Nov' 96

(d) The amount spent on publicity in India and abroad by Coffee Board are as under :

For External Promotion	Rs. 23.40 lakhs
For Internal Promotion	Rs. 11.13 lakhs
Total	Rs. 34.53 lakhs

#### Infrastructure Development

4367. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rakesh Mohan Committee has recommended sweeping changes in the financial markets to raise resources for the country's infrastructure development;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations that have been accepted and implemented; and

(c) the details of the recommendations which are still pending ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Rakesh Mohan Committee has provided directions for policy reforms which can help in greater commercialisation of infrastructure along with promotion of public - private partnerships. The Committee has stated that India needs an institution to specifically provide credit enhancements to projects and activate the debt market. The Committee has recommended that if infrastructure has to be financed through the capital markets, it is necessary to initiate major reform in the areas of contractual savings institutions (LIC, GIC, PFs, EPF) that have long term liabilities and make natural investors in private infrastructure projects.

To provide long-term finance for the infrastructure sector the Budget, 1996-97 announced establishment of an

Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDEC). The IDFC has since been incorporated under the Companies Act on 30.1.97 with an authorised share capital of Rs. 5000 crore. A loan of \$ 300 million has been tied up with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Private Sector Infrastructure Facility (PSIF) in order to support private sector infrastructure projects through the development of the long-term debt market. The Budget 1997-98 provides for the withdrawal of the requirement of keeping 20 per cent of incremental provident Fund amounts in the Special Deposit Scheme (SDS) with effect from April 1, 1997.

[Translation]

#### Artificial Silk

4368. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States where production of artificial silk is going on the country;

(b) the quantum of artificial silk produced during 1996-97 till date State-wise;

(c) The quantum of artificial silk exported during the above period and foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and export of artificial silk ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (d) The details are given in statement-I and statement-II

#### Statement-I

*Production of Viscope Staple Fibre (VSF) and Viscope Filament Yarn (VFY)*

(Quantity in Tonnes)

State	1996-97		1995-96	
	V.F.Y. (upto Jan '97 provisional	V.S.F. (Upto Feb '97 provisional	V.F.Y.	V.S.F.
Gujarat	14824	-	18133	-
Maharashtra	22440	-	27311	46
Madhya Pradesh	-	97944	-	116498
Karnataka	-	32001	-	31116
Kerala	1224	11366	2310	14856
Tamil Nadu	4792	24440	6532	31824
West Bengal	5387	-	6375	-

**Statement-II**

(c) The details about Export of Artificial silk and foreign exchange earned are as under :

	Quantity—Tonnes Value—Lakhs/Rs.	
	1996-97 (April-January)	1995-96
1. Fibre and Yarn		
Oty.	3747	7069
Value	5545	10764

2075.50 Tons of Rayon Filament Fabrics valued at US \$ 16.64 million was exported during 1996-97 (April-January).

(d) The Govt. have been various steps such as liberalisation of industrial licensing policy, rationalisation of fiscal duty structure, changes in EXIMP Policy, etc. with a view to increasing the production and export of textile items including artificial silk.

**Paper Mills**

4369.DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of new paper mills in the country;

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

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be finalised; and

(d) the names of the mills which manufacture computer papers in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No proposal is pending with the Government for grant of Industrial Licence for setting up of new paper mills in the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The details of the mills manufacturing computer paper in the country are not maintained separately.

**Export and Production of TEA and Coffee**

4370.SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of coffee and tea in the country at present separately;

(b) whether the export of coffee and tea has declined during 1996-97;

(c) whether the Government have adopted some new measures to increase the export of coffee and tea;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when these new measures are proposed to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The estimated production of coffee is 2.05 lakh tonnes during 1996-97 season (July-June) and estimated production of tea during April 1996-March 1997 period is 780.31 million Kgs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Steps taken to increase exports by the concerned BOARDS include participation in trade fairs/exhibitions abroad. Conducting publicity campaigns, market surveys, holding buyer seller meets, promoting brands, etc. In respect of exports of tea to Russia under the debt repayment route, a proposal for exports on consignment basis has been worked out recently in consultation with Reserve Bank of India.

**Misuse of Exim Policy by Exporters**

4371.SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated any action against the exporters for breach of conditions while availing themselves of the benefits under the Export-Import Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of exporters who have been found guilty during each of the last three years;

(d) the number of exporters who have rectified the false claims during each of the last three years;

(e) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action is initiated under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 and the Foreign Trade (Regulation) Rules, 1993 for violation of the export import policy and condition of licence as also for contravention of the provisions of the prescribed procedure. The penalties imposed under the provisions of

the Act are fiscal penalty, suspension/cancellation of licence or suspension/cancellation of importer-exporter code number.

(c) Contravention for which exporters have been found guilty range from minor cases to major cases and also pertains to violation of the conditions of several schemes, such as, advance licences, EPCG licences, EPZ/EDU schemes and Pass Book Schemes etc. Information regarding total number of exporters who have been found guilty during each of the last three years can be quantified after all the relevant records of Port Offices are scrutinised and information compiled.

(d) There is no specific provision under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 for rectification of false claims. However, default in export obligation can be regularised under the provisions of para 128 of the Hand Book of Procedure, 1992-97 (Vol.I).

In respect of Value Based Advance Licences (VABAL), the Ministry of Finance have recently announced a scheme providing for reversal of MODVAT availed by manufacturer exporters and supporting manufacturers of merchant exporters in contravention of VABAL Scheme with 20% interest per annum for the period the MODVAT amount was retained by them by 31-1-97.

(e) Action would be taken under the Customs Act and other relevant laws against the manufacturers exporters and merchant exporters having declared the names of supporting manufacturers at the time of obtaining advance licence/DEEC who failed to reverse the MODVAT amount and interest by 31-1-97 as set out under the Scheme.

#### Financial Assistance to West Bengal

4372. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of financial assistance given by public sector financial institutions like Life Insurance Corporation of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India, Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to West Bengal during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the financial assistance is proportionately very low as compared to other States; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 204.45 crores, Rs. 208.42 crores and

Rs. 244.89 crores was invested by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in West Bengal during the financial years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. LIC made higher investment than in West Bengal only in five States of the financial years 1993-94 and 1994-95 and seven States in 1995-96. The amount invested varies from State to State depending upon the investment opportunities available in that particular State and is also guided by the provisions of modified section 27A of Insurance Act, 1938 which lays down the investment pattern for the corporation. The information in respect of other Financial Institutions (FIs) is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Banking Credit Card

4373. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHARJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bank credit card holders in the country at present;

(b) the share of public sector banks in it;

(c) whether public sector banks are lagging behind in this growing market;

(d) if so the details thereof, and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) According to data available with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) there are a total of 13,54,084 credit cards issued by Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Private Sector Banks and foreign banks in the country.

(b) Out of the total number of credit cards, the PSBs have issued 7,68,713 cards. The share of PSBs in the total number of cards issued in the country works out to 57% approx.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is for each bank to decide on credit card business on the basis of commercial considerations.

[English]

#### Circulation of Mutilated Notes

4374. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the serious problem being faced by public due to the mutilated, dirty and torn currency notes;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that the counters opened by the Reserve Bank of India for exchange of mutilated notes are not sufficient to cater the demand of the public; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposed to take to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Due to capacity constraints, the note printing presses in the country are not able to fully meet the ever-increasing requirement of fresh notes by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The gap is met by recycling the notes in circulation and as a result, the quality of notes has deteriorated.

(b) and (c) Counters have been made available at 17 issue offices of RBI which provide facilities to the members of public for exchanging mutilated, torn and soiled notes. In addition, the public sector banks maintaining currency chests have been delegated with full powers to provide such exchange facilities. Similarly, all branches of public sector banks have also been authorised by RBI to exchange soiled and slightly mutilated notes. In order to reduce shortage of currency notes the following steps have also been initiated by the Government;

1. Modernisation of the two note printing presses at Nasik and Dewas.
2. Setting up of two more note-printing presses, one at Salboni (West Bengal) and the other at Mysore (Karnataka) under the control of Reserve Bank of India.
3. Coinisation of lower denomination notes of Rupee 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and diversion of the capacity so released for printing notes of higher denominations.
4. Import of 3,600 million pieces of printed notes from abroad, as a one time measure.

#### Coal Potentials in Maharashtra

4375. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ongoing coal projects in Maharashtra alongwith their estimated cost;

(b) the number of major projects of Western Coal Fields Limited pending for clearance with Union Government;

(c) the action plan formulated for development of coal industry in Maharashtra during 1997-98 and Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Government have formulated a plan to set up a coal washeries at Sasti; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and present status of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As on 1.3.1997, nine coal mining projects each costing Rs. 20 crs. and above at an estimated cost of Rs. 496.31 crs. are under implementation in the State of Maharashtra under Western Coalfields Limited (WCL).

(b) At present, Urdhan Opencast Project located in the State of Madhya Pradesh under WCL is under appraisal at the Govt. level for approval.

(c) As per the Action Plan formulated for development of coal industry in Maharashtra under WCL during the Ninth Five Year Plan, a production capacity of 26.34 million tonnes per annum has been planned by the terminal year of the Ninth Plan at an investment of about Rs. 1576.07 crs. The investment proposed during 1997-98 is Rs. 294.44 crs.

(d) and (e) There is a proposal to set up a coal washery for beneficiation of 1.5 mty of raw coal throughput at Sasti mine site under 'Build-own-operate' (BOO) scheme. Negotiations with the party setting up the washery and the prospective consumers for the washed coal the under progress for finalisation.

#### Free port in A.P.

4376. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh to declare the Krishnapatnam Port as 'Free Port'; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) A suggestion has been received from the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh to declare Krishnapatnam Port as 'Free Port' However, an advisory Committee set up by the Govt. to examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing a Free Port in India has recommended Goa as a suitable location for setting up of a Free Port. Tuticorin has been suggested as a suitable site for a second Free Port on the east coast.

### Excise Duty Evasion

4377. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are large number of industrial units manufacturing carts of branded goods without obtaining permission from the Commissioner of Central Excise thereby evading payment of central excise duty substantially;

(b) if so, the number of such manufacturing units that have been detected and how much central excise duty they have evaded over the period;

(c) the action has been taken against those manufacturing units;

(d) whether there is any proposal to extensively unearth such units to check Government taxes evasion and to book them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### Smuggling of Narcotics

4378. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps Government propose to take to check the smuggling of narcotics in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the period of punishment for smuggling of narcotics; and

(c) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Government has already taken following necessary steps to check the smuggling of narcotics in the country :-

(i) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act.

(ii) The dedicated narcotic cells are operational in Police and the Customs and Central Excise formations in the border States.

(iii) 2/3rd of Indo-Pak border has been fenced and provided with flood lighting.

(iv) BSF and Coast Guards, who are deployed on land and coastal borders, have been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the several Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

(v) Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipment have been provided.

(vi) Reward scheme for informers and enforcement officers is being implemented zealously.

(vii) Quarterly coordination meetings chaired by DG, NCB are held regularly in New Delhi which are attended by all Enforcement agencies involved in fighting against drug trafficking, at the highest level.

(viii) A bilateral agreement has been arrived at with authorities in Pakistan whereby periodic meetings take place at Secretary level and DG level. Representatives of Indian & Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies have been included in the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers. Contact points have been designated by the two countries for direct operational communication.

(ix) A comprehensive bilateral agreement has been entered into by the Govt. of India and the Government of Union of Myanmar for reducing demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

(x) The Govt. of India has provided two drug sniffer dogs and also trained dog-handlers to Myanmar for detection of drugs.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to amend the N.D.P.S. Act, inter-alia, to rationalise the sentence structure so as to make the Act more effective by providing stringent punishment even for offences relating to cannabis including cultivation of cannabis. The enhanced punishment for previous convicts for selected offences is proposed to be extended to all the offences under the Act.

### Trade with core labour standard

4379. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD .  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision was taken in the Ministerial Conference of World Trade Organisations held in December 1996 in Singapore regarding linkage of free

trade with Core labour standards; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in the light thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No decision was taken linking trade with labour standards at the Singapore Ministerial Conference. The decision taken was follows :

"We renew our commitment to the observance of internationally recognised core labour standards. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the competent body to set and deal with these standards, and we affirm our support for its work in promoting them. We believe that economic growth and development fostered be increased by trade and further trade liberalization contribute to the promotion of these standards. We reject the use of labour standards for protectionist purposes and agree that the comparative advantage of countries particularly lowwage developing countries, must in no way be put into question. In this regard, we note that the WTO and ILO Secretariats will continue their existing collaboration"

(b) Does not arise.

#### Registration of Patents under W.T.O.

4380. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of patents registered or applied for registration of patents under the WTO Agreement till date;

(b) the names of the companies who have applied for registration and the names of the products; and

(c) the names of the countries who have applied for the same products which India has applied ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Settings up of EOUS in Gujarat

4381. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cent per cent export oriented units set up during each of the last three years in the State of Gujarat, locationwise; and

(b) the details of such units out of the above which have started commercial production in the State of Gujarat during the above period, location-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) 70 units were set up during the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 in Gujarat in the Districts of Ahmedabad, Baroda, Kheda, Bhavnagar, Kutch, Bharuch, Surat, Vilsad, Mehsana, Gandhinagar, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha and Amreli.

(b) 35 units have started commercial production in the State during the above period. These units are located in the Districts of Valsad, Gandhinagar, Ankleshwar, Bharuch, Mahuva, Bhavnagar, Sabarkantha, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Panchmahal, Surat and Mehsana.

#### Delays in clearance of imported Goods.

4382. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether frequent complaints about delays in clearance of imported goods by the Customs Department are received;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received and disposed of during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the time fixed for resolving complaints and average time generally taken;

(d) whether self removal procedure for customs clearance is under consideration;

(e) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken; and

(f) if not, the reasons, therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Representations are occasionally received in Custom Houses regarding delay in clearance from importers and exporters.

(c) Senior officers attend to such representations and they are resolved quickly. There is a grievance redressal machinery in each Custom House in the form of Public Grievance Committee and Watch Dog Panel where senior officers and representatives of Trade and Custom House Agents periodically meet to resolve such complaints.

(d) to (f) Facility of Self-Assessment is available to Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings and other importers with proven and unblemished track record subject to fulfilment of specified conditions. Facility of Green Channel and Fast Track Clearance is also available to specified category of big importers such as Super Star Trading Houses, Star Trading Houses, Trading Houses

etc. In Addition, facility of single window clearance is available to other specified categories of importers.

The Department continually undertakes review of the import and export procedures. Improvements are discussed in the Tariff and General Conferences of Commissioners of Customs regularly. No time limits are fixed for such exercises.

#### Export of Cotton

4383. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether increase in export of cotton has come as a ride check to the textile industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to assure that there is sufficient quantity of cotton in the country to meet the need of textiles industry ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) and (b) During the current cotton season 1996-97, in view, of prospects of another good cotton crop similar to last year, there is no shortage of cotton. Before allowing export of cotton, the Government had taken into consideration all relevant factors, including estimates of production, availability, likely consumption by the mills, small spinners and non-mill sector, likely surplus, price trends, etc.

#### Import of Gold

4384. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Enforcement Directorate has found gross irregularities in the import of gold;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the gold imported under the concession scheme was diverted to jewellery exporters who in turn are alleged to have violated the gold import scheme; and

(d) if so, the details of jewellery exporters who have violated the gold import scheme and the action Government have taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) There have been no irregularities in the import of gold by the nominated agencies for supply to the exporters of gold jewellery under the schemes of Exim Policy. However, irregularities in export of gold jewellery by certain exporters have been detected by various investigating agencies including the Enforcement Directorate. These irregularities include :

- (i) Non-export of gold jewellery against gold loaned/sold by MMTC;
  - (ii) Shortage in weight of gold jewellery in export consignments detected abroad;
  - (iii) Quality of gold jewellery not upto the mark;
  - (iv) Tampering of airway bills;
  - (v) Collection of export percents/its payments abroad by EOU/DTA associates of MMTC;
  - (vi) Non-realisation of export proceeds within prescribed time limit.
- (d) 23 cases of alleged irregularities have been referred by MMTC to various investigating agencies including CBI, DRI, Enforcement Directorate and DGFT for investigation and necessary action. Enforcement Directorate are investigating 15 such cases.

#### Borjhar Airport, Guwahati

4385. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for declaration of Borjhar Airport at Guwahati as custom airport was turned down by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a special package programme for North-Eastern region has been declared by the Prime Minister during his visit to the region recently;

(d) if so, whether the above matter is being reviewed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal to declare Borjhar Airport at Guwahati as a Customs Airport was examined in the past found to be premature since the airport lacked necessary infrastructural facilities. Besides, the projected scale of operations was found to be commercially unviable.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The special package programme announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister includes upgrading Guwahati Airport as the hub centre for the North-East and developing it as an international airport. This is expected to be implemented by the end of the 9th Five Year Plan.

### Export of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice

4386. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of basmati and non-basmati rice exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, till-date; and

(b) the reasons for permitting export of non-basmati rice during the above period in spite of the fact that price of this item is increasing in the domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The quantity and value of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice exported during the last three years, and in the current year are as follows :-

Quantity : in Lakh MTs.

Value : in Rs. Crores.

Year	Basmati Rice		Non-Basmati Rice	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1993-94	5.27	1061.27	2.40	225.44
1994-95	4.69	857.76	4.23	323.45
1995-96	3.92	851.16	51.20	3701.85
1996-97 (Apr.-Dec., 96)	3.42	794.11	16.17	679.00

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(b) It is the policy of the Government to allow the exports of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise the food security system. It is not possible to accurately compare the prices prevailing in the international and domestic markets on account of the different varieties traded, variations in quality, and additional expenditure incurred in grading and packaging for exports

### Export of Coir

4387. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum and value of coir products exported during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether coir geo-textiles has secured any export order during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to promote export of coir products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The quantum and value of coir products exported during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under :-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	48276	206.84
1996-97*	41204	187.65

(\* ) Provisional - April 1996 to February, 1997.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The quantum and value of coir geo-textiles exported during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under :

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	474	1.68
1996-97*	406	1.61

(\* ) Provisional - April 1996 to February, 1997.

(d) The Coir Board, which is a statutory body, has taken various measures to boost the export of coir and coir products in the international markets. The Board has undertaken joint publicity programme with British and German Coir Associations for promoting consumption of Indian coir in these countries. In order to increase the export of coir products, the Board participates in important exhibitions abroad, deputed officials in market development missions, and undertakes publicity programme.

### Export of TEA

4388. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of countries which are importing tea from India;

(b) whether Poland and some other countries propose to step up tea import;

(c) if so, the details of order placed by different countries to import Indian tea;

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the estimated quantum of tea proposed to be exported to those countries during the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Indian tea is exported to more than 80 countries of the world.

Major importers of Indian tea are Russia and CIS countries, U.K., Germany, Poland, U.A.E. Iran, Arab Republic of Egypt, Japan, Saudi Arabia etc.

(b) to (d) Overall imports of tea by various importing countries depend upon their requirements and contracts for imports are entered into by the importing companies/organisations in different countries with their counter-part Indian exporters, details of which would be available only with the individual buyers/sellers. However, Tea Board is in constant touch with various importing countries including Poland to promote import of Indian tea.

(e) The target proposed by the Tea Board for export of tea in the terminal year of 9th Plan viz. 2001-2002 is 265 million kg.

#### MNCs in India

4389. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that multi-national companies are more interested about their market in India than to make the industrial base of the country strong; end

(b) if so, the steps taken to safeguard the interest of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The endeavour of the Government is to invite more foreign direct investment particularly in priority/ core sectors including infrastructure and export oriented projects. The policy initiatives are intended to promote modernisation and technological upgradation, productivity, efficiency and to bring about reduction in costs with a view to boost industrial production and enhance the competitiveness of the industry to boost exports.

[Translation]

#### Deregulation of Coal Prices

4390. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :  
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to deregularise the price fixation in coal industry;

(b) if so, the categories of coal for which prices are proposed to be deregularised;

(c) whether prices of certain categories of coal has fallen under decontrolled area whereas a future date has been fixed for decontrol of the price fixation of certain categories of coal;

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

(e) the average annual production of coal of 'D' 'E' 'F' and 'G' grade in the country during last three years;

(f) whether prices of all types of coal have been increased after the deregulation;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the likely impact of such decision on the prices of cement, power and steel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d) In February 1997, the Government have decided to deregulate the prices of D grade of non-coking coal, hard coke and soft coke. Earlier in February, 1996, the Government decided to deregulate the prices of Coking Coal and A, B & C grades of non-coking coal.

Further, the Government have also decided in February, 1997 to :-

(i) allow Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) to review the price of E, F and G grades of non-coking coal till 1st January 2000, once every six months by updating the cost indices as per the escalation formula contained in the 1987 report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices.

(ii) allow CIL and SCCL to fix the prices of E, F and G grades of non-coking coal in relation to the market forces after 1st January 2000.

The reasons for the above decisions taken in February 1997 are :

(i) The Government budgetary support to CIL and SCCL have been reduced very sharply in the recent years. The phase-wise deregulation of coal prices will improve their profitability and enable them to generate additional internal resources needed for stepping up production as well as undertaking new coal projects which are presently unviable.

(ii) In February 1997, the Government have also decided to offer new coal blocks to Indian companies on the basis of competitive bidding. The phase-wise deregulation of coal prices will allow adequate time for strengthening the market forces, induction of competition

and reduction of monopoly in the coal industry and thereby increasing the efficiency and consumer orientation.

(e) The average annual production of D,E,F, and G grades of non-coking coal in CIL and SCCL during the last three years is given below :

Grades of non-coking coal	Average annual production during the period from 1993-94 to 1995-96	
	(In million tonnes)	
	CIL	SCCL
D	27.18	6.14
E	30.03	9.76
F	62.47	3.64
G	NIL	0.17

The gradations from A to F is applicable to non-coking coal only.

(f) to (h) After the Government decisions taken in February 1997, SCCL have revised prices of B to G grades of non-coking coal on 15.3.1997. The likely impact of such revision by SCCL on the prices of cement and power is given below

Commodity	Impact
Cement	Rs. 2.06 per bag of 50 Kgs.
Power	Rs. 0.17 per kwh.

No coking coal is produced from SCCL mines and therefore, no supply to the steel sector from SCCL mines is being done.

CIL, the major coal producing company in the country have not so far taken any decision to revise their coal prices after the February 1997 decisions of the Government. Therefore, it is not possible to assess the likely impact of the CIL price revision after February 1997 on the prices of cement, power and steel.

[English]

### Registration of Companies

4391. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of limited companies registered during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of such companies closed during the above period;

(c) whether the safeguards offered by these companies to the investing public are sufficient;

(d) the number of cheating cases that have come to light during the above period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Govt. to safeguard the interest of the general investors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The number of companies registered and closed during the last three years is indicated below :-

Year	No. of cos. limited by shares registered	No. of cos. gone into liquidation/ struck off
1993-94	30291	263
1994-95	47928	224
1995-96	56326	418

(c) to (e) The Department of Company Affairs (DCA) has an investors' protection cell which deals with complaints of investors and such complaints are acknowledged and taken up with the concerned companies for prompt redressal through a fully computerised system. The Registrars of Companies (ROCs) and the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) also receive similar complaints and take appropriate action thereon. The number of investors' complaints received and redressed by the Department of Company Affairs during the last three years [Be as indicated below :-

Year	No. of complaints received	No. of complaints redressed
1994	35,782	23,821
1995	34,031	28,085
1996	16,070	13,612

Further, the Department also takes action against the defaulting/erring companies by launching of prosecution against them for contravention of provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. The number of prosecutions launched by the Deptt. for fraudulently inducing persons to invest money was 3 in 1993-94 and for misstatement in prospectus was 4 in 1995-96. No such prosecution was launched in 1994-95.

### CBI Enquiry against IOB

4392. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Officers issued Charge Sheets facing CBI enquiries etc. are holding key positions (Posts) in various Branches/Administrative Officers etc. in Indian Overseas Bank.

(b) if so, the details of such Officers Cadre-wise, Scale-wise and Region-wise;

(c) whether the enquiry's reports have since been received; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Processing Activities in Textiles

4393. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced that Textiles (Development and Regulation) Order, 1993 is likely to be amended to bring the processing industry under its purview.

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

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help the modernisation and quality up-gradation of textile industry as well as to increase the share of Indian textile in the global market ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. With the objective of maintaining standards of quality, to meet environmental parameters and to make Indian textile items more competitive, etc. the textile processing activity has been brought within the purview of Textiles (Development and Regulation) Order, 1993 vide Textiles (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Order, 1997.

### Indian Investment

4394. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the total investment of the country abroad during the current financial year;

(b) which are the key sectors and countries where these investments are made;

(c) the annual returns out of these investments; and

(d) the share of India among the Asian countries who have invested abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Investment outflows during the current financial year so far (i.e. April 1996 to January 1997) amounted to approx. US\$ 195.50 million.

(b) The investments approved by RBI during this year were well diversified in terms of lines of activities. Approvals have been given to a large number of trading concerns meant for export promotion in the field of textiles and garments besides marine products, leather and electrical goods. In the manufacturing sector, approvals have been given for pharmaceuticals, yarns and textiles, garments, cement and sugar. Further, a number of approvals have also been given in the field of software development and related fields.

Main countries where the investments are proposed to be made are U.K., USA, Germany, Singapore, Mauritius, UAE, Nepal, Srilanka, Russia and Malaysia.

(c) Proposals approved during the current financial year are under various stages of implementation. Returns from the proposals already operationalized amounted to Rs. 316.48 crores by way of dividends and other entitlements and Rs. 2004.89 crores by way of exports for the period upto 30.11.95.

(d) As per information provided by the World Investment Report 1996, the share of India in the FDI outflows from Asia in 1995 amounted to 0.089%.

### Shortage of Coal

4395. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a physical shortage of stock of coal was found in and around the year 1991 in Western Coalfield Limited;

(b) if so, the total quantum of shortage of coal found and the value thereof;

(c) whether the said shortage of coal was written off; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action contemplated by the Government against the officials responsible therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No shortage of coal stock beyond the prescribed permissible limit of 5% of the book stock was found in the company during the year 1990-91.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the answer given to part (a) of the question.

### Manufacturing of Car

4396. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been invited to the news item captioned "Car market seen heading for shakeout" appearing in 'The Economic Times' dated February 20, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to see that there is no glut in the cars manufactured in India ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Production of cars increased from 264,368 in 1994-95 to 348,242 in 1995-96. A similar growth is expected in the current year. There is no immediate prospect of a glut in the market.

(c) and (d) The passenger car industry has been delicensed.

As such the production of cars will be governed by the free play of market forces.

### Salaries to NTC Workers

4397. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAIKWAD :  
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :  
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :  
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the annual production capacity of each NTC mill;

(b) the number of NTC mills lying closed/idle at present, State-wise;

(c) the number of NTC mill workers who have not been paid their salaries and dues since last three months, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear the arrears of dues of workers and revive these mills ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) A statement-I indicating the installed capacity of each of the mills under NTC is attached.

(b) No mill under NTC is lying closed as per the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act. However, due to acute shortage of working capital, there is cessation of activities in 41 mills under NTC. Two number of such mills State-wise is given in the attached statement-II.

(c) The workers/employees of NTC have received their wages/salaries till the month of December, 1996. Wages and/salaries for the months of Jan. and Feb. have not been paid. Efforts are being made to disburse as early as possible.

(d) The Government approved a revised Turn Around Plan in May, 1995 involving modernisation of 79 mills at an outlay of Rs. 2005.72 crores. Since 8 out of the 9 subsidiaries have been declared sick and are under reference to the BIFR the Turn Around Plan was sent to the bench for consideration. The funds for the Plans were to be met out of the proceeds of sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. It has been indicated in my statement made in the Lok Sabha on 3rd March, 1997 that 80% of the sale proceeds are to come from the lands located in the mills in Mumbai. No positive response has yet been received from the Govt. of Maharashtra. The BIFR also has not approved the revised Turn Around Plan for the eight subsidiaries of NTC on account of the interpretation given by the BIFR on the question of net worth becoming positive. It is not practical to implement the revised Turn Around Plan in the absence of funds and also approval of BIFR. Against this background, the NTC has reviewed the unitwise viability taking into account the concessions agreed to by the Govt. in 1995 and the concept of net worth becoming positive. The report of NTC(H.C.) is presently under consideration of the Government

Meanwhile, Government have been meeting the shortfall faced by NTC in payment of wages, salaries and bonus to the workers/employees of NTC, pending a final decision on the revival and rehabilitation of NTC mills.

## Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Installed Capacity (As on 31.12.96)	
		Spindles	Looms
1	2	3	4
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>			
1.	Adoni Cotton Mills	20800	0
2.	Anantpur Cotton	29596	0
3.	Azamjahi Mills	34688	0
4.	Nataraj Mills	17520	0
5.	Netha Spg. & Wvg.	16112	0
6.	Tirupathi Cotton	27860	0
		146576	0
<b>Assam</b>			
7.	Associated Indus.	20984	0
<b>Bihar</b>			
8.	Bihar Co-operative	15200	0
9.	Gaya Cotton	17600	0
		32800	0
<b>Delhi</b>			
10.	Ajudhia Textile	27684	260
<b>Gujarat</b>			
11.	Ahmd. Jupiter	41664	696
12.	Ahmd. New Textile	33616	792
13.	Himadri Textile	18400	384
14.	Jehangir Textile	33160	656
15.	Mahalaxmi	28616	624
16.	New Manckchowk	32552	550
17.	Petlad Textile	19240	441
18.	Rajkot Textile	16160	268
19.	Rajnagar Mills	50268	1096

1	2	3	4
20.	Rajnagar Mills 2		
21.	Virangam Textile	22980	512
		296656	6019
<b>Karnataka</b>			
22.	Minerva Mills	32486	373
23.	MSK Mills	18280	96
24.	Mysore Mills		
25.	Sree Yallamma	29264	0
		80030	469
<b>Kerala</b>			
26.	Alagappa Textile Mills	49532	0
27.	Cannanore Spg. Mills	24300	0
28.	Kerala Laxmi	41328	0
29.	Parvathi Mills	25400	180
30.	Vijaymohini	28796	0
		169856	180
<b>Maharashtra</b>			
31.	Apollo	37852	230
32.	Aurangabad	21656	0
33.	Barshi	19520	0
34.	Bharat	41584	456
35.	Chalisingaon	25664	302
36.	Dhule	40708	491
37.	Digvijay	31576	524
38.	Elphinstone	54648	935
39.	Finlay	72668	958
40.	Gold Mohur	66652	1142
41.	India United No. 1	38604	546
42.	India United No. 3	33232	523

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
43.	India United No. 5	25364	288	70.	Kalyanmal	19888	340
44.	India United No. 6	0	0	71.	New Bhopal Tex.	18600	108
45.	Indu United - 2	24336	512	72.	Swadeshi Indore	15600	108
46.	Indu United - 4					124792	1704
47.	Jam	27880	0	<b>Orissa</b>			
48.	Jupiter	59644	824	73.	Orissa Cotton	24668	0
49.	Kohinoor - 2			<b>Pondicherry</b>			
50.	Kohinoor - 3			74.	Mahe Mills	30240	0
51.	Kohinoor Mills 1	28216	192	75.	Sri Bharthi	17600	96
52.	Madusudan	95412	1534	76.	Swadeshi Cotton	23328	0
53.	Model Mill	30128	446			71168	96
54.	Mumbai	39152	649	<b>Punjab</b>			
55.	Nanded	40712	192	77.	Dayalbagh Spg. & Wvg.	18360	0
56.	New City	56260	623	78.	Kharar Textile	25220	0
57.	New Hind	33496	441	79.	Panipat Woollen	5600	48
58.	Podar Mills	45116	240	80.	Suraj Textile	19696	0
59.	Podar Process	0	0			68876	48
60.	R.B.B.A. Mills	23184	145	<b>Rajasthan</b>			
61.	R.S.R.G. Mills	13120	260	81.	Edward	19080	370
62.	Savatram Mills	14464	164	82.	Mahalaxshmi	15640	300
63.	Shree Sitaram	28360	0	83.	Shree Bijay Cotton	22172	0
64.	Tata Mills	28600	348	84.	Udaipur Cotton	25180	0
65.	Vidharbha	19000	168			82072	670
		1116808	13133	<b>Tamilnadu</b>			
	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>			85.	Balaramavarma	25376	0
66.	Bangal Nagpur	28232	568	86.	C.S. & W.	74656	0
67.	Burhanpur Tapti	7040	244	87.	Cambodia	40704	0
68.	Hira	18000	0	88.	Coimbatore Murugan	22800	96
69.	Indore Malwa	17432	336	89.	Kaleeswarar - A	31472	0

1	2	3	4
90.	Kaleeswarar - B	37664	0
91.	Kishnaveni	25148	0
92.	Omparasakthi	25448	0
93.	Pankaja	29800	0
94.	Pioneer	24624	0
95.	Somasundaram	25744	0
96.	Sri Rangavilas	42968 (Rotors)	0
97.	Sri Sarada	29960	144
		436364	336

**Uttar Pradesh**

98.	Atherton	31528	697
99.	Bijli	24800	0
100.	Laxmi Rattan	40616	819
101.	Lord Krishna	44392	307
102.	Muir	37136	1106
103.	New Victoria	30272	756
104.	Raebareli Tax	10472	0
105.	Sri Vikram	13648	0
106.	Swadeshi Kanpur	34580	864
107.	Swadeshi Mau	19992	0
108.	Swadeshi Naini	51384	0
		338820	4549

**West Bengal**

109.	Arati Cotton	21320	0
110.	Banarsi	14704	298
111.	Bengal Fine - 1	27720	0
112.	Bengal Fine - 2	12960	0
113.	Bengal Luxmi	30516	0

1	2	3	4
114.	Central Cotton	35464	534
115.	Jyoti weaving	0	160
116.	Laxminarayan	29132	0
117.	Manindra B.T.	19076	180
118.	Rampooria	24952	298
119.	Shree Mahalaxmi	15640	300
120.	Sodepore Cotton	11508	0
		242992	1770
Total		3281148	29234

**Statement-II***Number of the Mills with cessation of Activity*

Name of the State	No. of the Mills
1. Delhi	1
2. Uttar Pradesh	7
3. Madhya Pradesh	4
4. Maharashtra	2
5. Gujarat	9
6. Andhra Pradesh	5
7. Assam	1
8. Bihar	1
9. Orissa	1
10. West Bengal	10

**Agricultural Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990**

4398 SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers and rural artisans benefitted by the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990, State-wise;

(b) the total amount sanctioned and released so State-wise;

(c) the time by which the outstanding amount is likely to be released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990, Public Sector Commercial Banks had provided debt relief to 82,92,057 farmers and 13,00,543 rural artisans. Union Territory/State-wise details are given in the attached Statement-I.

State Co-operative Banks/State Land Development Banks and Regional Rural Banks had provided debt relief to 1,85,90,622 and 36,75,061 beneficiaries respectively. Union Territory/State-wise details are given in the attached statement-II. The data system of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) does not generate the details of break-up of these beneficiaries as farmers and rural artisans.

The Union Territory/State-wise details of the amount of relief granted to eligible beneficiaries under the Scheme are given in the attached Statement-III.

(c) The ARDR Scheme was a one time measure. Reserve Bank of India and NABARD have reported that all the claims have been settled as per the provisions of the Scheme.

#### Statement-I

*Statement indicating the Union Territory/State-wise number of beneficiaries provided debt relief by the public sector Commercial banks, under ARDR Scheme 1990*

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Number of beneficiaries	
		Farmers	Rural Artisans
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1052227	125724
2.	Assam	227472	35138
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3256	254
4.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2095	384
5.	Bihar	680341	141153
6.	Chandigarh	1584	94

1	2	3	4
7.	National Capital Territory Region of Delhi	10679	464
8.	Daman & Diu	175	66
9.	Gujarat	378027	81198
10.	Goa	8331	956
11.	Haryana	216012	9011
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	14783	692
13.	Karnataka	780758	79594
14.	Kerala	291776	73506
15.	Lakshadweep	34	22
16.	Mizoram	1695	426
17.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	709	548
18.	Meghalaya	13242	1328
19.	Manipur	16619	4362
20.	Maharashtra	600888	68017
21.	Madhya Pradesh	410867	66287
22.	Nagaland	10054	4854
23.	Orissa	411851	104892
24.	Pondicherry	26127	1951
25.	Punjab	178591	11302
26.	Rajasthan	459517	43254
27.	Sikkim	78649	734
28.	Himachal Pradesh	74564	16083
29.	Tamil Nadu	689216	84829
30.	Tripura	59578	11371
31.	Uttar Pradesh	77725	82796
32.	West Bengal	818106	276259
	Total	9292057	1300543

**Statement-II**

*Statement indicating the Union Territory/State-wise number of beneficiaries provided debt relief by Co-operative Banks and Regional Rural Banks under ARDR Scheme, 1990.*

No.	State/Union Territory	Number of beneficiaries		
		State Coop. Banks	State Land Devel. Banks	Regional Rural Banks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2086	-	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10087710	386229	414491
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	7509	-	1223
4.	Assam	171105	3975	126534
5.	Bihar	2162894	382757	528556
6.	Chandigarh	1696	-	-
7.	Goa	9124	-	-
8.	Gujarat	720423	118053	45821
9.	Haryana	231484	74070	67317
10.	Himachal Pradesh	165204	6670	21255
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	165354	7814	17080
12.	Karnataka	366783	115090	246951
13.	Kerala	391295	53972	66963
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1170905	128342	215895
15.	Maharashtra	1711238	268270	59824
16.	Manipur	60502	-	2878
17.	Meghalaya	54686	-	2164
18.	Mizoram	-	-	4143
19.	Nagaland	8432	-	1223
20.	National Capital Territory Region of Delhi	-	-	-
21.	Orissa	1091251	158916	376105
22.	Pondicherry	18431	563	-
23.	Punjab	226626	22524	6231

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Rajasthan	1168283	94464	290028
25.	Tamil Nadu	919735	164021	63842
26.	Tripura	81841	3354	98439
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3363256	290476	519583
28.	West Bengal	946712	73247	497957
	Total	16229915	2360707	3675061

\*No bank in the State/Union Territory.

### Statement-III

*State/Union Territory-wise amount of relief provided by commercial banks, RRBs & Cooperatives under ARDR Scheme, 1990*

(Rs. in crores)

No.	State/Union Territory	Commercial Banks	Regional Rural Banks	Cooperative Banks	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.85	—	0.09	0.94
2.	Andhra Pradesh	415.62	100.15	334.43	850.20
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.63	0.22	1.30	2.15
4.	Assam	71.53	24.16	34.43	130.12
5.	Bihar	207.14	95.53	521.62	824.29
6.	Chandigarh	0.69	—	0.31	1.00
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.13	—	—	0.13
8.	Daman & Diu	0.10	—	—	0.10
9.	Goa	2.84	—	1.29	4.13
10.	Gujarat	136.84	7.72	334.08	478.64
11.	Haryana	80.60	18.14	126.08	224.82
12.	Himachal Pradesh	20.92	3.44	30.32	54.68
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.26	5.07	31.45	40.78
14.	Karnataka	283.14	70.30	126.21	479.65
15.	Kerala	84.19	9.44	75.65	169.28

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Lakshadweep	0.03	—	—	0.03
17.	Madhya Pradesh	159.28	38.08	229.22	426.58
18.	Maharashtra	252.62	17.06	464.50	734.18
19.	Manipur	6.08	0.47	7.64	14.19
20.	Meghalaya	6.40	0.47	9.81	16.68
21.	Mizoram	0.96	1.46	0.09	2.51
22.	Nagaland	6.94	0.30	3.82	11.06
23.	National Capital Territory Region of Delhi	4.80	—	0.10	4.90
24.	Orissa	123.01	68.64	150.76	342.41
25.	Pondicherry	8.25	—	1.80	10.05
26.	Punjab	72.96	1.04	108.79	182.79
27.	Rajasthan	153.00	74.35	311.45	538.78
28.	Sikkim	2.68	—	—	2.68
29.	Tamil Nadu	217.20	11.56	272.15	500.91
30.	Tripura	12.91	13.14	12.41	38.46
31.	Uttar Pradesh	283.91	100.13	638.01	1022.05
32.	West Bengal	212.51	58.98	133.73	405.22
Total		2833.02	719.83	3961.54	7514.39

### Banks Investment in UTI

4399. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued any directives to the banks to invest in various schemes of the UTI,

(b) whether the banks have also sought the exemption of 5% investment limit from the Reserve Bank of India, and

(c) if so, the details of the banks who have decided to invest in the UTI schemes and the details of the projects on which the said amount is likely to be invested ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Banks of Baroda had specifically requested RBI for additional limit of Rs. 50 crores for investments in units of UTI. The request has been granted by RBI.

### Export of Agricultural Items

4400. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :  
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special credit package to boost farm and agricultural export,

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to the State Governments to take measures to implement the package plan for boosting agro-product; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made appropriate revision in October, 1992 in the interest rates of Pre-Shipment as well as Post-Shipment Credits. These rates have been kept under review by the RBI so that adequate credit is available to exporters at internationally competitive rates.

To make exports competitive, credit facilities under the following schemes of the RBI are extended :-

- (i) Pre-Shipment Export Credit in Foreign Currency
- (ii) Pre-Shipment Export Credit in Rupees
- (iii) Post-Shipment Export Credit in Rupee or in foreign currency
- (iv) Export Bill Rediscounting

The standing instruction from RBI requires the banks to achieve a minimum level of 12% of the Net Bank Credit to the Export Sector.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) accords priority for extending refinance support to 100% Export Oriented Projects under horticulture (including vegetables, spices and floriculture), animal husbandry and sericulture. Further, automatic refinance facility upto a limit of Rs. 10 lakhs and refinance assistance on schematic basis upto SSI limits is provided.

(c) and (d) Credit facilities available for exporters are given wide publicity and the State Governments/Financial Institutions are informed about the same by the concerned agencies.

[Translation]

#### Use of Hindi

4401. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :-

(a) whether his Ministry has modern gadgets installed such as computer, telex, teleprinting etc. which are in Roman Script and these are being converted into bilingual;

(b) if, so the manner in which these bilingual gadgets likely to be put into use by the Ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi is likely to be promoted.

(d) whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their offices located in Region 'A' where work has to be done cent per cent in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such an exemption ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Ministry of Coal is using the bilingual computers installed by National Informatics Centre. This Ministry is not using any Telex/Teleprinters at present.

(b) and (c) Stenographers and typists duly trained in Hindi have been deployed to operate the bilingual computers and to take out print-outs in Hindi and English, as per requirement. The availability of these bilingual gadgets promotes the quick production of materials in Hindi and thereby, its use, timely, properly, and as per set targets

(d) No Sir. Every year the Ministry circulates the Department of Office Language's 'Annual Programme' to all the offices, located in region 'A' and also requests them to achieve the targets laid down by the O.L. Department

(e) In view of reply on (d), question does not arise

[English]

#### Control on the use of World Bank Loan

4402. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :  
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister for the STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the World Bank has started a giant audit exercise known as across the board review to cross-check on how India is using loan money;

(b) if so, the details of the exercise currently underway at Central and State level and present status of the progress made;

(c) whether such exercise is routine or initiated during the current year to exercise effective control on appropriate use of World Bank Loan;

(d) the details of the emerging trend in utilisation of World Bank Loan in India for development projects sector-wise and state-wise; and

(e) the details of follow up action taken on the common shortcomings noticed in the past in utilisation of World Bank Loan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) As compared to the year 1994-95 the utilisation in World Bank aided projects in the Agriculture, Water Supply & Sanitation, Power Transport & Telecommunication and Urban Development sectors has shown improvement in the year 1995-96. As far as States are concerned Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have shown better performance during the same period.

(e) The Government has already taken a number of steps to further improve project implementation. These include ensuring adequate provisioning for external aided projects, release of Additional Central Assistance as 100% additionality, advance release of ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediation on flow of external aid to Central PSUs, Portfolio Rationalisation and setting up of project Monitoring Unit in the Department of Economic Affairs.

#### Irregularities in P.F.

4403. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of irregularities are observed in the Centrally maintained Provident Fund Accounts of employees in Indian Overseas Bank at its Central Office, Madras;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of total amount lying as on December 31, 1996 uncredited/un-reconciled in Sundry Creditors relating to Provident Fund of large number of employees; and

(d) the reasons thereof and the steps taken by Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Indian Overseas Bank has reported that there are no such irregularities and no amount of Provident Fund of employees is lying in Sundry Creditors Accounts. However, Provident fund remittances of staff mostly relating to the months of September, 1996 to December, 1996 amounting to approximately Rs. 10.94 crores was in the process of re-conciliation and subsequent credit as on 31.12.96. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 6.03 crores has already been re-conciled and credited. The bank has further reported that the delay in re-conciliation is because of the routine time

lag needed for receipt of credits from 1450 branches all over the country and checking 26,000 credits (approximately) before crediting the correct amounts. The bank has added that it is their endeavour to reduce such delays.

[Translation]

#### Export of Textiles

4404. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of cotton exported out of the total production of cotton in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether more foreign exchange can be earned by exporting yarn cloth and readymade garments than that of cotton only

(c) if so, the estimate in this regard and whether the Government have contemplated any policy to discourage the export of cotton and encourage the export of products made from it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :  
(a) The percentage of cotton exported out of the total production of cotton during the last three years is given below :

Year	%
1993-94	3.20
1994-95	0.78
1995-96	7.36

(b) to (d) While it is generally advantageous to export value added items such as yarn, cloth, made-ups and garments, export of cotton is allowed only when there is likely availability of surplus cotton after taking into consideration all relevant factors, including estimates of production, availability, requirements for domestic consumption, price trend of cotton, etc. The Government tries to balance the interests of the cotton growers as well as the consuming sectors. The ceiling for exports of cotton yarn below 41s counts was raised from 80 million Kg. to 120 million Kg. in 1996.

[English]

#### Smuggling of Gold

4405. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the policy in regard to import of Gold and measures initiated to check gold smuggling;

(b) if so, the details of the emerging trend over the last three years and results thereof;

(c) the estimated gold smuggled during the last three years;

(d) the details regarding projection of demand for the gold for the next five years; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to meet the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently reviewed the policy in regard to import of gold by issue of Notification No. 1/97-Cus dated 1/1/97 which increased the eligibility of returning NRIs to bring in gold from 5 kgs. to 10 kgs. This has resulted in reduction in smuggling as can be seen from the trend of seizure of smuggled gold. While the seizure in 1992 was 5 tonnes; the seizure in the last three years is about 1 tonne in a year.

(c) It has been estimated by some private agencies that quantity of gold smuggled into the country during the last three years is as under :

1994	118 tonnes
1995	130 tonnes
1996	105 tonnes

(d) and (e) The demand for gold in the country is generally expected to rise at the rate of 20% per annum and it is expected that the steps taken to permit increased import through NRIs and Special Import Licence would meet the same.

#### **Bogus Business in LIC**

4406. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are irregularities in the offices of LIC and bogus business is being done;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received from public and M.Ps in this regard;

(c) the details of the investigations made and result thereof; and

(d) the action taken against those who are found responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Government have, from time to time, been receiving complaints regarding irregularities in the business carried on by LIC, including complaints of bogus business. The matter has also been raised in Parliament from time to time. Following a short duration discussion in Rajya Sabha on 26.8.95 on the subject of high lapsation and bogus policies in LIC, the Government appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri A.V. Ganesan, former Commerce Secretary to Govt. of India, to look into the alleged mal-practices and fake or bogus business in LIC. The findings of the Committee indicate that there does not seem to be a major reason or motivation for large number of LIC employees to indulge in the Sale of bogus policies. The Committee concluded that, based on the available data and on a broad judgement, about 3% of the total number of one crore policies currently being issued by LIC in a year are likely to entail malpractices of one kind or the other.

The complaints received by the Government from time to time, are taken up with LIC. LIC has also informed that the complaints received by it are examined and if warranted, disciplinary proceedings are launched against the concerned persons. During 1995-96, 22 such cases from public were registered for complaints of bogus insurance involving 9 agents, 13 Development Officers and 7 Class I Officers. As a result of the disciplinary proceeding in the above cases, agency of one agent has been terminated, one agent has been issued a warning and 6 Development Officers have been cautioned so far.

#### **NABARD Loan to improve Roads and Bridges**

4407. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had submitted a proposal to NABARD seeking loan to undertake projects aimed at improving roads and bridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the balance loan requested for is being released to Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that Government of Karnataka had submitted several proposals seeking loan assistance under Rurral Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-II for projects relating to roads and bridges in various districts of the State. The details of sanctions made by NABARD are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned
Rural Roads	119	70.54
Rural Bridges	126	51.32

(c) and (d) NABARD has reported that RIDF loans are released on reimbursement basis, as and when the claims are received from the State Government on expenditure incurred by it. As per phasing indicated at the time of sanction, the funds are to be released over a period of three years as indicated below :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount
1996-97	10.50
1997-98	90.30
1998-99	21.06

NABARD has further reported that the State Government is yet to draw the amount during the current year.

#### Excise Duty Benefit to Consumers

4408. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government to ensure that the benefit of reduction in excise and customs duty is extended to the consumers by the manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) whether lack of response on the part of manufacturers in passing such benefits to consumers have been noticed during the above period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such manufacturers; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of consumers in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The prices of commodities are generally determined by market forces and depend on a multiplicity of factors, of which duty of excise or customs is only one. The Government have not made any detailed study of the extent to which the reduction in excise and customs duties offered in the budgets has been passed on to the consumers.

There is no legal mechanism to ensure reduction in price to the extent of reduction in duty of excise or customs, where there is no price control. However, to protect the interest of consumers, Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has taken the following actions :-

- (i) the industry associations were persuaded to pass on the benefits of duty concessions voluntarily to the consumers.
- (ii) letters were addressed to the Chief Ministers of the State/UTs to ensure that the benefits of duty concessions were passed on to the consumers.

#### Biological Wealth

4409. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Large-scale biopiracy going on in NE" appearing in the 'Assam Tribune', dated February 25, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the orchids alongwith other biological wealth of the North-East out of which European Floriculture companies are earning huge income in comparison to the Indian companies;

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

(e) the steps taken/being taken to curb biopiracy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the news item it was stated that the wealth of India's forests and fields, its rich biodiversity, is being plundered by foreign companies and their agents.

(c) and (d) Government has no evidence of this. However, exports of all items of plants included in Appendix I and Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), wild orchid, and certain other plants, plant portions and their derivatives are prohibited.

(e) A national legislation on biodiversity is under preparation which includes regulating access to and transfer of genetic material of the country.

#### WTO Meeting in Geneva

4410. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of the issues

discussed and the outcome of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) panel meeting held in Geneva recently ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : It is presumed that the question pertains to the consultations resumed by the Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) with India at Geneva on 20.21 January 1997.

During these consultations, the Committee took note of the positive developments in India's economic situation since 1995. The Committee welcomed the Indian authorities' continued commitment to economic reform and liberalisation and noted India's progressive removal of quantitative restrictions notified under Article XVIII : B of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994. The Committee agreed to resume the consultations in the week beginning 2 June 1997. The purpose of the consultations would be to consider a plan, which the Committee invited India to present to eliminate the measures notified under Article XVIII : B and to conclude the consultations consistently with all relevant balance of payments provisions. It was noted by the Committee that in drawing up its plan, India will give due consideration to the interests of WTO Members in a balanced manner.

[Translation]

#### Loans for Co-operative Spinning Mills

4411. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of co-operative spinning mills in the country which are proposed to be provided financial assistance through Central Financial Institutions in the form of long-term loans; and

(b) the time likely to be taken by the financial institutions for sanctioning long-term loans to co-operative spinning mills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that in view of the large incidence of defaults by co-operative spinning mills to financial institutions (FIs), FIs have taken a decision that application for financial assistance for new co-operative spinning mills could be considered only after dues in respect of existing co-operative spinning mills are cleared by the units or respective State Governments who have guaranteed the loans.

IDBI has further reported that except Maharashtra, no other State has approached FIs for assistance to set up co-operative spinning mills. The Government of Maharashtra had advised the IDBI that 50 co-operative spinning mills would be set up in the State of Maharashtra during Eighth plan period. Of these, 14 have so far approached IDBI and 20 have approached Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI) for assistance. No assistance has been sanctioned by FIs so far, as it was felt by them that there was no scope for such a large capacity. In view of greater emphasis on exports, FIs have been giving preference to export oriented units promoted by persons with experience in the line and envisaging installation of most modern equipment to ensure production of yarn of international standard. The working of the existing co-operative mills has been generally unsatisfactory and they have large overdues of FIs. IDBI has advised the Government of Maharashtra to clear the overdues of existing co-operative spinning mills and strengthen their organisational set up.

[English]

#### Export and production of Cashew

4412. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :  
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the production and export of cashew during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the cashew growers and exporters have been demanding more incentive to increase the production of cashew;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received any request to extend the (OGL) facility to the cashew exporters;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken to increase the production and to promote the export of cashew during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The production and export of cashew during each of the last three years have been as under :-

Year	Production of raw cashewnut (Metric Tons)* (Estimates)	Export of Cashew Kernels***	
		Quantity in Metric Tons	Value in Rs. Crores
1994-95	3,48,150	69832	1045.31
1994-95	3,21,640	76900	1241.97
1995-96	4,17,830	97792	1231.07

(Source :

Directorate of Cashew Development, Cochin

\*\*DGCI&S, Calcutta.)

(b) to (f) The domestic production of raw cashewnuts is inadequate to meet the requirements of the processing industry and in response to the demand from the industry to increase the production, various development schemes have been sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture. Further, import of raw cashewnuts is freely allowed without any restrictions. The programmes on new plantation development and replanting of old and senile plants with clones of high yielding varieties, implemented during the Eighth Five Year Plan will be extended in 1997-98 alongwith adequate resources for transfer of technology to the farmers through training, demonstration and aid literatures etc.

Export of cashew is freely allowed without any restrictions. The steps taken to increase exports of cashew include : participation in international fairs abroad; arranging buyer-seller meets; publicity campaigns in the overseas markets and dissemination of information on quality requirements of the overseas buyers to Indian exporters.

#### Trade Agreement with South African Countries

4413. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bilateral trade between India and South Africa has been growing at an extremely impressive rate since the lifting of the sanctions against the South Africa in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the value of the trade between these two countries during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) whether any trade agreement has been signed between India and South Africa during the visit of Deputy President of South Africa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Year-wise details of trade between India and South Africa for the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till Dec. 1996) are given below :-

	(Rs./Crores)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Till Dec. 1996)
Export	500.08	1113.71	892.18
Import	494.81	811.79	765.65

(Source : DGCI&S Calcutta)

(c) and (d) A Trade Agreement between India and South Africa was signed on 22nd Aug., 1994 at Johannesburg. The Agreement provides for grant of Most Favoured Nation status by each country to the other in all matters of import and export licences, customs duties and all other charges and taxes applicable to importation and exportation and transit of goods as well as grant of all advantages, favours, privileges/immunities.

#### Trade Tie-up with China and Russia

4414 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Confederation of Indian Industry has suggested that efforts between India, Russia and China can evolve a powerful economic axis;

(b) if so, whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has called for constituting a High Power Working Group consisting of representatives of the Government and Industry to look into the prospects of cooperation and identification of modalities;

(c) if so, whether the Government have accepted the suggestion made by the Confederation of the Industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the Government have agreed to have China, Russia and India Trade tie-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No formal proposal from confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in the matter has been received by the Ministry of Commerce.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Sericulture**

4415. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts in Maharashtra where the National Sericulture Project is going on;

(b) the quantity of silk produced during 1996-97, till date, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of silk ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) The National Sericulture Project which has closed on 31.12.1996, was implemented in the Akola and Buldana districts of Maharashtra.

(b) A statement showing the latest figures of State-wise production of raw silk during 1996-97 (Upto September, 1996) is attached as statement.

(c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments for the development of sericulture, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has established a country-wide network of R&D, extension & training units for the propagation of improved races, technologies and sericulture practices evolved/introduced by the Board's research institutes for improving the productivity and quality of silk. The CSB is also providing assistance in the form of training of functionaries, supply of mulberry cuttings, silkworm seed etc. to the States to expand sericulture. Besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericulture projects like Poorvanchal Project in U.P., Action Plan for seven States of North Eastern region etc. in association/collaboration with the States.

**Statement**

*Latest figures of State-wise production of Raw Silk during 1996-97 (Upto September, 1996)*

(in Tonnes)

State	Production of Raw Silk
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	880.000
Assam	265.670
Arunachal Pradesh	5.373

1	2
Bihar	94.700
Gujarat	0.067
Himachal Pradesh	1.610
Haryana	0.202
Jammu & Kashmir	3.502
Karnataka	3441.000
Kerala	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	14.510
Maharashtra	0.350
Manipur	103.900
Mizoram	0.067
Meghalaya	99.000
Nagaland	19.285
Orissa	7.750
Punjab	Nil
Rajasthan	0.110
Sikkim	Nil
Tamil Nadu	370.420
Tripura	1.200
Uttar Pradesh	4.490
West Bengal	500.00
Total	5813.206

**Share of SSI in Export**

4416. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the share of small scale industrial sector in comparison to the organised sector in export during each of the last three years as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Sir, Trade data compiled by DGCI&S does not indicate exports by Small Scale Sector separately. However, the Office of Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries have

indicated that total exports from Small Scale Sector as Rs. 25307.09 crores in 1993-94, as Rs. 29068.15 crores in 1994-95 and as Rs. 36470.22 crores in 1995-96. These work out to 36.28%, 35.16% and 34.26% of total exports of the country on the basis of DGCI&S data.

[English]

#### Posts of Judges in the High Courts.

4417. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are maintaining any ratio in regard to the population of a State and the number of judges to be provided for the High Court of that State;

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

(c) the present ratio of population in the High Courts of different States;

(d) whether any suggestions have been made by the

Law Commission in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fixing the judge strength of a High Court, institution and pendency of cases is considered to be more relevant a criterion than the population it serves.

(c) A statement showing the requisite information is attached.

(d) & (e) Taking into consideration the requirement of Judges in all cadres vis-a-vis the population, in 1987, the 11th Law Commission, in its 120th Report, inter-alia, recommended that the then strength of 10.5 Judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population.

#### Statement

S.No.	High Court	Jurisdiction	Approved Judge Strength	Total Population served (1991 Census)	Population served by each post of Judge
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	77	13,91,12,287	18,06,653
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	39	06,65,08,008	17,05,334
3.	Bombay	Maharashtra, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	60	08,03,47,043	13,39,117
4.	Calcutta	West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	50	06,83,58,626	13,67,172
5.	Delhi	Delhi	33	94,20,644	2,85,474
6.	Gauhati	Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh	19	03,15,7,314	16,60,385
7.	Gujarat	Gujarat	42	04,13,09,532	9,83,561
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	8	51,70,877	6,46,359
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir	11	77,18,700	7,01,700

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Karnataka	Karnataka	40	04,49,77,201	11,24,430
11.	Kerala	Kerala, Lakshdweep	29	02,91,50,225	10,05,180
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	35	06,61,81,170	18,90,890
13.	Madras	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	42	05,66,66,731	13,49,208
14.	Orissa	Orissa	16	03,16,59,736	19,78,733
15.	Patna	Bihar	39	08,63,74,465	22,14,729
16.	Punjab & Haryana	Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh	40	03,73,87,632	9,34,690
17.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	32	04,40,06,000	13,75,188
18.	Sikkim	Sikkim	3	04,06,457	1,35,485

### Singarani Collieries Limited

4418 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take over Singarani Collieries Limited;

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

(c) whether Singarani Collieries Limited is incurring heavy losses.

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make it profitable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Singarani Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is already a Government Company. It is a joint venture of Government of Andhra Pradesh holding 51% of the share capital and Government of India holding 49% of the share capital.

(c) and (d) SCCL earned profit of Rs. 16.26 crores and Rs. 25 crores in 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively. However, the company incurred a loss of Rs. 191 crores in 1995-96 due to the following reasons

(i) There were two major strikes by workers spread over 40 days during April-May, 1995 and

October-November, 1995 demanding early wage settlement as per National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA)-V. The strikes caused a production loss of 3.30 Million Tonnes in 1995-96.

(ii) Almost all the production of SCCL is of D,E,F & G grades on non-coking coal. Out of these grades, the price of only grade D non-coking coal has been deregulated in March, 1997. The prices of administered grades of coal were last revised in June, 1994. Owing to the non revision of prices of administered grades due in June 1995 and June 1996, the company was not able to neutralise escalation in input costs and impact of NCWA-V agreement with revised dearness allowance pattern. The impact of NCWA-V during 1995-96 alone was Rs. 82 crores.

(e) In March, 1997 the Government have deregulated the price of D grade of non-coking coal and allowed SCCL to fix the prices of E, F and G grades of non-coking coal every six months till January, 2000 by updating the cost indices as per the escalation formula contained in the 1987 report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. The Government have also decided to deregulate the prices of E, F and G grades of non-coking coal after 1st January, 2000.

It is expected with the implementation of the above decisions the company will earn profits.

### Sale of Uptron

4419. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has ordered for sale of Uptron;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether BIFR has asked Industrial Financial Corporation of India (IFCI) to start the privatisation process and finalise the same by March 31, 1997;

(d) whether an advertisement for the sale of Uptron has failed to draw a proper response;

(e) the total loss suffered by Uptron so far and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether 3000 employees employed in Uptron will be thrown out of employment and will have to face starvation;

(g) whether the employees have protested against the closure of the company; and

(h) if so, the action being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (h) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that according to the information furnished by the company at the time of its registration with BIFR, the number of workers in the company for the purpose of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) is 1235. The representatives of the employees who attended the hearings of the case had assured their support and co-operation for the revival of the company. BIFR in its hearing held on 29th January, 1997 directed the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI), the Operating Agency (OA), to issue an advertisement in newspapers inviting take over-cum-revival proposals for the company. Based on the evaluation of the proposals that might be received in this regard, OA has been directed to submit a rehabilitation report within 10 weeks. The company's case will be decided by the BIFR in terms of the provisions of SICA on the basis of the report of the O.A.

(d) IFCI has reported that, as per directions of BIFR, it has issued advertisements in the newspapers on 28.02.1997 and 04.03.1997 inviting take over-cum-

revival proposals for the company, stipulating a period of four weeks for submission of proposals. IFCI has reported that no formal proposal has been received so far by it.

(e) IFCI has reported that as per the provisional accounts of the company as on 31.03.1996, the total accumulated losses were estimated at Rs. 197 crore as against the paid-up share capital and reserves aggregating Rs. 56.42 crore. IFCI has further reported that the profitability of the company has declined mainly due to factors such as non-planned expansion/diversification, excess man power and high overheads, shrinking market share and high finance cost/interest burden resulting in continuous cash losses.

#### Externally Aided Projects in Karnataka

4420. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the projects being implemented in Karnataka with external assistance and locations thereof;

(b) the amount released by the Union Government and the State Government of Karnataka for these projects;

(c) the time schedule fixed for completion of these projects, project-wise;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any more proposals for seeking financial assistance from international agencies for certain development projects in Karnataka;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As per the attached Statement I.

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

(c) As per the attached Statement-I

(d) to (e) As per the attached Statement-II.

**Statement-I***Details of Externally aided projects being implemented in Karnataka*

S.No.	Donor	Name of the Project	Location	Closing Date
1	2	3	4	5
1.	OPEC	Raichur District Hospital	Raichur District	31.12.98
2.	Kuwait Fund	Kalindi Hydro Electric Pjt. II	Kadra District	31.03.97
3.	WB	Upper Knshna Phase II	About 1,50,000 ha. on the Krishna's left bank, near the confluence of Bheema River.	31.12.96
4.	WB	Karnataka Rural Water Supply	Bangalore (Rural), Mandya, Mysore, Shimoga, Dakshina Kannada, Bidar, Belgaum, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bellary.	31.12.99
5.	WB	Hydrology Project	Almost entire State.	31.3.02
6.	WB	State Health Phase II	All districts of Karnataka.	30.9.01
7.	Denmark	Women & Youth Trg. Extn. II	All districts except Bidar.	30.6.97
8.	Denmark	Watershed development Ph. I	Dharwad	31.3.97
9.	Denmark	Integrated Rural Sanitation & Water Supply Ph II	Chitradurga Kolar, Bijapur	30.9.00
10.	Switzerland	Indo-Swiss Participative Watershed Development	Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bijapur, Chitradurga	31.3.98
11.	Japan	Raichur T.P. Station Expansion	Raichur Town	30.6.97
12.	Japan	Mysore Paper Mills Modernization	Bhadrawati	31.1.99
13.	Japan	Bangalore Water Supply & Sewarage	Bangalore	26.3.04
14.	UK	Western Ghats Forestry	Uttar Kannada & Shimoga Circle	31.3.99
15.	ADB	Karnataka Urban Infrastructure	Channanapatna, Mysore, Tumkur, Ramanagaram	30.6.02
16.	ADB	Road Improvement	Ankola-Hubli Road.	31.3.97
17.	ADB	Ind Road Improvement	Bangalore - Karnataka/Tamil Nadu Border Section of NH7	31.12.98
18.	Germany	Dev. of Secondary Level Hospitals	Gulbarga Division.	31.12.02
19.	Germany	Watershed Development	Kolar, Mandya Hassan District	31.12.02

1	2	3	4	5
20	Netherland	Karnataka Rural Water Supply	71 villages in Dharwad & Bijapur Districts.	31.3.99
21.	Netherland	Tungabhadra Irrigation Pilot Project II	Sindhaur	28.2.98
22.	Netherland	Bangalore Urban Poverty I	Bangalore	31.10.97
23.	WB	Tech. Education I	Cities of Bangalore, Dharwar, Mangalore, Belgaum, Mysore, Hassan, Bhadrawathi, Gulbarga	31.12.97

### Statement-II

The details of the proposals received from Karnataka for seeking financial assistance from international agencies/countries are as follows

S.No.	Name of the Project	Posed to
1	2	3
1.	varah under Ground Power House Additional Units 3 & 4	Kuwait Fund
2.	Rural Women's Dev & Empowerment	WB
3.	Watershed Development	WB
4.	Upgradation of State roads	WB
5.	Watershed Development Project II	Denmark
6.	Varah H.E. Pjt II	Japan
7.	4 Laning of Nelimgala-Tumkur Road	Japan
8.	Improvement of Roads in Karnataka	Japan
9.	Water Supply Schemes for 19 towns	Japan
10.	Integrated Development of Hampi	Japan
11.	Karnataka Watershed development	UK
12.	Karnataka West Coast Environment Protection	ADB
13.	Urban Development Project	ADB
14.	Programme Loan for Reforms in Power/Transport Sector	ADB

1	2	3
15.	Hazardous Waste, Karnataka	Germany
16.	Watershed Dev. & Soil Conservation In North Kannada	Germany
17.	Mysore Paper Mill III	Netherland

(f) The proposals are at various stages of consideration.

[English]

### Merger of Financial Institutions

4421. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to merge the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India with Shipping Credit and Investment Corporation of India;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued from this merger ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd (ICICI) and SCICI Ltd. (SCICI) are public limited companies incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, ICICI has informed that as per the procedures prescribed under the Companies Act, the merger has to be approved by the shareholders and confirmed by the High Court. As the Government of India does not hold any share capital in ICICI or SCICI, the question of Government proposing merger of SCICI Ltd. with ICICI does not arise.

(c) ICICI has reported that the major benefit accruing from the proposed merger are as follows

- (i) The merger would result in a larger size of the balance sheet and broader capital base which would enable ICICI taking up higher exposures in projects;
- (ii) It would also result in a stronger position for ICICI to access resources at competitive rates by leveraging the enhanced capital base;
- (iii) Consolidation of operations and better manpower utilisation would result in lower operating costs, and would enhance shareholders value.

#### Patkai Coal Range

4422. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated coal reserve in the Patkai ranges of the North-East and its contribution in the total coal reserve of the country;

(b) the quality of the coal so far as sulphur and heat contents are concerned as compared to the other coalfields;

(c) the total depth of the coal reserve and the percentage of its extractable by opencast mining in the Patkai range; and

(d) the quantity of coal being extracted in Patkai range by underground mining and opencast mining at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) The estimated coal reserves in the Patkai range of North East are 0.4 billion tonnes. These reserves constituting 0.2% of the country's total coal reserves of 204.66 billion tonnes as on 1.1.1997 contain sulphur content ranging from 1.3% to 9.8% and Calorific Value 4680-8500 K. Cal/Kg.

(c) As per exploration done till date in Patkai range, the depth of occurrence of the coal reserves in Patkai range is generally 300 metres except in the case of Makum coalfield where the reserves are known to occur upto a depth of 600 metres. Due to steep inclination of coal seams and hilly terrain, the percentage of coal extractable by opencast mining of total Patkai range reserves is around 6%.

(d) During the year 1995-96, underground production in Makum and Dilli-Jeypore coalfields of Patkai range has been of the order of 3,00,155 tonnes. The opencast production in Makum coalfield during the period has been of the order of 5,21,418 tonnes.

#### Private Coal Companies

4423. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that coal fields were nationalised on account of the collous flouting of basic safety and environmental standard by private companies;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that in future private companies may not resort to above practices;

(c) whether the Government are also aware that the major impediment in the transport of coal from the mines is inadequate and insufficient services of the Railways;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove the above impediments; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to immune the private companies from land acquisition related litigation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. This indeed was one of the factors.

(b) The Government have, subject to legislative changes, decided to offer new coal blocks to Indian companies, both in the public and private sector on the basis of competitive bidding. Such companies in the private sector will also be bound to follow the same safety and environmental regulations as applicable to the nationalised coal companies at present.

(c) and (d) It is a fact that due to the mis-match between production and transport capacities in some of the coal producing areas, the nationalised coal companies do face difficulties to move all the coal produced. Ministry of Coal and coal companies are, however taking steps to improve despatches by rail in coordination with the Railways. Steps are also constantly taken to upgrade and improve the infrastructure for evacuation of coal produced by the coal companies.

(e) The land acquisition by the private coal companies will be done under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act of the State Governments as per the powers provided to them by Entry 18 of the State List of the Constitution.

[Translation]

### Discriminatory Policy on Indian Items

4424. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :  
JUSTICE SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA .  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Exports Face Discrimination in 69 nations.

(b) if so, the details of those countries which have adopted discriminatory policy on the import of Indian goods alongwith the details of such items/products and the reasons therefor.

(c) whether the pressure is being brought by World Trade Organisation to open Indian Market for foreign products, and

(d) if so the reaction of the Government in this regard and the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), 69 countries including 21 developed countries discriminate against Indian exports. The products of export mentioned by FIEO include textile and leather goods, packaging, pharmaceuticals, cars, shrimps, meat and flowers.

According to FIEO there is a discrimination by way of high tariffs imposed by certain countries, preferential arrangements under Regional Trading Arrangements, protection of health and environment and standards and technical regulations in force in the country of import. Most of these are seen to be consistent with the relevant GATT/WTO Agreements. If there is inconsistency, we have the right to approach the WTO dispute settlement mechanism for redressal which we have already done in a few cases.

(c) and (d) At the consultations held by the Committee on Balance-of-Payments-Restrictions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) with India in January 1997 under Article-XVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994, major developed countries were of the view that the present balance of payments situation did not warrant a continuation of import restrictions under the cover

of balance of payments provisions of Article-XVIII. They were of the view that India could protect its domestic industry through appropriate tariffs. The Indian delegation had pressed the argument that while the monetary resources position might appear to be satisfactory, there was need for caution and that certain areas of concern had to be taken into account. The Committee on Balance of Payments has postponed consultation to the week commencing 2nd June and has invited India to present a phase-out plan at the resumed consultation.

[English]

### Establishment of Industrial Township

4425 SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for setting up of small industrial townships throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such industrial town ships that exist in the country at present; and

(d) the State-wise number of such Industrial townships proposed to be set up in near future ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### Seizure of contrab and goods

4426. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the value of contraband goods including narcotics seized by Customs authorities at Calicut and Trivandram airports in Kerala during 1995-96 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : The value of contraband goods seized by Customs authorities at Calicut and Trivandram Airport in Kerala during 1995-96 is as under :-

Airport	Value of seizure (Rs. in lakhs)
Trivandram	981.80
Calicut	742.86

No case of narcotics seizure was effected during this period

### Japanese Bank

4427. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether five Japanese banks have recently applied to the Indian Government for setting up banks in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Import Tariffs

4428. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister for the state in the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank is pressuring India to reduce the import tariffs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of reduction in import tariff on revenue collections; and

(d) the alternate sources of revenue on account of lower tariffs on imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Policy making is the sovereign right of the Government of India and there is no question of the World Bank or any other external agency exerting pressure on the Government of India to accept its suggestions. However, World Bank in its Country Economic Memorandum 1996 has indicated that it will be important for India to continue to lower tariffs to be able to compete with the more open economies of East Asia, Latin America and the emerging European former socialist economies and also to provide a stronger foundation to India's growth process.

### ADB Loan for Economic Reforms in Gujarat

4429. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question no. 1173 dated the February 28, 1997 regarding ADB loan to Gujarat and state :

(a) whether the said programme is likely to be implemented in some other States of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, statewise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Asian Development Bank is exploring the possibilities of assisting some of the other States through reform based lending. The States and programme content will be known after these are firmed up by the ADB.

### Mahila Courts in U.P.

4430. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the number of Mahila Courts set up in Uttar Pradesh, locationwise during the last three years to deal with the cases related to crimes against women ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Statutory Auditors

4431. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to take comprehensive examination of the role of statutory auditors in banks;

(b) whether a number of guidelines have been issued to various banks in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a number of conditions have been imposed that the current auditors should directly report to the Central Bank the shortcomings in compliance by the banks; and

(e) if so, to what extent this directive has been implemented by the banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that in terms of guidelines issued by RBI, banks have been instructed to ask auditors to verify, as part of statutory audit of banks, compliance with SLR requirements under Section 24 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 on 12 odd dates in different months spread over the entire year not being

Fridays and report thereon separately both to the top management of the bank and to the RBI. Banks have also been asked to instruct the auditors to give certificates to be submitted to RBI to the effect that (i) the treasury operations of the bank have been conducted in accordance with the instructions issued by RBI from time to time and (ii) the income recognition, asset classification and provisioning have been done as per the guidelines issued by RBI from time to time.

(d) and (e) RBI have informed that statutory auditors are also required to report as soon as the audit work is completed to the management of the bank as well as to the RBI any serious irregularities noticed in the bank's working which requires immediate attention. All conditions in this regard are incorporated by banks in the appointment letters issued to statutory auditors and certificates are furnished by auditors of banks.

#### **Permission to CBI to Investigate Fraud Cases**

4432. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bank fraud probes: CBI unhappy with fetters" appearing in the Observer dated January 21, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported thereon;

(c) the details regarding the cases of reported financial irregularities/frauds in which CBI has sought permission from the New Competent Authority in the Finance Ministry with present status of these cases; and

(d) the reaction of the CBI to the new arrangement proposed and the steps proposed to ensure effective coordination among Government agencies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (d) Government have seen the news item referred to in the Question. The Government have not curtailed the powers of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The Single Directive as amended from time to time has been issued after taking into account the views of the Central Bureau of Investigation. The Single Directive provides that in regard to decision making level officers (Joint Secretary or equivalent or above), the prior sanction of the Secretary of the Ministry/Department concerned should be obtained before CBI takes up any enquiry (Preliminary Enquiry or Regular Case) including ordering search in respect of such

officers. The procedure is applicable in the case of decision making level officers of the Central Government or such officers as are or have been on deputation to Public Sector Undertakings; Board level officers in Public Sector Undertakings; Officers of the Reserve Bank of India of the level equivalent to Joint Secretary or above in the Central Government, Executive Directors and above of the Securities Exchange Board of India and Chairman and Managing Directors (CMDs) and Executive Directors as well as such of the Bank officers who are one level below the Board in Nationalised Banks. This provision in the Single Directive has been made to ensure that the honest officers at the decision making level are protected against unnecessary investigation while the corrupt and guilty are punished.

In The news item a reference has been made to registration of a case by CBI against former CMD, Indian Bank relating to sanction of overdraft to M/s. Arun Builders by Indian Bank. In this case, CBI had requested in September 1995 concurrence of the Finance Ministry for registration of a Preliminary Enquiry against former CMD, Indian Bank. The request was considered in consultation with RBI and permission was granted by the Government on 20.12.1995 for registration of a Preliminary Enquiry. CBI accordingly registered the Preliminary Enquiry on 30.1.1996.

After the recent amendments in the Single Directive in December 1996, two references have been received from CBI seeking the concurrence of the Finance Ministry for registration of two Regular Cases in respect of top executives of two nationalised banks. Necessary action for considering the request of the CBI has been initiated in these cases.

#### **De-Valuation of rupee**

4433. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been devaluation of rupee during the last three years;

(b) if so, the dates on which rupee has been devalued and the extent of increase in the amount of foreign debt as a result thereof on each occasion; and

(c) the future plans of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The exchange rate of the rupee is market determined

since March, 1993 and hence the term 'devaluation' has lost its usefulness. However, the rupee has depreciated by 9.07% between 31.3.93 and 31.3.96 against the US dollar.

(b) and (c) External debt is incurred, denominated and serviced in terms of foreign currencies. Therefore the amount of debt in terms of foreign currencies remains unaffected by movements in the exchange rate of the rupee vis-a-vis foreign currencies.

### Export-Import Bank of India

4434. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a persistent demand for setting up of a bank branch of Export-Import Bank of India (Exim) at Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has reported that it has not received any request for setting up of Exim Bank's branch at Guwahati.

(b) Does not arise.

### Decline in Industrial Licences

4435. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of conversion of letter of intent into industrial licence and filling of industrial entrepreneurs memorandum have been declined during 1996;

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

(c) the number of letter of intent and industrial entrepreneurs memorandum registered during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the position of industrial licences likely to be issued during 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The following table shows the number of conversion of letters of intent into Industrial Licences, Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued and the Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEMs) filed from 1994 to 1996 :

	1994	1995	1996
Conversion of letters of intent into Industrial Licences	125	83	90
Letters of Intent issued	546	355	522
IEMs filed	4664	6502	4825

(d) Letters of Intent are valid for a period of three years during which these need to be converted into Industrial Licence. It takes generally 4 to 5 years for an Industrial Project to fructify. However, the gestation period varies from Industry to Industry.

[Translation]

### Export of Synthetic Yarn

4436. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of synthetic yarn from Maharashtra has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the said decline; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing the export of synthetic yarn ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) State-wise export statistics are not maintained. However, India's overall exports of synthetic and blended yarn have increased from Rs. 232 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 678 crores in 1995-96.

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

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports of textile items, including synthetic yarn, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

### Production of Coal

4437. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal mines under Coal India Ltd;

(b) the target fixed for production of coal in those

mines during Eighth Plan:

- (c) whether the production target has been achieved;
- (d) if not, the real position; and
- (e) the steps are being taken to increase the off take of coal from different coal mines under CIL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The number of working coal mines under Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 1.1.1997 is 502.

(b) to (d) The yearwise targets and actual production of coal so far during the VIII Plan period are given below :

(In million tonnes)

Year	Target	Actual production
1992-93	210.00	211.22
1993-94	216.00	216.10
1994-95	223.00	223.07
1995-96	241.00	237.28
1996-97	252.00	222.43*

\*(Provisional production figure upto February, 1997)

(e) The following steps are being taken by CIL to increase the off-take of coal from different coal mines of the company

- (i) maintaining continuous coordination with the railways in order to maximise supply of railway wagons and wagon loading of coal;
- (ii) increasing the number of coal handling plants and upgrading their efficiency to improve the rapid loading system.
- (iii) increasing the number of pay loaders and improving their efficiency.
- (iv) maintaining close liaison with the linked consumers for maximising off-take of coal

#### Indirect Tax Collection

4438 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether indirect tax collection fell short of the targets set therefor during 1996;

(b) if so, the budget estimate for target set and to what extent it has fallen short;

(c) the main reasons for short fall and the steps the Government propose to take to improve the tax collections; and

(d) to what extent programme are being made to improve the exports during the remaining period of the current year and also during 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Revised Budget Estimates of customs and Union excise duties (exclusive of cesses not administered by the Department of Revenue) and service taxes for the financial year, 1996-97 are given below :

(Rs. in crore)

Customs	44135
Union excise	45917
Service taxes	970

These estimates have been prepared for the entire financial year. All possible efforts are being made to maximise the revenue collection. The extent of shortfall, if any, in the current financial year can be quantified only after 31.3.1997.

(d) There are a number of schemes for promotion of exports such as EPCG scheme, Duty Exemption scheme, scheme for EOU/EPZ etc. under the Exim Policy, 1992-97. Steps being taken to improve the export performance in 1997-98 would be indicated in the new Exim policy.

#### VABAL

4439 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to abolish Value Based Advance Licence Scheme (VABAL);
- (b) if so, the purpose of abolishing VABAL; and
- (c) the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (c) All major export promotion schemes including Value Based Advance Licence Scheme (VABAL) are under review of the Government in the forthcoming EXIM Policy for 1997-2002 to be announced shortly, coterminous with 9th Five Year Plan.

### Dumping of Newsprint

4440. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether dumping of newsprint in large quantity by U.S.A. Canada and Russia in India has been reported;

(b) the number of complaints received regarding dumping of newsprint during the last one year;

(c) the time taken to dispose of these complaints;

(d) if so, the impact of dumping of newsprint on the production of domestic units; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to take anti-dumping measures stern and stricter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) The Designated Authority in the Ministry of Commerce has initiated anti-dumping investigations on 20.12.96 against imports of newsprint from USA, Canada and Russia based on a petition filed by Indian Newsprint Manufacturers Association. Under the provisions of Customs Tariff Act and the rules made thereunder, the Authority follows a quasi-Judicial procedure taking into account submissions made by all the interested parties before making any recommendations. The Authority investigates into the existence, degree and effect of the alleged dumping and the injury caused to the Domestic Industry, if any. The investigations in the case of newsprint are in progress and no provisional or final findings have been announced so far.

### Restructuring of H.M.T.

4441. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cleared the restructuring plan submitted by Hindustan Machine Tools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether HMT is planning to divest non-core business activities and diversifying new growth areas;

(d) if so, the details of the areas identified so far;

(e) whether disinvestment package is likely to affect consumer goods section including Lamp division at Hyderabad;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken to revive loss making units of HMT ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Govt. of India has given in principle approval to HMT to convert individual business groups into Joint Venture Companies if it is in the interest of HMT to do so.

(b) HMT has already formed two Joint Venture Companies viz., (i) Sudmo-HMT Process Engineers (India) Ltd. with M/s. Sudmo Schleicher of Germany for marketing product-lines related to Dairy, Breweries and Allied Industries and (ii) Clearing-HMT Metal Forming Ltd. with M/s. Clearing Niagara Inc., USA for project engineering and marketing services for Metal Forming Machinery and equipment.

(c) to (f) Proposals are under consideration regarding converting HMT's Tractor Business Group into a Joint Venture Company and forming the Lamp Unit into a separate subsidiary of HMT.

(g) The Company is taking following steps inter-alia to revive loss making units

- Formation of Joint Ventures especially for the loss making Lamp and Watch Units.
- Higher value added product-mix.
- Improvement in inventory and debtors turnover ratio.
- Improvement of manpower productivity through innovative productivity aids.
- Re-training and re-skilling especially for employees of Lamps Unit.
- Reducing of manufacturing and marketing process time.
- Improvement in customer reach.
- Improvement in customer services

[Translation]

### Women Courts in Delhi

4442. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge number of cases are pending in the women courts which are functioning in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending for final

hearing in the courts till date;

(c) the reasons for piling up such cases;

(d) the action being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for speedy disposal of these pending cases; and

(e) the amount spent by the Central Government for setting up of these courts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The Registry of Delhi High Court has informed that as on 1.3.97, 1667 cases are pending in Mahila Courts in Delhi, of them 94 cases are pending for final hearing. Further, keeping in view the population of Delhi and the pendency in other Sessions Courts and Courts of Metropolitan Magistrates, it cannot be said that there is any accumulation in the Mahila Courts.

(d) Monthly disposal statements are reviewed and Courts are inspected with a view to speeding up disposal of cases

(e) No additional expenditure was incurred in setting up these Mahila Courts.

[English]

#### LIC Housing Finance Co. Ltd.

4443 SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided by the L.I.C. to its Housing Finance Co. Ltd.;

(b) the details of companies offices functioning in Madhya Pradesh and the total amount provided for loan as on March 31, 1996 for each branch; and

(c) the eligibility conditions for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has informed that it has provided to the LIC Housing Finance Ltd. (LICHFL) Rs. 2421.42 crores from its inception

(b) LIC has informed that the LICHFL has four branches in Madhya Pradesh Their names and the details of disbursements of loan made by them since inception are as under

Office	Date of opening	Amount disbursed from inception
Bhopal	15.10.90	44.32 crores
Indore	01.11.90	68.22 crores
Raipur	17.12.93	6.57 crores
Jabalpur	22.02.93	31.95 crores
Total		151.06 crores

(c) LIC has informed that funds for disbursement are made available by the Corporate Office of LIC Housing Finance Ltd. to different area offices on the basis of disbursement plans drawn at the beginning of every year.

[Translation]

#### Use of Hindi

4444 SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has modern gadgets installed such as Computers, telex, teleprinting etc. which are in Roman Script and these are being converted into bilingual;

(b) if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets will be put into use by the Ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi will be promoted;

(d) whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their Offices located in Region 'A' where work has to be done cent percent in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such an exemption ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) & (b) The Computers installed in the Ministry of Finance have a provision of Hindi software and most of the Telex machines and Electronic Typewriters are bilingual so that these could be used in Hindi also as and when required.

(c) All efforts are made to follow the provisions of the Official Language Act and the instructions issued by the Department of Official Language from time to time.

(d) No Sir

(e) Does not arise.

**Production of Khadi**

4445. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether production in Khadi has been declined during the last three years in the country;
- (b) if so, the percentage of decline during each of the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to augment production of Khadi;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Khadi is still being exported;
- (f) if so, the names of the countries to whom Khadi is being exported; and
- (g) the amount of foreign exchange earned by such export during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There has been no decline in Khadi production in terms of value during the last three years. However, in terms of quantity, production has declined from 98.72 million sq. mtrs. in 1993-94 to 90.84 million sq. mts. in 1994-95.

(b) The decline at khadi production in terms of quantity from 1993-94 to 1994-95 was about 8 percent. The reasons attributable to this decline were increase in the price of cotton which is the raw material for khadi, switching over by the units to the production of finer counts of khadi from coarse variety, taking up of poly vastra programme by more number of khadi institutions and constraints of fund.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government of India constituted a Working Group on 9th Plan pertaining to Khadi and Village Industries Programme. This has recommended increase in khadi production from the estimated level of 125 million sq meters in 1996-97 to 281.12 million sq meters by the end of 9th five year plan

(e) KVIC is not directly exporting khadi.

(f) and (g) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (e).

**Examination for Management Trainee**

4446. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :  
SHRI LALIT ORAON

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether 10 digit coding was given for computer in written examination held on 8 September 1996 for the management trainee in Coal India Ltd. whereas the Roll number were of 8 digits;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of examiners affected by keeping blank boxes in computer loading in the beginning or at the end inspite of correct names in answer book;
- (d) whether the work related to this competitive written examination was given to a private company;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government to investigate into matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In the answer sheet for roll number 10 boxes were there, though the roll numbers of candidates were of 8 digits. On the basis of past experience, the agency which conducted the examination knew that maximum 10 digits are needed for a Roll Number because the digits given in a roll number denote a number of informations like centre code, post code, discipline code, category code, sex code and finally serial number, generally consisting of four or five digits depending upon the number of candidates. In the instant case roll number of 08 digits only were sufficient. However, no examinee was affected for leaving blank spaces either at the beginning or at the end of the Roll number. The only requirement was that the candidates should write the roll number correctly without keeping any blank space in between two numbers.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. There is no infrastructure within the company to conduct written examination of this magnitude at different centres on all India basis on a particular date involving 11,321 candidates. Hence CIL invited quotations from several such agencies and constituted a High Power Committee to decide upon the matter and the committee after observing all the procedural formalities recommended that Indian Institute of Psychometry, Calcutta may be given the job being the lowest quoted rate as well as having a long experience of conducting such examination

(f) Does not arise.

### Deposits of Bank of Baroda

4447. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the total deposits of Bank of Baroda as on March 31, 1996 stands at Rs. 28369 crores and a total advance at Rs. 16012 crores;

(b) whether Capital Adequacy of Bank of Baroda is 11.2 percentage s against 11.2% as per RBI guidelines; and

(c) if so, the reasons for reported decision to issue Equities by the Bank of Baroda on the plan of pushing up Banks Capital base ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the total deposits of Bank of Baroda as on March 31, 1996 were Rs. 28370 crore and total advances were Rs. 16013 crore.

(b) The capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of Bank of Baroda for the year 1995-96 was 11.2% as against the minimum CRAR of 8 per cent prescribed by RBI.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has further reported that Bank of Baroda's need for capital has ansen as the bank expects substantial growth in business in the coming years and consequently the risk weighted assets are expected to be Rs. 27600 crore by 1999. The increase in Tier-I capital through ploughback of profit alone is not sufficient to enable the bank to maintain capital adequacy at the present levels. There will be considerable reduction in Tier-II capital due to reduction in the amounts of subordinated debt and revaluation reserves. Further, bank's overseas assets are subject to exchange fluctuations when translated into Indian currency. Hence the bank needs the additional capital to maintain in the CPAR.

### Bank Frauds

4448. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) :  
SHRI RAM SAGAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Bank Ghotale Karne Wale Giroh Ka Bhandafod" appearing in Dainik Jagran dated march 5, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Canara Bank has reported that some miscreants in connivance with employees of the bank had stolen 48 demand draft leaves from the Daraundha Branch and Bhore branch of the bank. Subsequently, 20 demand drafts were fraudulently encashed by the miscreants from four branches of the bank involving an amount of Rs. 100 lakhs. The miscreants also attempted to encash two demand drafts amounting to Rs. 10 lakhs from the bank's account section, Mumbai. However, the fraud was averted.

The bank has lodged a complaint with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and three employees of the bank have been arrested by CBI. The bank has placed two employees under suspension. An amount of Rs. 22.30 lakhs has been recovered by the bank.

### Bank Fraud in Vijaya Bank

4449. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 117 crore fraud taken place in Vijaya Bank has been unearthed by the anti-corruption wing of the Central Bureau of Investigation recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the scam not coming to light earlier ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Vijaya Bank has repoted that certain irregularities were observed by the bank in the conduct of the account relating to advances granted by the bank to M/s. P.J Pipes & Vessels Ltd. The internal investigation by the bank revealed lapses on the part of officials of the bank and also diversion of funds by the borrowing company. The matter was referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 4.8.1995 with the request to register a Regular Case for further investigation. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at the instance of Government of India also conducted a detailed scrutiny of the account and the report of the RBI was sent to CBI by the Government with the request to register a case and investigate the matter thoroughly. CBI have since registered a case against two former whole-time directors of the banks and also three directors of the company.

[Translation]

### Black Money

4450. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :  
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the black money deposited in Swiss banks;

(b) if so, the amount thereof and the names of individuals and organisations in whose name this amount is deposited;

(c) whether the Government are taking any action to bring back this black money to India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No authentic estimate is available.

(c) and (d) A Voluntary Disclosure Scheme has been announced by the Government in the Finance Bill for 1997-98, under which black money stashed abroad can also be declared.

### Restriction on foreign direct investment

4451. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :  
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the restrictions imposed on taking capital and profit on the foreign capital investment by foreign investor to their countries;

(b) whether foreign investors are allowed to take back their capital whenever they desire or they will have to wait for a block period for the said purpose; and

(c) the investment alongwith foreign investment made by the Non-Resident Indians till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Foreign investors are allowed to freely repatriate their dividends earned on their investment in Indian except in the case of 22 consumer goods industries where dividend balancing for a period 7 years is stipulated. Foreign investors are also allowed to repatriate the net sale proceeds of their disinvestment after fulfilling procedural

requirements for such disinvestments under section 19(5) of FERA.

(c) The inflow in respect of NRI investment under various schemes in shares/departures of Indian Companies from the years 1991 till 1996 was as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Inflow
1991	16229.63
1992	15299.72
1993	57941.45
1994	114525.95
1995	198783.84
1996	206206.30

[English]

### RBI norms for NRE Accounts

4452. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has liberalised the norms governing transfer of funds from one NRE (Non-resident external) account to another and permitted banks to clear foreign exchange remittances on current account transactions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has liberalised the norms governing transfer of funds from one NRE (Non-Resident External) account to another. As regards permission to banks to clear foreign exchange remittances on current account transactions, all bona fide current account transactions qualify for release of exchange either under the authority delegated to authorised dealers or after obtaining the necessary approval from Reserve Bank except those transactions for which remittances are expressly prohibited. The permission for transfer of funds from one NRE account to another is independent of the power delegated to authorised dealers to allow remittances on current account transactions.

(b) As regards transfers between two NRE accounts, authorised dealers are allowed to effect transfer of funds

between NRE accounts of different persons held with the same authorised dealer or different authorised dealers for any purpose. Where the transfer of funds is by way of gift, the same may be allowed after obtaining an undertaking from the transferee/transferee's bank that gift tax, if any, payable on the transfer of funds will be paid to the income-tax authorities in India. In case of transfer of funds between NRE accounts held with different authorised dealers, the authorised dealers transferring the funds should issue a certificate confirming the non-resident status of the transferor. The decision to allow free transfer of funds between NRE accounts is based on the recommendations of the Working Group set up by the RBI with representations from RBI and Government for examining the schemes and incentives available to NRIs for investment in India.

[Translation]

#### Plan Revenue Deficit Grants

4453. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Govt. for allocation of plan revenue deficit grants to the States;

(b) the details of allocation plan revenue deficit grants given during 1990-91 to 1995-96 year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken to increase the plan resources and to provide financial assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Ninth Finance Commission had recommended plan revenue deficit grants to States whereas Tenth Finance Commission have not recommended these grants. Government of India have accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commission in this regard.

(b) A statement is enclosed. For 1995-96, which is the period covered under TFC, no deficit grant have been released to the States as TFC have not recommended plan revenue deficit grant.

(c) The resources for funding the State plan are finalised by the Planning Commission in consultation with States. The assistance for funding the State plans is allocated to States according to the formula approved by NDC.

#### Statement

##### Plan Revenue Deficit Grants to States given during 1995

(Rupees in crores)

S.No.	State	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	46.07	54.60	66.54	78.49	95.55	341.25
2.	Assam	42.38	50.23	61.21	72.20	87.89	313.91
3.	Bihar	185.53	219.88	267.98	316.08	384.80	1374.27
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.80	2.13	2.59	3.06	3.72	13.30
5.	Kerala	55.69	66.01	80.45	94.88	115.51	412.54
6.	Madhya Pradesh	141.45	167.65	204.32	241.00	293.39	1047.81
7.	Orissa	20.01	58.28	108.74	160.75	206.72	554.50
8.	Punjab	7.28	8.63	10.51	12.40	15.09	53.91
9.	Rajasthan	79.90	128.37	191.22	254.18	306.73	960.40
10.	Tamil Nadu	5.91	7.01	8.54	10.07	12.26	43.79

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Uttar Pradesh	270.69	409.96	583.09	744.07	878.69	2896.50
12.	West Bengal	134.82	159.70	194.74	229.69	279.62	998.65
	Total	991.53	1332.53	1779.93	2216.87	2879.97	9000.83

[English]

### Credit Deposit Ratio

4454. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :  
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Credit Deposit Ratio of the commercial banks operating in the State of Rajasthan is as per the norms of Government of India and Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether a Task Force to ascertain the reasons for low credit deposit ratio and to suggest measures for improvement in the C:D Ratio was constituted by the RBI for the State of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, whether the commercial banks operating in the State did follow the recommendations of the Task Force;

(d) if not, what action has been taken by the Government and RBI against the defaulting banks;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the investment in the State so that C:D Ratio of the State could be improved as per norms; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (f) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised the banks to achieve a Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of 60% in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches separately on an all India basis. Banks have also been advised that while it is not necessary that this ratio should be achieved separately branch-wise, District-wise or Region-wise, the banks should nevertheless ensure that wide disparity in the ratios between different States/Regions is avoided in order to minimise imbalances in credit deployment. However, the CDR in a particular State or Region depends upon the credit absorption capacity of the State/Region which in turn is determined and influenced by factors such as

development of infrastructural facilities like irrigation, power, rail, road, transport, basic and technical education, entrepreneurship and availability of required inputs and marketing outlets for agricultural and industrial productions.

The CDR of scheduled commercial banks as on the last Friday of March 1996 in the State of Rajasthan was 46.6 per cent.

(b), (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Bank of Baroda, the Convenor Bank for State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) for Rajasthan has reported that the commercial banks operating in the State have been following the recommendation of the Task Force on CDR and making efforts to improve the same. The issues/progress are discussed in SLBC meetings from time to time.

### Indian Overseas Bank

4455. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of officers are Charge Sheeted/Suspended in Indian Overseas Bank due to their making payment of Demand Drafts, Credit Advices/Schedules etc. signed by officers whose signatures differ from their specimen signature;

(b) if so, details thereof together with the amount involved;

(c) whether any training is given to officers about signature verification and the latest methods etc. used by criminals in banks frauds and how to overcome them from safeguarding the hard-earned money of customers deposited in the bank; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Indian Overseas Bank has reported that as on date nine officers are facing disciplinary action for procedural lapses committed by them while making payment of Demand Drafts, Mail Transfers, etc. wherein the signatures of the officers of the issuing branches on the said

instruments, differ from their specimen signatures. An aggregate amount of Rs. 20.25 lakhs was involved in four instances of encashment of DDs for which disciplinary action is being taken against these nine officers. The Bank has also reported that these cases have also been referred to police for investigation.

(c) and (d) Training on "Signature Verification" is given to officers in the Bank to prevent frauds in the areas of Payment of Demand Drafts etc. and for safeguarding customers money deposited in Bank. A session on Preventive Vigilance is included in all the General Banking Programmes for Officers conducted by Bank's Staff Training Colleges.

Fraud prevention check-list is provided in the Manager's Work Book supplied to each Branch Manager. Circulars/Letters are sent periodically to Regional Managers and Branch Managers advising remedial measures to contain frauds.

#### Accountability of Banks

4456. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a memorandum during December 1996 from the All India Bank Employees Association in which suggestions regarding transparency and accountability of Banks were made;

(b) if so, the salient points made therein;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the secrecy clause with regard to balance sheet and defaulters.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient points of the representation received from the All India Bank Employees Association are viz. (i) restructuring of Banks, (ii) wilful default of Bank loans to be made as a criminal offence, (iii) full disclosure of the list of all bank defaulters, (iv) banks' balance sheets should be absolutely transparent, (v) establishment of independent audit commission, (vi) establishment of a Central vigilance Commission, (vii) appointment of Banks' Chairman & Executives through a Banking Service Commission, (viii) standing Parliamentary Committee

should be set up to screen the performance of nationalised banks (ix) periodic consultation with unions of employees and officers, and (x) not to establish Local Area private banks.

(c) to (e) a revised format for bank balance sheet was introduced with effect from 1991-92. This format provides for greater disclosure particularly in regard to the accounting policies adopted and necessary provisions made. While there could be room for more transparency, the parameters of the same has not been spelt out in the representation. As regards disclosure of names of defaulters, the same cannot be done keeping in view the secrecy laws relating to the banker customer relationship as available in various statutes of the country as well as in other countries of the world. List of suit filed defaulter borrowers' accounts having default of Rs. 1 crore and above indicating position as on 31st March, 1994 and 1995 have been published it may however, be added that effecting improvements in the banking industry is a continuous process in which suggestions received from different sources are kept in view in the light of all relevant factors.

#### Balance of Payment

4457. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether deficit has widened despite rise in exports, as has been brought out in the news item captioned "Deficit widens despite rise in exoorts" appearing in the Times of India dated March 2, 1997:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to narrow the deficit vis-a-vis balance of payment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The export growth rate during the period April-January, 1997 was 6.2 percent, a little higher than the import growth rate of 6.1 percent. Because of the higher base of import during the corresponding period last year, trade deficit has increased marginally by \$ 232 million.

(c) Government constantly reviews policies and procedures for providing an export friendly environment.

#### Housing scheme of LIC in U.P.

4458. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India has

got the work of some housing schemes done in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent on these schemes during the last three years and the amount likely to be spent during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) grants loans at concessional rate to all State Governments, including Uttar Pradesh, for financing various social housing schemes as per allocations made by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment every year.

#### Controversy over wage

4459. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the controversy of wage has arose in the banking industry because of the recent decision of the Board of United Commercial Bank to withhold annual increment of its employees;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) It has been reported by UCO Bank that its Board of Directors in a meeting held on 14th December, 1996, while considering the Bank's Balance Sheet as on 30.9.96, gave various directions for dealing with weak financial position of the bank for bringing out a strategic revival plan which, inter-alia, included wage freeze. UCO Bank has further reported that this decision with regard to wage freeze stands withdrawn after deliberations in another meeting of Board of Directors held on 19th February, 1997.

#### Export of MICA scrap by MITCO

4460. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mica Trading Corporation of India is playing any role of broker/middlemen in the export of Mica Scrap;

(b) if so, whether MITCO has been charging 40 percent commission at the cost of mining industry;

(c) if so, whether there is any other agency charging huge commission causing huge loss to the Mica-Mining Industry; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to abolish commission to encourage and promote mica industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir, MITCO has been merged with MMTC with effect from 1.4.95. MMTC As per the Rehabilitation-cum-Amalgamation Scheme of merger of BIFR, export of mica scrap has to remain canalised through MMTC Limited till 1997-98. Through its global network, MMTC is exporting canalised mica scrap effectively as would be evident from the increase in exports from Rs. 4.5 crores in 1991-92 to Rs. 11.80 crores in 1995-96.

(b) to (d) The BIFR Scheme also envisages net contribution (Margin) of 27% on sales of mica scrap). However, MMTC is working on a contribution (margin) of average 24-25%. MMTC is paying nearly double the price to the local Mica Suppliers for supply of mica scrap to it for export purposes as compared to the price paid when they supply to its (MMTC's) Plants for manufacturing value added products. To develop Mica Industry MMTC has set up plants for value addition of mica scrap.

#### Indian Overseas Bank

4461. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Case closed, IOB to lose Rs. 100 crores" appearing in the Economic Times dated February 18, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the points raised therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c) Indian Overseas Bank has reported that in respect of the six accounts referred to in the news item, they have recovered Rs. 152.90 crores during 1993 and 1994-95 against the outstanding amount of Rs. 245.37 crores. Attempts to recover the remaining amount constitute an ongoing process.

### Skipper Construction Company

4462. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee appointed by the Reserve Bank of India has since started investigations in the frauds committed by the New Bank of India and the Canara Bank's Chairman in Skipper Construction Company case;

(b) whether any time found programme has been chalked out to complete the investigation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) In accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court of India, a Committee comprising two Deputy Governors of Reserve Bank of India has commenced its enquiry. The Committee is required to submit its report to the Supreme Court of India by 10th May, 1997.

### Export Quota for Dairy products

4463. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have halved the export quota for milk powder and infant milk for the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for scaling down the ceiling when the country is emerging as the largest producer of milk and the scope for export is good ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The ceiling for exports of skimmed milk powder (SMP) and infant milk powder is fixed keeping in view the domestic availability and demand for liquid milk.

### Non-performing Assets

4464. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of non-performing assets of Public Sector Banks (Bankwise) as on date;

(b) the details of recovery of loan and bad debt made during the last three years (Bank wise) through recovery cells and Debt Recovery Tribunals;

(c) the details of loan and bad debt at present outstanding in respect of each banks; and

(d) whether the Government have made any enquiry in this regard and fixed and responsibility against the persons who have heavy losses to the banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The bank-wise details of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) for 1995-96 (latest available) are given in the attached statement-I.

(b) Bank-wise details of recovery of NPAs during last three years are given in the attached statement-II. Recovery through Debt Recovery Tribunals during 1995-96 (bank-wise is given in the attached statement-I

(c) The bank-wise details of advance of Public Sector Banks as on 31st March, 1996 are given in the attached statement-I

(d) Based on discussions with the top executives of banks for finalising performance commitments, specific advice is given by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on matters relating to improvement in the quality of their assets, toning up of internal control and any other measures that facilitate the improvement of the Bank's health. Banks are also continuously being impressed upon by RBI to bring down the level of their NPAs. Banks have also been advised to examine the aspect of staff accountability in cases of proposals for compromise write-off, etc.

### Statement-I

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the Bank	Recovery through Debt Recovery Tribunals 1995-96	Advances as on 31.3.96	Position of NPAs as on 31.3.96
1	2	3	4
State Bank of India	11.00	59825.65	10553.53
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	NIL	2447.48	337.95
State Bank of Hyderabad	0.74	3876.16	644.23
State Bank of Indore	NIL	1470.48	218.84
State Bank of Mysore	0.72	2038.85	328.93
State Bank of Patiala	NIL	3304.86	399.71
State Bank of Saurashtra	0.48	1813.08	206.49

1	2	3	4
State Bank of Travancore	NIL	3349.16	430.22
Allahabad Bank	3.22	4815.60	1255.00
Andhra Bank	NIL	2580.33	332.23
Bank of Baroda	2.43	16012.55	2840.08
Bank of India	40.54	15595.80	2434.00
Bank of Maharashtra	0.04	2692.17	694.26
Canara Bank	8.54	13095.84	1533.47
Central Bank of India	NIL	8902.57	2036.00
Corporation Bank	0.76	2442.11	251.83
Dena Bank	NIL	3401.68	508.00
Indian Bank	NIL	7873.46	3140.90
Indian Overseas Bank	NIL	7504.25	1823.00
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1.44	4671.78	271.25
Punjab & Sind Bank	0.66	12679.89	725.29
Punjab National Bank	0.51	2789.84	2518.00
Syndicate Bank	NIL	5397.66	1311.75
UCO Bank	13.38	4982.13	1840.00
United Bank of India	0.58	2851.13	1503.00
Union Bank of India	1.41	8681.08	900.63
Vijaya Bank	0.006	2443.70	545.38
Total for Public Sector Banks	86.51	207539.29	39583.94

**Statement-II***Recovery in NPAs – Public Sector Banks*

(Amount in Crores of Rupees)

Name of the Bank	Recovery		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
State Bank of India	321.54	604.70	427.93
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	139.96	136.18	142.36
State Bank of Hyderabad	84.97	118.59	100.94

1	2	3	4
State Bank of Indore	13.36	12.86	17.55
State Bank of Mysore	13.18	31.73	23.25
State Bank of Patiala	13.48	25.69	16.92
State Bank of Saurashtra	26.98	23.70	35.01
State Bank of Travancore	63.60	36.95	97.90
Allahabad Bank	92.30	51.00	102.00
Andhra Bank	76.00	111.00	36.00
Bank of Baroda	95.01	350.73	345.96
Bank of India	301.00	325.00	354.00
Bank of Maharashtra	115.52	96.00	83.15
Canara Bank	204.00	255.00	238.00
Central Bank of India	296.00	550.00	541.00
Corporation Bank	30.63	19.41	26.98
Dena Bank	65.91	12.00	69.80
Indian Bank	205.00	283.00	283.00
Indian Overseas Bank	122.52	167.18	179.85
Oriental Bank of Commerce	56.00	51.70	69.13
Punjab & Sind Bank	41.55	101.74	56.08
Punjab National Bank	214.20	222.90	300.00
Syndicate Bank	189.35	147.65	188.37
UCO Bank	141.14	157.64	95.44
Union Bank of India	128.00	159.00	161.00
United Bank of India	74.00	142.00	102.00
Vijaya Bank	86.00	69.00	27.00
Total for Public Sector Banks	3211.20	4262.30	4120.62

**Smuggling Activities**

4465. SHRI YELLAIHA NANDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any economic steps to curb the smuggling activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the smuggling activities have shown an increase during 1996;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to minimise the smuggling activities during 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

#### **Report of Inter-Department Group on Securities Scam**

4466. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received the report of the Inter-departmental group regarding end-use of the money of the securities scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main recommendations made in the report;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) Whether any suggestions have been made in the report to check recurrence of such scams in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (f) The Inter Disciplinary Group (IDG) constituted to trace the end use of funds involved in the problem exposure of banks and Financial Institutions as identified by the Janakiraman Committee submitted its final report to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The report was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament in December, 1996. The problem exposure of banks/financial institutions estimated by the Janakiraman Committee was Rs. 4024.45 crores. However, the IDG reassessed the exposure against notified persons at Rs. 3,305.69 crores. The reduction was mainly on account of double counting, differences in valuation and subsequent out of Court settlement by certain banks. Auditors have been appointed by RBI to check instances of differences where the attached assets fell short of problem exposure. Under RBI's instructions, auditors have been looking into delivery of securities appearing in the asset ledger of some of the brokers for their transactions with banks/financial institutions. Auditors appointed by the Special Court are also writing up the accounts of two of the notified parties.

As the task of the IDG was to trace the end use of funds, no recommendation/suggestion has been made in

the report to check recurrence of irregularities in securities transactions in future.

#### **Supervision on Non-Banking Financial Companies**

4467. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received report of Khanna Panel on the need for comprehensive supervision on Non-Banking Financial Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Reserve Bank of India/other Government Agencies thereto;

(d) the details regarding present status of the proposal; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to monitor effectively the operations/performance of Non-Banking Financial Companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major recommendations of the Khanna Committee are divided into two parts, viz. (i) regulatory and (ii) supervisory aspects.

REGULATORY ASPECTS : The group had recommended enhancement in the then existing statutory powers of RBI (i) to provide for compulsory registration of both existing and new NBFCs with the banks, (ii) to prescribe minimum equity of Rs. 100 lakh for a new company, (iii) to stipulate creation of Reserve Fund by NBFCs and transfer regulatory jurisdiction of RBI, all NBFCs (registered with RBI and unregistered) should be supervised mainly through off site surveillance mechanism an amount of not less than 20 per cent of their net profits every year to the said fund, (iv) to enable the bank to initiate proceedings for liquidation of any NBFC whose financial position is found to be weak, (v) to prescribe the extent of investments to be made by NBFCs in approved securities, (vi) to enforce repayment of deposits by defaulting companies on the lines of Companies Act, 1956, etc.

SUPERVISORY ASPECTS : The committee made number of recommendations which inter-alia, includes (i) bringing all NBFCs regardless of their capital base under supervisory net of RBI, (ii) focus supervisory attention in a comprehensive and elaborate manner only on those NBFCs having net owned funds of Rs. 100 lakhs and above, (iii) for focussing supervisory attention of varying intensity. The Bank should sortify the reporting companies based

on their asset size, (iv), the bank should introduce an online corporation memory profile building process, based on observations generated from offsite surveillance system/market intelligence/complaints/supervisory rating/ inspection findings etc. (v) introduction of supervisory rating system for NBFCs, based on CAMELS model (i.e. capital adequacy, asset quality, management earnings, liquidity and systems & control). (vi) periodicity for conducting on-site inspections should be modulated, based on supervisory rating assigned to NBFCs, and (vii) the bank may take necessary steps to utilise external audit as a tool of prudential supervision.

(c) and (d) Based on the recommendations of the Committee for conducting on site inspection of NBFCs, the RBI has issued guidelines to its regional offices to adopt the CAMELS approach for carrying out on site inspections of NBFCs by the inspecting officials as well as an off site surveillance system for exercising close supervision over top ten and problematic NBFCs.

(e) Further, with a view to conferring wider powers on the Reserve Bank of India for supervision of NBFCs and regulating acceptance of deposits by unincorporated bodies, Government have promulgated the RBI (Amendment) Ordinance 1997 (No.2 of 1997) on 9 January 1997.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : Sir, I would like to inform the House that we have taken a decision that all the hon. Members will be the member of TAC of their respective areas.

12.0½ hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

##### **Indian Telegraph (First Amendment) Rules 1997**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table a copy of the Indian Telegraph (First Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 64(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 1997, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1742/97]

[English]

##### **National Oilseeds and Vegetables Oils Development Board Service Regulations, 1996**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : On behalf of /Shri Chaturanan Mishra, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Service Regulations, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.2-65/NOVOD/96 in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 1997, under section 20 of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983, together with a corrigendum thereto dated the 28th February, 1997.
- (2) A copy of the Brief Statement of the NOVOD Board Service Regulations, 1996 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1743/97]

##### **Draft Notification No.10/6/97-IP**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : On behalf of Shri Murasoli Maran, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Draft Notification No. 10/6/97-IP (Hindi and English versions) specifying the requirement on the basis of which industrial undertaking shall be regarded as small scale or as an ancillary for the purpose of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, under sub-section (3) of section 11 B of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1744/97]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Industry for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1745/97]

##### **Notification under Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to lay on the Table :

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :

- (i) The Canara Bank Officers' Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1746/97]

- (ii) The Oriental Bank of Commerce Officer Employee's Discipline and Appeal (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No.3920 in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1747/97]

- (iii) The Dena Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No. IR : Amend-2/96 in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1748/97]

- (iv) The Punjab and Sind Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No. PSB/STAFF/OSR/1996 in Gazette of India dated the 9th October 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1749/97]

- (v) The Oriental Bank of Commerce (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No.3921 in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1750/97]

- (vi) The Union Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No. OSR/12 in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1751/97]

- (vii) The Vijaya Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in

Notification No.2502 in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1752/97]

- (viii) The Union Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No.OSR/14 in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1753/97]

- (ix) The Reserve Bank of India Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No.6 in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1754/97]

- (x) The Punjab National Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1755/97]

- (xi) The Bank of Maharashtra Officer Employees (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No. AXT/ST/DM/96 in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1756/97]

- (xii) The Canara Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations 1996 published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1757/97]

**Memorandum of Understanding between the National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 1996-97**

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA)

I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1758/97]

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Textile Corporation for the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1759/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Account (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1760/97]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of National Centre for Jute Diversification, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1761/97]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed In Library. See No. LT-1762/97]

### Major Port Trust, Amendment Rules, 1997

THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Major Port Trust (Payment of Fees and Allowances to Trustees) Amendment Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 70 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 1997, under sub-section (3) of section 122 of the Major Port Trusts act, 1963.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1763/97]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1995-96.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1764/97]

- (4) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:
- (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government of the Audited Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1995-96.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay, in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above :

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1765/97]

### Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Human Resources Development for the year 1997-98

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): On behalf of Shri S.R. Bommai, I beg to lay on the Table:

[Shri Muhi Ram Saikia]

A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Human Resources Development for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1766/97]

**Annual Report and audited Account of the Chemicals and Allied products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta for 1995-96**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion council, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1767/97]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rubber Board Kottayam, for the year 1995-96.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1768/97]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1769/97]

**Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 1997-98**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : I beg to lay on the Table:

A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1970/97]

**Annual Report and Audited Account of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi for 1995-96**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1771/97]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1772/97]

**Annual Report of the JNU, New Delhi for 1995-96 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1773/97]

(3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University (Volume I and II) for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1774/97]

(5) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95 together with Audit Report thereon.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1775/97]

(7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 439 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 1996 containing Ordinance on Research Degree Programmes made by the Board of Management of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, under sub-section (2) of section 40 of the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1776/97]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the District Primary Education Programme, Maharashtra, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the District Primary Education Programme, Maharashtra, for the year 1995-96.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1777/97]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

(11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1778/97]

**Notifications under Companies Act, 1956**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi

[Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar]

and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 97(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1997.
- (ii) The Companies (Central Government) Central Rules and Forms, (second amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 126(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1779/97]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises of Salt Act, 1944 :

G.S.R. 110(E) to G.S.R. 125(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 1997 together with explanatory memorandum regarding Central Excise Duty changes and exemption in context of the Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect Taxes announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 28th February, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1780/97]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :

- (i) G.S.R. 98(E) to G.S.R. 109(E) published in Gazette of India dated of 1st March, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding customs duty changes and exemption in context of the Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect Taxes announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 28th February, 1997.
- (ii) G.S.R. 138(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 104/95-Cus., dated the 30th May, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1781/97]

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Insurance Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Insurance Company Limited Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1782/97]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Madras, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Madras, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1783/97]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1784/97]

- (d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Bombay, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Bombay, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1785/97]

(e) (i) **Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Bombay, for the year 1995-96.**

(ii) **Annual Report of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Bombay, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.**

(5) **Five Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1786/97]

12.03½ hrs.

### MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

**BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—Laid**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary- General of Rajya Sabha :

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of Rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th March, 1997 agreed without any amendment of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th March, 1997."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of Rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Aquaculture Authority Bill, 1997 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th March, 1997."

2 Sir, I lay on the Table the Aquaculture Authority Bill, 1997, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 20th March, 1997.

12.04 hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

#### Ninth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications on Selection of Multi Access Relay Radio (MARR) Technology relating to Department of Telecommunications.

12.04½ hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE OF FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

#### Third and Fourth Reports and Minutes

[English]

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA (Amritsar) : I beg to present the following Reports and Minutes (English and Hindi versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution :

1. Third Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their First Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of Ministry of Food and the Minutes of sitting of the Committee relating thereto.
2. Fourth Report on Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Second Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and the Minutes and the sitting of the Committee relating thereto.

12.05 hrs.

### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### Mandatory Carriage of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) on Aeroplanes

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : Mr. Chairman Sir, hon. Members are aware

[Shri C.M. Ibrahim]

that with the liberalisation of air transport operations in the country, the domestic operations have increased considerably during the last couple of years. Besides, there is congestion in the Indian airspace on account of large number of international flights over-flying or transiting through India. I have, earlier on various occasions, informed the House that the Government is fully committed for enhancement of air safety in the Indian skies and is taking all possible steps to achieve this objective.

In September, 1996, I had constituted a committee headed by Air Marshal J.K. Seth (Retd.) to review the existing set up of the DGCA, Aircraft Act and Rules, existing safety regulations, facilities for development of aviation manpower, existing system of licensing of aviation personnel and air navigation, communication and surveillance system to ensure air safety and efficient regulatory control on aviation activities. While the air traffic services and associated facilities are continuously being upgraded and modernised by the Airports Authority of India, it may take considerable time to cover the entire Indian airspace. It has, therefore, been felt necessary, particularly after the mid-air collision near Delhi on 12th November, 1996, to upgrade the equipment of aeroplanes to reduce the risk of mid-air collisions. Installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS), which is an equipment installed on aircraft and functions independently of the ground based air traffic control system, can help in preventing mid-air collisions.

**12.07 hrs**

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

If the aircraft are fitted with this system, it will alert the pilots when the two aircraft come dangerously close. The system gives visual and audio warnings and also advises the crew of the corrective action required to be taken for preventing an impending collision.

In the interest of air safety, we propose to make

- (i) Carriage of ACAS system mandatory on all aeroplanes having a seating capacity of more than 30 passengers or a pay-load capacity of more than 3 tonnes in case of cargo aircraft tentatively after 31st December, 1998. No such aircraft shall be allowed to be imported after 31st December, 1997 without fitment of ACAS system

- (ii) Installation of ACAS system is also to be proposed to be made mandatory on transport aeroplanes of less than 30 seats tentatively after 31st December, 2003. No such aircraft shall be allowed to be imported after 31st December, 2001 without fitment of ACAS system.

The proposal was discussed by the DGCA with the International Civil Aviation Organisation. The ICAO has opined that the Indian proposal for mandatory installation of ACAS is well in line with the spirit of ICAO standards. They have, however, advised that the requirement of mandatory carriage of the system should be on the basis of regional air navigation agreements and have suggested that this aspect should be discussed on regional fora with neighbouring States and the operators, in order to seek regional concurrence for the initiative. For this purpose, the DGCA has convened a meeting on 16th April, 1997 with the DGCA's of the neighbouring States, all the domestic scheduled operators and international scheduled operators flying to/through/over-flying Indian air space.

United States of America have already made carriage of this system mandatory with effect from December, 1995. Other countries of the world are also planning to make this system mandatory. India, being conscious of its commitment of flight safety, is moving ahead faster. The actual dates of implementation of the proposed requirements will, however, be finalised after the meeting convened by the DGCA on 16th April, 1997.

With the aforesaid measures, it is hoped that safety in Indian skies will enhance considerably. I am confident that the hon. Members will appreciate the efforts being made in this regard.

—————  
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have a word to say. Please be seated. Otherwise, I will not give you a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI (Howrah) : Sir, will we have zero hour today. I have given notice . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : First you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, today being the last day of the Session, I would like to say that maximum number of Members are to get a chance to speak in the Zero Hour. But the only thing is that it will have to be in an orderly manner and also brief. Everybody will get a chance. If any hon. Member gets up in-between, he will not get a chance today.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : I am on a point of information. It was agreed that the Aquaculture Bill will be introduced

MR. CHAIRMAN : After Zero hour.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Let them at least tell us. Otherwise, the Government would not say anything. It is not shown in the List of Business. Supplementary would not say anything. It is not shown in the List of Business. Supplementary List of Business has also not been circulated.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will take up Government business till 3.30 p.m. After 3.30 p.m., we will take up the Private Members' Business. After six O'clock, we can take it up again

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I would like to raise the issue of retrograde recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commissions for the Subordinate Engineers' Cadre of the All India Radio and the Doodarshan of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Eight thousand of them had appealed. I had sought hon. Speaker's permission to present a petition today. But it did not find a place in the Order Paper.

What has happened is that the Second, the Third and the Fourth Pay Commission had given them improvements. The Cabinet gave them improvements in 1993 after the Fourth Pay Commission recommendations. The Supreme Court judgement of 1988 was given effect to by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with retrospective effect from 1978. Again in 1995, it was improved.

Now, what the Pay Commission by its recommendation has sought is striking at the Judiciary, the Executive and the Legislature and have recommended a grade which is far lower than what was given by the Fourth Pay Commission

So, I submit that these 8,000 people will be thrown

into distress if their petition is not conveyed to the Petitions Committee. We are going to adjourn for one month. I do not know whether the Government is going to accept the recommendations of the Pay Commission. Once it does so, then, it will be a *fait accompli*.

These employees have gone to the Joint Consultative Machinery. They have appeared before the Pay Commission. But they have not had an sympathetic hearing. Even the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is supporting their cause.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SATVINDER KAUR DHALIWAL (Ropar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mandi Govindgarh is the commercial centre of Punjab and from there 80 per cent produce of Punjab is supplied to other parts of the country. But fast trains coming from other states do not have a stoppage there as a result of which the businessman have to go to other cities for catching trains. Besides being a historical city, it is also a city of historical importance. Therefore, it I would request that the Flying Mail Coming from Delhi should have a stoppage there so that business may further flourish there and the railway may also have financial benefits in the shape of passenger's fare.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH (Seoni) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my maiden speech in the House, therefore, I first of all thank you for giving me time to speak. I hail from Madhya Pradesh. Sir, the entire Madhya Pradesh Government is involved in corruption and Lokayukta has submitted its third report also against the Government. But I would like to raise a matter relating to this House only. In my own district a corruption case under JRY has come to light. The workers an poor people, who were receiving ration on subsidised rate on cash payment or on Government coupons, have not been getting ration for the last 7-8 months. When we started on agitation against it, we were told that the ration was not available. But now we come to know that ration was drawn by some societies on fake coupons. One such case was brought to light in an Adivasi block. But the Madhya Pradesh Government is providing protection to them. I expect from the Central Government that its hon. Minister would look into this matter so that the interests of poor people could be protected. There are several such cases against Madhya Pradesh Government and Lokayukta has also levelled such charges in its reports.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please tell as to what the Union Government should do in this regard.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Sir, I am saying about that. ZRY is a central scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You tell, what do you want from the Government.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Sir, I want that the Union Government should inquire into it and action should be taken against such acts of Madhya Pradesh Government.

[English]

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Sir, the issue that I would like to raise relates neither to my constituency nor to the State to which I belong. It is considered to be a concern for the whole nation and I expect that the Members of this House would associate themselves with my feelings.

Sir, of late the standard of the films that are made and are screened in our country, irrespective of the languages, has deteriorated to the worst extent leading to an apprehension of irreparable damage and loss to the rich culture of this country. Though there is a Censor Board with rules and norms to regulate the quality of the films yet we do not know whether the Censor Board is lenient to the filmmakers or the filmmakers are able to convince the Censor Board. The films are now losing the foothold just for the reason of entertaining the people and are fast slipping down to disaster thereby spoiling and leading on entire generation to a doomed future.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Sir, I am making a submission which is of grave concern to all. Is the chopping off of the heads of the policemen are justified? Is the depiction of the father and son sharing a drink justified? The women, in these films, are portrayed as an exotic symbol. These things must be stopped. I expect the House to agree with my insistence that advertisements regarding liquor and intoxicating objects must be banned immediately and stringent rules must be framed to discourage such film making.

DR. ASIM BALA (Navadwip) : Sir, the *Anganwadi* workers in the country are on the verge of starvation today. They are working under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resources Development. Their remuneration which ranges from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 are simply disgraceful. There are about eight lakhs *anganwadi* workers in the country. They work in villages and they are employed in relief works, for administering first aid in the Health centres

and also render nursing services and such other works in the villages.

Sir, nothing has been recommend for them in the Fifth Pay Commission. No provision has been made for them even in the Budget. So, I would like to request the Government to look into the matter so that the *anganwadi* workers would get some benefits. They are agitating about it. They had already gone on strike and they are also planning for a demonstration against the injustices.

[Translation]

SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL (Jalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very important matter. Sir, the posts of Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India and the Chairman and Managing Director of United Insurance Corporation are lying vacant for the last 8-10 months. As per my information, the Finance Ministry has recommended twice the names of some persons for these posts but C.B.I. inquiries are going on against them. I think, the Ministry of Finance can not recommend such names against whom CBI inquiries are going on. I do not know why the names of same persons are being recommended again and again by the Ministry. Sir, through you I would like to request that this matter should be inquired into and early action should be taken to appoint some suitable persons of clean image on these two important posts.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir there are so many problems relating to land in the country. The Uttar Pradesh particularly in Jalesar constituency the problem is very serious. There are two departments relating to land – Waste land Development Corporation and Land Conservation Department, but these departments have not done any work there during last 10-12 years where as they are regularly showing lakhs of rupees in their expenditure. I would like to say that the entire matter should be inquired into and the guilty officials should be punished. Land conservation work should be carried on properly and the entire system should be streamlined.

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH (Kannauj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, though the canal system all over the country are not properly maintained but here I would like to draw your attention toward Uttar Pradesh only. The Uttar Pradesh a ganga Canal branch to Kanpur is passing through Farukhabad district. On the night of 7 and 8 March, this canal breached as a result of which it inundated 20 villages in our Umrada area. The entire crops and villages is that area were flooded with water. I would request the

government to direct the concerned officers for providing immediate relief to the people.

*[English]*

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Chairman Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members cutting across the party lines to a very important matter. Today there is acute shortage of power in the country. Specially, in Andhra Pradesh farmers are drying because their fields are drying up. They do not have water; they do not have power. What I would like to say, through you, to the House is that the need of the hour is water, power and shelter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not make a speech. It is Zero Hour. Just mention it and finish.

*[Translation]*

SHRI B.N. REDDY : Sir, please listen, I am talking about problems of water, power and shelter. Sir, please listen for a minute. Yesterday also I could not get opportunity to raise the matter during zero hour. Please allow me to speak for one minute. Some Members are even allowed to speak for more than 15 minutes.

*[English]*

Today, people are not asking for doles, they are asking for jobs. They are asking for electricity. An amount of Rs. 17,800 crore is being given as subsidy which will go down the drain if enough power is not made available. It will not be utilised properly in the country. I request you to tell the Prime Minister and others concerned that at least 50 per cent of that money be diverted to generate power, to provide water and housing to people so that employment is generated.

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, without prior permission of the Central Government, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is constructing five irrigation tanks. On account of this the Government of Karnataka will be put to a heavy loss. Hence, I request that the Andhra Pradesh Government be instructed not to construct the five irrigation tanks, that is, the Telugu Ganga Project and others.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the hon. Members of this House know that in J & K the Army, BSF and CRPF have been

occupying farmers land since so many years. The rent amount paid to the farmers by the Army, BSF and CRPF has not been increased since 1993. Therefore, I would request the Central Government and the Defence Ministry to increase the amount of rent and immediate payment of arrears should be made to the farmers, so that the farmers, whose lands have been occupied by the Army or other forces and who have no other means of livelihood, may make both ends meet.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House as well as of the Government towards a very important matter. There is brain drain from our country. Doctors, Engineers, scientists and even Army Officers are getting demoralised and leaving government jobs and joining multinational companies and other big companies.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been undertaking our space programme without any help from the developed countries, but during last few days many many scientists of ISRO have left the job. Every year an average of 85 scientists of ISRO are leaving the job and joining some other organisation. Last year alone 135 scientists left the organisation. The resignation of so many scientists from ISRO has adversely affected our space programme and it is almost on the verge of closure. If this situation continues the space programme would be stalled.

Therefore, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this fact that if this brain drain is not stopped, the talented persons would go out of the country and only the mediocre will remain here. Therefore the Government should create such conditions in the country in which brain drain could be stopped and the talented persons may have the opportunity to work.

*[English]*

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : This is to draw the attention of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce towards the seriously declining prices of Areca nut. Some of the recent decisions of the Government of India have helped the deterioration of the prices of Areca nut.

I would request the Government of India to take some measures to stop the import of Areca nut; to withdraw the tariff concessions given in respect of import of Areca nut; and to take stringent measures to prevent smuggling of Areca nut from neighbouring States.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM (Palamu) : Chairman Sir, Palamu in Bihar is a most backward and terrorist affected district. Sone Valley Portland Cement factory situated at Jafala has been close as a result of which thousands of people have been directly or indirectly affected. This was the only industry in that district and it has also been closed by the company. The company is shifting raw material to Bauliya Rohtas district. The workers of this industry and their families are dying of hunger and diseases. They are getting financially and mentally torched.

Therefore, through you, sir, I would like to request the government that the said cement factory may be reopened there so that the workers could be saved from becoming jobless.

[English]

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : would like to draw your kind attention and the attention of the august House to an incident in Howrah.

Sir, the Muslims, the *Harijan dalits* deserve a special support from the nation and from the Constitution. After the incident in Ayodhya on the 6th December, trouble took place everywhere, but no trouble took place in the city of Howrah. On the one side of the GT Road, Hindus and Muslims stayed together and on the other side, Hindus stayed. But no clash took place.

Unfortunately, a serious development took place in the last one week. The poorest of the poor Muslim along with Hindus, who belong to Tikiapara and Tilkhala slums, shoulder to shoulder defended the country in the hour of crisis. They tried to take the shelter unscrupulously built by the promoters at the behest of the Government. The Government did not stop them at that time. When all of them entered there, they started demolition in the last one week. Pregnant ladies, women, workers, Muslim girls, boys, kids and the dalits all came out in all these street slums.

You might be knowing that the film, *City of Joy*, was made in Tilkhala slums. On my intervention, the operation has been stopped. Again after Holi, it will start and that will lead to disaster. They conveyed to me to bring this issue before the Parliament. Is 'secularism' mean more word? There is no genuine protection for the poorest of the poor people in the slums. They are being treated like a butcher in the streets.

I appealed to the Government, I appealed to the police,

nothing had happened. Since this is the last forum, I would request the Government to urge upon the State Government before demolishing it to give protection to the poor Muslims and the dalits, who stood the darkest day of 6th December to defend the integrity of the nation, not to throw them in the streets by demolishing their houses. That is my urge.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my area Murshidabad is near the Indo-Bangladesh Border. Most of the trouble there is because of BSF. More than 10-12 thousand cattle is being smuggled from there to Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan every week. The State Administration wants to check it but the BSF is helping those elements. A meeting was held with the officials of BSF many days back but the result was that on the 16th BSF left Karpada camp and started firing near Kumarpur village about 20 kms. inside the border.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please tell what should be done about it. Do not give long speech.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : They killed an 8 year old girl in Kumarpur village whose name was Parveen khatoon. Therefore, I would urge the Central Government to conduct an inquiry into this matter and present a report to the House at its next sitting. Compensation to Rs. 2 lakh should be given to the innocent people who have been killed there.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The Government should give a statement.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is somebody taking a note of it from the Government side?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : I do not want to raise a controversy here by saying Hindu-Muslim people because most of the people who have been killed are Muslim. The BSF has committed atrocities everywhere near the border.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The Government should take some steps in this regard. The Government does not take any action.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to Ranchi which is a major city of Bihar. There is acute shortage of electricity and water. People have to tread long distances to get water and the electricity remain suspended for 10-12 hours a day as a result of which most of the industries are suffering and are on the verge of closure. The Government is not making any arrangements to provide adequate water and electricity supply. Ranchi has a population of 12 lakh and there is acute shortage of water. I would urge the Government to improve the position and solve the drinking water and electricity problem there.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has repeated assurances to bring about amendments to the Delhi Rent Control Act. But even today the Damocles Sword is still hanging on the people. 90 per cent of the people want that the amendment should be brought forth immediately. The Government has given assurances repeatedly but how long will it remain silent ? Why have the amendments not being brought ? They should be brought forward immediately so that the people are benefited.

\*SHRI VEERABHADRAM THAMMINENI (Khammam) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to bring an important point to the notice of this august House. Just a few minutes back. One hon. Member from Karnataka was asking for the immediate stoppage of work on Telugu Ganga. But now I am on my legs to ask for the immediate stoppage of the construction of work of Almatti project. No Hon. Member in this august House should feel that we the members coming from different States rising issues in this Supreme Forum pertaining only to their States. The controversies related to Almatti and Telugu Ganga have been referred to the Committee consisting of five Chief Ministers for the solution. An Expert Committee was constituted by this Chief Minister's Committee. Now I want to quote a few sentences from the Report of the Experts' Committee.

"Karnataka states that FRL of plus 524.256 mm. enables the State of Karnataka to steer of water available to it under Scheme B when it comes. It means that only when Scheme B fructifies there will be large storage available to the quantity of 23 TMC under Polavaram Division and 165 TMC from Scheme B. . ."

\* Translating of the speech Originally Delivered in Telugu.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot give a speech in the Zero Hour.

The Expert Committee is quite clear in its Report that it is not at all necessary at this stage to take up the work on Almatti. The Experts' Committee has now submitted its Report. Andhra Pradesh Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution asking for the immediate stoppage of construction work on Almatti. All the permissions granted so far for the construction of Almatti should be withdrawn at once. So I request that, in view of the Expert Committee's opinion, the Union Government should take immediate action to stop the construction work on Almatti.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government will take a note of it.

You please be seated. I have given you the chance. They will take note of it.

SHRI VEERABHADRAM THAMMINENI : the Court has already given a judgement on this.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, keeping in view the economic plight of the farmers it is urged that the Central Government should provide electricity free of charge for tubewells and provide adequate funds for the implementation of JRY, RLEGP and Integrated Employment Programme and million wells schemes. This would enable the farmers to raise the standard of living. The Madhya Pradesh Government and other State Government should be provided adequate funds so that these schemes are effectively implemented and the economic plight of the farmers is improved. Immediate action should be taken in this regard.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to an important issue. During the last few months, the prices of wheat have risen tremendously. As a result the consumer was fleeced. This is all because there is no well planned agriculture policy in the country and the support price is fixed for the farmers and the businessmen. The what was procured at Rs. 380 per quintal and it was sold Rs. 800 per quintal. As a result the consumer and the farmers both suffered. Today the situation is that no farmer of Punjab and Haryana is ready to sell even 1 kg. of wheat to the Government Agency. The hon. Finance Minister gave a

[Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra]

statement in the Rajya Sabha we would import wheat. But the imported wheat has been stored.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want to say to the Government ?

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is ready to pay that much to the farmers of Punjab and Haryana which they have paid to the foreign agencies for importing wheat. If Rs. 100 per quintal is not given as bonus to the farmers, as promised by the Finance Minister in the Budget speech, the farmers will not sell wheat to the Central Pool. Therefore, my request to the Government is that steps should be taken in this direction.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, after two days there is holi festival. The Food Corporation of India had to supply wheat in the open market to Rajasthan but it has not so far reached the market there. The price of wheat, maida and suji has increased by Rs. 100 per quintal. Last week the price of wheat in Rajasthan was Rs 700 per quintal but today it is Rs. 850 per quintal. Similarly, the price of maida has increased by Rs. 100 per quintal whereas the holi festival is round the corner.

I demand from the Central Government that the share of Rajasthan which the FCI has to supply should be released early because the traders have deposited Rs. 5 crores in cash with the FCI for this purpose. I urge that wheat should be supplied immediately in the open market before the holi festival otherwise the consumers would suffer a lot.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Lot of injustice is being done to the students of the Rohelkhand University in U.P. The students who had been awarded Bachelor's degree from the Indira Gandhi National Open University are not being admitted to this University and their admission forms are being cancelled. This is inspite of the fact that all degrees and diplomas of IGNOU are treated at par with the other recognised Central and State universities of the country.

I would like to point out that IGNOU was set up with the main aim of providing and promoting informal education under the new education policy. All the degrees and diplomas of IGNOU are at par with other universities in the country. There is clear instructions in this regard from the UGC and the Human Resource Development Ministry

has also issued a notification in this regard. In spite of these instructions it is strange that Rohelkhand University is not allowing the holders of degrees of IGNOU in the examination and their forms are being cancelled.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do not want to say exactly?

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : I want the HRD Minister to intervene so that the forms of these students are not cancelled and their future is not bleak  
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to speak please submit hurriedly.

SHRI MAHAVIR LAL BISHVAKARMA (Hazaribagh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the teacher of minority schools are not getting salaries for the last 8 months as a result of which they are facing a lot of difficulties. When the education in the country was brought under one umbrella and nationalised these minority schools were not nationalised.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a state subject you cannot raise it here.

SHRI MAHAVIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : The Government gives aid to these schools, therefore I want to submit that these teachers should be provided salaries at the earliest.

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the telephone connections in the Jamaulla Sub-Division in Mekliganj area of Coochbehar district of West Bengal have been remaining non-operative since long it is a very important area. There are so many schools and colleges, Panchayat Offices and other Government offices. So, the telephone connection there should be restored immediately.

I urge upon the Government to take necessary action so that the telephone connection in Jamaulla Sub-Division in Makliganj area of Coochbehar district is restored.

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahr) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the prevalent corruption resentment and chaos in the telephones department. In our area almost all the telephones are lying out of order. In most of the big cities in my district the telephone remains for weeks together. The business has come to a standstill because telephones are not functioning properly. Besides the entire telephone

department is in the grip of corruption. Palms have to be greased to get forms and demand notes. The officials have to be bribed if out of turn booking of telephones is to be done. Even the telephones released from the MPs quota are not installed for six months. The petty officials of the department demand money for this also. Therefore, my request to the Government is to look into this so that the system works effectively.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : I will be brief.

The Subarnarekha Barrage Project in the district of Midnapore of West Bengal was estimated to cost Rs. 216.65 crore at the price level of 1987. The State Government, with its limited resources has been spending very small amounts every year. This causes overrun of time and cost overrun also. I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to help the State Government with some financial assistance so that the project can be implemented as quickly as possible.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Morena) : Sir, one person named Shri Krishan Singh Tomar resident of Chandepur village under Dimni Thana in Morena district was beaten to death under the instructions of the SP of the area. Later the body was thrown in a well and a case of suicide was registered and the matter was hushed up. No action has been taken so far.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want to say ?

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : There have been many such incidents in the district. It is true that this area is dacoit infested, but it does not mean that innocent people should be terrorised and beaten. Similarly, one rickshaw puller Khushwa of Morena Kotwali and Chetan Punjabi were beaten to death in Bamour Thana. I seek your protection in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want the Government do ?

[English]

It is a matter of law and order, a State subject.

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : This is a serious matter and therefore the Central Government should intervene and instruct the State Government to transfer those officials from there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Now Dr. Satya Narayan Jatiya.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : MR. Chairman, Sir, the decision taken by the Oil Selection Board regarding Alot in Madhya Pradesh has not yet shown the results. In spite of the announcement that Gas Agency has been opened there, the people are not getting gas connections. In spite of including Tarana in marketing plan, no gas agency has been opened there. As of today, lakhs of people are there in the waiting list but they have no chance to get gas connections, people are getting connections by paying Rs. 4000 and under such circumstances no justice can be done with the people in the waiting list. Therefore, I would request the Government not to introduce any new scheme till the waiting list is not exhausted. I also would like to say that the gas agencies, which were to be opened at Alota and Tarana, should be opened immediately.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, four crore people of Rajasthan speak Rajasthani language. This language has a very rich literature and poetry but even then this language has not been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. When Manipuri and Nepali languages were included, it was assured that Rajasthani language would also be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Therefore, I would request the Government that Rajasthani language should be included in the Eighth Schedule of our constitution.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bihar is a most backward state of India. Though it has mineral resources in abundance and has fertile land but due to non availability of irrigation facilities, the agriculture is no more a profitable occupation. Due to this reason the youths of that state are not paying attention towards agriculture. They are not willing to do it. They are cutting from the national mainstream and going on wrong path. That is why terrorism is increasing in the state.

They have created certain pockets there, where they are running parallel government. The DIG of that area has also accepted this fact. Therefore, sir, through you I would like to request the Government to pay attention towards the implementation of Punpun Murhar Dargha project. Now its estimated cost has increased to cover Rs. 100 crore. I would request the Government to allocate more and more fund for the implementation of this scheme.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Sir, there are two units of Cement Corporation of India in my area. Out of these two units one was closed earlier and the other unit is also lying closed because it has not paid the power charges as a result of which power connection has been disconnected. It is all because of the carelessness of the management. There is total mismanagement. As a result of which the workers are not getting their salaries for the last two months. There is great discontentment among the workers. I would request the Government to provide funds to this unit so that it may get power connection and the workers payment could also be made and the discontentment among the workers could be removed. I would request the Industry Minister to take immediate action in this regard, so that the situation could be averted from becoming explosive there.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the government towards Tal and Diyara areas, 1062 square Km. are of Tal have waterlogging problem for five or six months in a year as a result of which the farmers are able to cultivate only one crop on this land in a year. For the development of that area a Tal project was prepared at the time of Dr. K.L. Rao but due to the carelessness on the part of the Government this project could not be given practical shape. I would like to request the Government to include this Tal project in the 9th plan so that farmers may be able to get double crops in a year from that land. In view of the geographical situation of Tal and Diyara areas, special area status should be granted to these areas for proper development. Besides that punpun Murahar Dargha project as has been mentioned by Shri Ramashraya ji should also be include in 9th plan and the Central Government should allocate adequate fund for the implementation this project.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman, sir, there are about two hundred families in our Doda district whose members were killed by the terrorists. It was announced by the Government that atleast one member of such family would be provided Government job and Rs. one lakh ex-gratia payment would be made to the family. There are atleast two hundred families which have neither been paid ex-gratia payment nor Government job has been provided to any family member. In the same district, village defence committees were also constituted by the Government and it was assured that Rs. 1500 would be paid to each such committee. These committees have been doing excellent work for the last three years which could not be done even by the Army and CRPF. But no assistance is being given to them by the Government. I would like to request that Rs. 1500 should be paid to them

immediately. About four lakh migrants are living here and there in a pitiable condition. It was said that after the formation of the Government, they would be sent back to their native places but till now no such plan has been prepared by the Government. So, I would like to say that so long as they are not sent back, a grant of Rs. 3000 per family and free ration should be provided to them.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious matter. Every year five lakh people of our country are dying of deadly disease like T.B. The number of its patients is also increasing every year. A survey was conducted by the Health department according to which 14 crore people are affected by this disease all over the country and because of this five lakh people are drying untimely death every year.

Sir, in Delhi alone, about two lakh persons are TB patients in Government hospitals and it was also estimated that every year 12 lakh people all over the country would get affected by TB. This number is likely to rise to 15 lakh. Sir, because of environmental pollution, industrial pollution AIDS and wide spread poverty in slum areas are the main reason of spreading this disease.

Sir through you, I would like to request the Governments that the National T.B. Control Programme formulated in 1962 should be implemented effectively and necessary medicines and x-ray machines should be made available in hospitals so that proper care of people's health could be taken.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, sir, there is a Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan from where salt is supplied to more that half of the population of our country. Earlier a foreign company was given a contract which is now going to end very soon. The Rajasthan Government was not receiving as much sale tax from it as it should have received. Therefore, the contract of this foreign company should be cancelled and it should be given to Rajasthan government. If it is done there will be problem of sale tax loss and the country would also get benefited. It is matter relating to salt and therefore, the Government should pay more attention on it.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Respected Chairman, Sir, I am surprised and astonished that there was an informal committee on Almatti Dam height which has given its report. That informal committee which has given its report, was an unofficial one and was an

illegitimate brain child of the United Front. This was created by the U.F. Steering Committee and the Chief Minister's Sub-Committee. Therefore, I urge the Union Government that it should not take cognizance of the report given by the illegitimate brain child of this Expert Committee on the height of Almatti Dam. The Karnataka Government is well within its right to take the height of the dam to 524.25 metres.

The Karnataka Government has already registered its complaint that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is using the surplus water. The Karnataka Government has also complained to the Expert Committee that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is continuing with the Telugu Ganga, Srisailem Left Bank and Right Bank canals, Bhima Lift Irrigation and Pulichintala project and they are using the surplus water (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want the Government of India to do ? You request that.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : The Government of India should not take cognizance of the Expert Committee's report.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The minister will take note of it. Please conclude.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : There is one more thing. It is unfair and detrimental to the interest of the Karnataka State.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not correct. You have already stated what you wanted to state.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, you should allow me one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already stated your point.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, it is important to note that the Supreme Court of India has not given any stay for continuing the civil works at Almatti dam. I demand that the Union Government should not take cognizance of this report. The Karnataka Government is justified to have the construction of the dam at a height of 524.25 metres.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way. You will have to sit now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Yes sir.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of great concern as far as the State of Karnataka is concerned. There is a gross power shortage in our State. We are expecting some power projects which

are going to be set up in the near future. The fuel of many of the oncoming projects is naphtha. There is a quota of naphtha which has been fixed by the Government of India. Recently the quota which has been fixed for Kerala has been reduced. The quota that was already there would have been enough for making 660 M.W. of power. Now it has been reduced and with the quantum of naphtha that the State is going to receive will only be available for about 300 M.W. production. That is going to cause great concern as far as the State of Kerala is concerned. Because of lack of rains the hydro electric projects are also not going to function. As per a statement given by the hon. Minister yesterday in the House, the projects are not going to function as such after 9th June. So, there is going to be a great power shortage in Kerala. I would earnestly urge upon the Government of India to increase the quota of naphtha to Kerala. Thank you.

SHRI ISWAR PARSANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity. I have just received information that the revamped package of the Namrup Fertiliser Plant of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation is in jeopardy because of refusal by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to allocate an additional 0.3 million cubic metres of gas in the second and third units of the complex. Since the cost of production of urea in this plant is only Rs. 3,500 as against Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 8,000 in any other plant and since a huge quantity of gas is being flared up, I would urge upon the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to allocate this additional and small quantity of 0.3 million cubic metres of gas to the Namrup Fertiliser Plant so that the plant can be saved from closure. Thank you.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Sir, in reply to the unstarred question number 4200 dated 4.9.1996 the hon. Minister of Power has replied that in West Bengal 351 villages were electrified in 1993-94 and 310 villages in 1994-95 and only 89 villages in 1995-96 were electrified.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Haradhan Roy, you have raised this matter earlier. Please be brief. Please say in one sentence.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Yes sir, I will be very brief. Nearly 8,819 villages are yet to be electrified which is the figure upto the end of March, 1996 whereas only 89 villages were electrified in 1995-96. Therefore, I want the Ministry of Power of the Government of India to release sufficient funds so that by the year 2000 A.D. the remaining villages, which are numbering nearly 9,000, could be electrified. Sufficient funds may be released for this purpose. This is my submission. Thank you.

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, sir, efforts are being made all over the country to protect the environment and it is a welcome step. Under environment protection the questions of checking air pollution and sound pollution are also included. We all know that how badly the sound pollution affects the people. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you also have its experience.

Recently the Calcutta High Court has given a landmark judgement regarding sound pollution. It has been said that no loud speaker would be used in any public worship place from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m. The High Court has also said that it should not be viewed from religious aspect. The Chief Minister, Shri Jyoti Basu has also agreed to it and he has said that he would sort out this issue by calling a meeting of religious leaders.

In this regard I would like to urge upon the Home Minister also to call a meeting of the leaders of all political parties and religious leaders and take a decision that loudspeaker would not be used in any place of worship from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m. It would provide relief to the people and the sound pollution could also be checked. The Government should come out with a statement in the House as to what it intends to do in this regard.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Chairman, sir, every Government is in a hurry to lay foundation stones. In 1995 a foundation stone of a branch of Indian Institute of Mass Communication was laid down in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh but till now no further work has been undertaken there. In that branch videography management and communication development works were to be started. Therefore, I would like to request that either the work should be started immediately on the place where foundation stone was laid or if there is any difficulty, my constituency Indore is a well developed area where this work can be undertaken and I assure that all sorts of assistance would be given in this regard.

[English]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Sir, the law and order situation in my border district of Karimganj in Assam is serious. Everyday dacoity, robbery, looting of public and private buses and smuggling of cows and buffaloes are going on unabated as if there is no administration at all.

The district police authority is hopelessly inactive to tackle the situation and what is most surprising is that dacoities are committed under the nose of the police.

The role of the State Government in this regard is, so to say, passive. Therefore, I would urge upon the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to look into the matter and to do the needful immediately.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the CBI has instituted an inquiry against some of the officials of the Vijaya Bank, including two ex-Chairman, Shri Sadanand Shetty and Shri Shivaram Shetty, for causing loss to the tune of more than Rs. 200 crore to the bank by illegally lending money to some of unscrupulous borrowers. Due to this reason, there is a great panic in the minds of the customers. There has been a paid withdrawal of deposits from the Vijaya Bank. The employees of the Vijaya Bank are also demoralised.

I demand from the Government that very stern action will have to be taken against all these erring ex-employees and the entire money should be recovered. It is understood that today the financial position of the Vijaya Bank is not in the red. So, to remove the panic from the minds of the customers, let there be a statement from the Reserve Bank or the Government that the Vijaya Bank is out of danger and stern action will be taken against all the erring officials including two ex-Chairmen for recovery of monetary loss which is caused to the Bank.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI (Srinagar) : Sir, due to militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, the number of educated unemployed youth has increased to a great extent. They are not getting employment there. They are very disappointed. Therefore, I would request the Central Government that they should be given employment in the Central Government departments located in the State so that their unemployment problem could be solved.

\*SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar)\* : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is acute shortage of drinking water in the entire district of Kolar in the State of Karnataka. There is no water to the cattle also. The ground water level has gone down to 500 to 600 feet. The ground water contains fluoride and it causes dental and bone disorder. The first step for the Government is to bring the level of ground water to at least 100 feet level. It can be done by desilting the tanks in the district which will favourably affect the underground water table. Then the water has to be purified before supplying it to the people. An experiment was conducted in this regard at two places, Muttur in Shidtaghatta Taluk and Chatra Kodahalli in Kolar Taluk. It was a great success. Water is available there at 100 feet ground level.

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

The Deputy Commissioner Shri Sanjaya Das Gupta has forwarded a detailed project to the State Government regarding the immediate need to desilt the tanks in Kolar district.

The State cannot provide sufficient funds for this purpose and the drought situation is taking a serious turn. The farmers and the cattle have to be saved and the people have to be provided with drinking water.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to release about 500 crores of rupees immediately to the district authorities to take up the desilting work of all the three thousand tanks in the entire district of Kolar.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Chairman Sir, the matter regarding problem of textile mills have been raised a number of times here. Even personally I have raised this matter a number of times. There are 11 textile Spinning Mills in Uttar Pradesh out of which 5 mills are located in Kanpur. The Government had formulated a Scheme to rejuvenate these mills after modernisation and a provision of Rs. 2005 crore was made for this purpose but these mills have not yet been started again. Workers are not getting their wages in time. Out of five mills located in Kanpur two mills viz. Laxmi Ratan Cotton Mill and Mayur Cotton Mill are in better condition. These mills have machines as well as generating sets. Therefore these mills require less funds. They have got land also. Mayur Mill has 16 acres of land. Artherton Mill has 19 acres and Laxmi Rattan Mill has got 5 acres of land. It is a prime land. These mills can be regenerated after selling this land. Their workers did not get payment of Rs. 27 crores towards their P.F. and E.S.I.

I urge the Government that these mills be started again after modernisation and payment of Rs. 27 crores towards their P.F. and E.S.I. should be made to the workers without further delay.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Chairman, Sir, I just want to say that in the morning today we received an envelope containing bill on Aqua-culture. These was a Supreme Court decision on the subject which should be implemented before 31 March and it seems that there is no intention of the Government to implement it. This is regarding those small fishermen who fish near the sea coast.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has been decided that it would taken up after 3.30 P.M.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It will not be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It not, it will be taken up after 6.00 P.M.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No, Such Law should not be taken up after 6.00 P.M. We are deadly against that law. The decision of the Supreme Court should be implemented and we should not take any such step like issuing an ordinance when the parliament is not in session.

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (Bilhour) : Chairman Sir, in my parliamentary constituency of Bilhour in Kanpur Dehat there is large production of Potato this year but there is no space available in the cold storages. There has been a lathi charge and firing on the farmers. I request the Government that they should start procuring potato and give priority to Store it in the Cold Storages Besides, Cold Storage facilities should be provided in my constituency so that the farmers may be benefited and not suffer infuture.

*[English]*

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHARY (Tripura West) : Mr. Chairman Sir, there are reports that NSCN (I) and other insurgent groups in the North Eastern region like ULFA, UNLF, ATTF, NLFT etc. have been enjoying training and other facilities in Bangladesh and Myanmar. The NSCN (Khaplang) is having its training camps in Myanmar. The NSCN (I) supreme Shri Mouiah has been staying Thailand for a long times. They are smuggling arms through Indo-Bangladesh border in Triupra, Assam, and Megalaya and also through Indo-Myanmar border in Manipur and Mizoram. The extremist groups have threatened the Chittagong Port authority that if they are not allowed to do their jobs, they will demolish the Chittagong Port with explosives. I urge upon the Central Government to take up the matter with the Governments of Thailand, Bangladesh and Myanmar so that the insurgency problem is tackled jointly.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Girdin) : Chairman Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Government through you towards starting of Captive Power Plant located in Kathora area under the Central Coal fields Limited. This power plant is being constructed for the last 17 years and a sum of about Rs. 84 crores has already been spent and but this plant could not be started because of the negligence of D.V.C. I urge the Government to get this plant started.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA (Beedar) : Chair- man Sir, the problem of freedom fighters has not been

[Shri Ramchandra Veerappa]

solved even after 50 years of independence. Delhi is too far from them. They have to face a lot of problem in the rural areas. I would request the Central Government to decide their cases without further delay.

My another submission is that cow slaughter is still going on in the country even after 50 years of independence. This should be stopped.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma) : Chairman Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Government through you towards National Education Policy. Teachers of 350 Colleges in Bihar have become just pampers. They have been lathi charged a number of times. They had a nude demonstration here. It is, therefore, requested that the Government should take into consideration the plight of those teachers who are suffering for the last 15-16 years and working in these 350 colleges and provide them relief by giving them financial aid.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (Sheohar) : I would like to draw attention of the Government, through you, towards Reega Sugar Mill. The Mill is functioning arbitrarily which is at its peak.

The prices of Sugarcane have not been paid to the farmers since January - February. The Mill has increased the prices of its products like manure etc. by 10 percent but it is still paying Rs. 5-7 less than the prices fixed by the Government to the Sugar Cane growers for their produce. Maneuvering is also done in the process of weighing and in the distribution of slips. Lot of bungling is there in the whole system. Farmers are continuously agitating against that mill but no concrete results have been achieved.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ (Jamshedpur) : Chairman, Sir, it is exam time for students throughout India. Students prepare for exams, during these days throughout India. But situation in Bihar is altogether different because the results are not declared in Bihar even after Six months of the exams. Students are suffering a lot because of this. Therefore, the Bihar Government should be directed to declare the results of the exams, within a period of two months.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a State subject, why are you raising it here ?

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Whenever this matter is raised before the State Government they are not paying any attention and no actions being taken.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Chairman Sir, I

would like to draw attention of the Government of India towards my constituency of Robertsganj where majority of the people are uneducated and the where farmers have to depend solely on the rains for their crops. Whole paddy crop was lost because of lack of water. The farmers and the workers of that area are literally dying of hunger. The Government is requested to provide relief by starting the relief work there immediately.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I want to raise a very important matter here pertaining to Bihar. The year 1988 has been taken as the base year in the agreements regarding sharing of Ganga water with Bangladesh. I would like to point out that the water level coming through the river of the State has been reduced to a great extent. Since the year 1988 and now in 1997 it is very less in comparison to the year 1988.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please suggest what the Government of India should do in this regard.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : I request the Government of India that the base year for this purpose should be taken as 1997 instead of 1988.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAM (Quilon) : Sir, in November 1996 the Government of Kerala has launched a massive housing scheme campaign for the economically weaker sections. It is called Maitreyi Housing Scheme. The hon. Prime Minister visited Kerala and inaugurated the programme. He has also offered Rs. 90 crore by way of loan. So far, an amount of Rs. 17.95 crore at 9 per cent interest has been disbursed. I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India to release the rest of the amount.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Chairman Sir, I would like to request the Government through you that there is a place known as Transgiri in Nahan District of Himachal Pradesh which is located near to Uttar Pradesh border. Some agitation is going on in that area under the banner of Hathi Sabha and their demand is that they should be included in the tribal area. Sir, they are making this demand for the last so many years. I have also requested the Hon'ble Minister to accede to their demand and that area should be declared as tribal area.

\*SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA (Davanagere)\* : Mr. Chairman Sir, there is no rain in Chitradurga district

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada

Karnataka State, and drought situation is prevailing there. Drinking water is not available to the people of that area particularly in the rural areas.

Hence, it is high time to take up the most important Tunga Lift Irrigation Project. In fact, survey is being conducted to take up this vital project. This project has to be taken up without any further delay as the entire Chitra Durga district is drought prone.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to provide sufficient funds for the Thunga Irrigation Project in Karnataka.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Chairman Sir, in my city Mumbai, there is one Scindhia workshop where workers did not get their wages for the last 11 months. I have met the Minister of Finance several times in this regard. Some of the workers of that workshop had opted V.R.S. till 1991. But there also some of the workers were there who got their wages upto the year 1990. But now it is 1997. It is therefore requested that the remaining workers should also be paid their wages upto 1997.

13.18 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.22 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at Twenty two Minutes past Fourteen of the clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the chair]

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED  
TO PRIVILEGE COMMITTEE.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir ruling on the notice of Privilege Motion given by me was likely to be announced. This is what the Hon'ble Speaker had said.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have been informed that the Privilege motion notice given by you.

[English]

It has been referred to the Privileges Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Deputy Speaker Sir

when this matter has been referred to the Privileges Committee it should be told to everybody so as to tell them about the subject matter of that notice. What was this notice the members should be told about this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay, Prof. Verma you please speak briefly about your notice.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Deputy Speaker Sir, this matter involves question of breach of privilege of all the members of this House and not only my rights. So, very briefly I will speak so that all the members could know about it.

Honble Deputy Speaker Sir, we all the members are facing a problem because of privatisation and closure of Public Sector undertakings because we have to protect the interests of those workers who have been working and affected by the closure or sickness of these public sector undertaking located in our area. It is not a matter relating to a party . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You just tell about the portion relating to the breach of privileges.

PROF. RITA VERMA : I am telling that. I just read it in brief. My notice was on these following four points :-

[English]

1. "that I was prevented from carrying out my legitimate duties as a Member of Parliament;
2. that I was abused, physically assaulted and singled out for gross misbehaviour;
3. that I was arrested and taken to jail in violation of all laws and regulations; and
4. that I was prevented from filing an FIR by the police which refused to accept it."

[Translation]

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, my agitation is for the protection of interests of workers of a sick public sector Hindustan steel . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You just read the relevant portion of the privilege motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you have already read then it is alright.

(Interruptions)

[Prof Rita Verma]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Other people could not understand it.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : Deputy Speaker Sir, kindly give me two minutes time to speak . . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, this is already been referred

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : I would take only 9 minute . . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Speaker has already referred it so no further discussion can take place on this.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : I just want to tell in one sentence . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is already too much. There is not need to say anything more . . . *(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : I wanted to say that I was agitating for the interests of those workers of Hindustan steel works construction Ltd. who have become jobless and against corruption. For that I got this punishment that I was insulted, slapped, disrobed thrashed and Jailed . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright. This has already been referred.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : When the notice is referred to the Privileges Committee, where is the need to explain it further ? How can she do it ?

14.30 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

##### (i) **Need to provide financial Assistance to Betel Leave Growers in Lalitpur District of U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, agriculture of betel leaves is done in Lalitpur district of U.P. The cost of production of betel leaves is very high. Due to pest infection for the last three years the production of betel leaves is decreasing there gradually and betel leaves growers have suffered heavy losses. The farmers are on the verge of starvation. I had drawn the attention of the hon. Minister to this fact earlier also. The experts of the Agriculture Research Institute, Jabalpur had conducted an enquiry in this regard, but so far there have been no fruitful results. The U.P. Government has also opened an office to monitor the situation there, but so far no conclusion has been drawn by them also regarding the impact of pests on the betel leave production.

The Minister of Agriculture is therefore requested to take necessary steps to sanction adequate grant-in-aid to growers, provide pesticide and arrange bank loans for them at lower rate of interest to make them prosper and progress.

##### (ii) **Need to provide adequate compensation to the people whose land has been acquired for various projects in Robertsganj, U.P.**

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to Robertsganj Parliamentary Constituency which is predominantly inhabited by people belonging to SC and the backward classes. A number of Central, State, and non-governmental schemes are being executed in Sonbhadra district of U.P. but the original land owners have neither been given due compensation for the land nor provided jobs in the projects. The Central Government is requested to inquire into the matter, give due compensation to the land owners and absorb them in the projects.

##### (iii) **Need to release funds for early completion of Pochampad 2nd Phase irrigation project of Andhra Pradesh**

[English]

SHRI BHUMA NAGI REDDY (Nandyal) : I would like to bring the matter of Pochampad 2nd Phase irrigation project (Sriram Sagar Project) at Andhra Pradesh in Nalgonda district to the kind attention of this august House. It would irrigate about 2.75 hectares. It is pending for a long time and recently just before the Parliament elections, the foundation stone was laid on 6/3/97 by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh with a promise that it would

be started immediately. It was said that a sum of Rs. 63 crore assistance has been received from World Bank for this project. It is already one year after the laying of the foundation stone for the project, but nothing substantial has been achieved so far.

Similarly, nothing has been done to complete the SLBC Project for which the public and the farmers are agitating for years together.

I request the Union Government, thank you, to give necessary help for commissioning funds to complete the works at the earliest.

**(iv) Need to Instruct ONGC TO Award Execution to Offshore Platforms to Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam to make it viable.**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam a pioneer shipbuilding yard had diversified its activities into offshore field with active participation of the ONGC. Hindustan Shipyard has executed certain offshore platforms awarded by the ONGC in 1989. Subsequently, no works were allotted to the Shipyard, as a result of which the entire yard is lying idle.

The ONGC has entrusted with execution of two platform to M/s. Mazgon Docks Ltd., Bombay on nomination basis. Even one B-55 platform which was earmarked to Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., initially was tendered on ICB basis. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., has stood lowest in the ICB, they were deprived of the order by favouring M/s. Mazgon Docks Ltd., Bombay basing on a discount offered by them separately. Thus ignoring the claim on Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. for execution of work by ONGC is a matter for concern. The works done during the past by Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. should have been considered by the ONGC. This could have helped also to a greater extent the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. to become viable.

It is known fact that both the Centre and the State are considering various measures for restructuring Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. and making it a viable ship building yard. Its viability very much depends on the offshore activities, lest it will be difficult for the yard to survive.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Minister of Petroleum that he should issue instruction to the concerned authorities that the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., should also be offered execution of platforms immediately.

**(v) Need to ensure early commissioning of Doordarshan Kendra at Patna, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Doordarshan Kendra Patna has been inaugurated but it has not been commissioned so far because arrangements to provide adequate staff could not be made. Though equipments worth Rs. 42 crores have been installed therein, it has not been commissioned so far. The equipments are lying idle and getting rusted. Therefore I urge the Central Government to commission this Doordarshan Kendra at the earliest and also enquire into the reasons of delay.

**(vi) Need to make available River water to Punjab based on Riparain Principles**

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Punjab is basically an agricultural State and agriculture requires goods irrigation, Punjab is unfortunately denied the full use of its river waters and only one-third of the land is irrigated by canal water. That is why, almost nine lakh tube wells have been installed in the State within a small area. This has very adversely affected the availability of ground water and the level of ground water is rapidly going down. The entire river water flowing in Punjab rivers should be made available to Punjab under the Riparian principles as applicable throughout the country so that more land can be brought under canal irrigation to increase the agricultural production. I request the Union Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

**(vii) Need to Draw a Special Plan for Desilting of Rivers in Assam**

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the plains of Assam surrounded by the hilly terrain of the North-Eastern region are subjected to erosion and recurring floods during rainy season. Due to wanton destruction of forest and other activities including zoom cultivation in the hills, large scale, flow of silt resulted in shallowing of the river beds in almost all the rivers of the Brahmaputra basin consisting of 48 tributaries. It has also resulted in erosion and floods, formation of small islands and change of river course. Due to desposition of infertile silt over cultivable lands extending upto five feet many areas became unfit for cultivation. In certain areas the

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

breadth of Brahmaputra widened to the extent of 15 kilometres due to excessive silt desposition.

During the last two decades more than 10 thousand villages including part of the river islands Majuli amounting 10 per cent of the total fertile cultivable land of Assam were engulfed by the river system. Every year there are loss of life, property of several hundred crores including disruption of road and rail communication. The maximum damage done last year resulting in disruption of road communication and breach of embankments could not be repaired yet due to financial stringency in Jonai, Dhemaji, Majuli, Lakhimpur, Sodia, Chabua, Dhakuakhana and Nowboicha areas under my parliamentary constituency.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Water Resources to draw a special plan for desiltation fo the river system by way of dredging and to provide additional fund urgently for immediate restoration of the protection bundhs and road comunication before the start of rainy season. the Brahmaputra Board may also be specially advised for prepaning a master plan to deal with the situation by applying remote sensing device and dredging operation.

**(viii) Need to solve acute scarcity of drinking water in Bonda district, UP.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAJEEVAN (Banda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a large tract of land in district Banda, UP consists of plataues, hillocks and uneven topography. Drinking water is avaiabile at about 150 to 200 feet below the ground level. The drought affected farmers have utilised whatsoever little rain water was left in all ponds etc. by flushing it out with the help of the pump-sets for irrigation purpose. Lakhs of people are at present faced with acute scarcity of safe drinking water and this problem is going to acquire serious dimensions during the coming Summer.

Therefore, the need of the hour is to solve the drinking water problem urgently and for that immediate steps should be taken by the Government. The Government should also provide funds for the pending drinking water schemes. The antiquated rig machines for digging hand-pums should be declared obsolete and more and more hand-pumps should be installed by procuring modern ng machines of greater capacity. In ordder to sovie the drinking water problem the Central Government should release Rs. five crore directly to the District Development Agency of Banda.

**(ix) Need to take steps to Revive Sick NTC Mills in U.P. Particularly in Kanpur**

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Sir, there are 11 mills, five in Kanpur itself and the rest in other parts of the State, under the control of NTC (UP) Ltd. These were taken over as sick unit and nationalised by STUNA in 1974 with a view to cater to the needs of poor and middle people.

Since September, 1991, their production activities became standstill due to budgetary cut and now declared under "C" category. In order to revive these mills, the Production Plan was prepared by NITRA under Textile Ministry in 1993. A reference was also made to BIFR regardig the accumulated losses suffered by the subsidiary which opined that unless the accumulated losses were converted to equity or else written off, the net worth of subsidiary cannot become positive within stipulated period.

I urge upon the Government to take up immediate steps to revive their sick mills.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Sir, I have been allowed by the hon. Speaker as a standby to raise a matter under Rule 377.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not aware of it. What is the subject ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : It was regarding keeping INS Vikrant in the Museum.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right please speak.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am also a standby. I request you to allow me also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am allowing him because he had said that the hon. Speaker has allowed him.

**(x) Need to Preserve INS Vikrant as a Symbol of Patriotism and Nationalism**

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : On 31st January 1997, the grand old lady of the Indian Navy, INS Vikrant was decommissioned from the Indian Navy after thirty-five years of distinguished and meritorious service.

Vikrant has been the nation's pride and her name is synonymous with India's naval aviation. In fact, she has trained and groomed a whole generation of India's naval aviators in the post-independence era.

After giving a war winning performance in the 1971 war, considered by many as one of the fourteen most important wars in the history of warfare, Vikrant will now end up in the ship-breaker's yard.

A glorious symbol of India's naval superiority will be unceremoniously destroyed and sold off as junk.

Two of India's celebrated warships INS Delhi and INS Mysore have already been destroyed after their decommissioning. The same fate lies in store for INS Vikrant if speedy steps of save her are not taken.

No Indian can ever forget Vikrant and she has been loved by the young and the old alike. In today's times, when we rarely agree on any particular issue, Vikrant is a true symbol which every Indian loves and will wholeheartedly agree should not be destroyed. Vikrant can indeed be preserved as a symbol of patriotism and nationalism

I urge upon the Government to consider the proposal keeping in mind the opinion of the populace and the benefit of the country at large and preserve Vikrant as a symbol of patriotism and nationalism

14.42 hrs.

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

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF  
PORT LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

\*PORT LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : I beg to move .

"That this House disapproves of the Port Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No.1 of 1997) promulgated by the President on January 9, 1997."

[*Translation*]

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government has brought many ordinances in place of Bills. During this inter-session

many ordinances have been promulgated. There is one similarity between these ordinances. Everytime the pretext is that as the Parliament was not in session and the President was satisfied that there was urgent need to bring about an ordinance, that is why it was promulgated. Except this nothing has been said. What was the need of bringing an ordinance here ? This ordinance was promulgated on 9th January. What action has been taken by the Government in this regard so far. Heavens would not have fallen if this was not done. In a parliamentary democracy it is the right of Parliament to frame laws but this Government is trying to deny us that right and laws are being thrust upon us through back door.

The experiment of Standing Committees is in the fourth year. It has been provided in the Rules that the Chairman of Rajya Sabha and the Speaker of Lok Sabha can refer any bill to these Standing Committees. They can discuss at length on these bills and then submit their report to the Parliament. It is in this backdrop that Parliament discusses these bills. If it is not possible to refer all the Bills to the Standing Committees, the Speaker and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha have a right to selectively refer some of the Bills of the Standing Committees. The Government has a tendency to bypass the Parliament and deny the Standing Committees of its rights. The Government has not be able to satisfy the Members of the Rajya Sabha as to why an ordinance was brought in regard to this Bill. Now this Bill is being discussed in this House. There has been not much discussion over this Bill in the Rajya Sabha. I do not want to comment on that. One hour has been allocated for discussing this Bill in this House. The situation today is that we are opening up our ports and privatising them. Any individual can invest in them. If this happens what will happen to national security. I do not want to quote from the reply that the hon. Minister has given in the Rajya Sabha because the time at my disposal is short. The hon. Minister has said that Rs. 750 crore would be invested by private parties. This is the only achievement. Investment has not come so far but he has got a commitment to this effect. I would like to ask that though the ordinance was promulgated on 9th January but what happened to the setting up of the authority. I fail to understand why there was such a hurry for issuing this ordinance. It would have been proper if this Bill would have been referred to the Standing committee which would have discussed in detail all the aspects and it could have been discussed here in this Budget Session. Today we are not able to discuss it in all its aspects. Besides issuing ordinances for such matters is not goods. By doing so assault is made on the

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Parliamentary democracy. I would like to quote from the Objects and Reasons where in projection have been made:

[English]

"The creation of additional port capacity of this order at the current cost would require an investment of over Rs. 40,000 crore. Projections made by the Ministry of Surface Transport indicate that not more than Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 would be available from Plan funds and the internal resources of the ports for investment in port development and the balance would have to come from the private sector or the capital market."

[Translation]

From where will the Private Sector invest. In most of the Private sector companies, the money does not belong to the owner. Even the Captains of Industry like Tatas have only 5 per cent share in the total capital which is invested in their companies. The rest of the capital either belongs to the banks or the shareholders and the financial institutions. In spite of this the hon. Minister has made a claim that private investment to the tune of Rs. 750 crore would be made in these ports. This investment has not yet been made, only a commitment has been made. It has been stated that the private parties would invest in container terminals. But where from will they invest such a huge amount. The hon. Minister is eulogising the private sector, because we are in dire need of funds for investment. By the year 2006 we need about Rs. 40,000 crores whereas we can make plan provision of only Rs. 10-12 thousand crores.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the 11 major ports in the country have earned a profit of Rs. 692 crores during 1993-94 and Rs. 788 crores during 1994-95. If we take into account that the private sector invests only 5 per cent and the rest of the money comes from banks, financial institutions and shareholders then the savings and the mobilization of funds from internal resources during 1993-94 would come to Rs. 13840 crores. With such a huge amount the Port Trust could have invested on its own. During 1994-95, the Port Trust could have invested Rs. 15707 crores whereas the hon. Minister is happy with the mere investment of Rs. 750 crores by the Private Sector. This Bill would open the doors to all which may not be good.

Sir, recently Shri Maran was replying regarding privatisation. In reply to a question as to what will happen

to the national security if the doors are opened to all, he said that we are living in satellite age, and this does not make much of a difference. Incidentally he is sitting here. Ports are very important from the point of view of national security. This Government is least bothered about these things. The policies are being changed drastically. All these parties whether it is DMK or TDP have been constituents of the National Front earlier. Janata Dal, National Front, Left Front have been the banners under which politics has all along been played. In the case of Kandla Port, when Kargill was being entrusted with port responsibility, some area was being given to the company for making salt, an agitation was launched against it on two issues - permission for making salt and handing over a part of the port to the company. Maran Sahel was staging a sit in. National Front was not till then, he was put of the National Front, a campaign Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Shri V.P. Singh, Ex-Prime Minister. The guide philosopher of the United Front may have restricted himself to his home. These people have created such a situation that such a great man is sitting at his home with his fingers crossed, he must certainly be getting perturbed in his mind while considering their present state . . . (Interruptions) he specialises in painting and writes poetry. See, on the other hand what these people have done they are busy reducing the policies to shreds while saying with proud that they will continue to carry on with the policies of the congress . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is related to the Bill ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Of course, the policy of privatisation going on right now. What else it can bear relation with . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : O.K.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : When will they pay attention to it, if not now ? The security of the country is being torn as under, it is related to this Bill itself. The port has been opened to the whole outside world, anybody free to come and invest . . . (Interruptions). I am referring to the leaders. The campaign committee held its meeting on 7 June, 1993 under the Chairmanship the country's Ex-Prime Minister. This is the paper of the Janata Dal. At that time we too were in the Janata dal. I have all these papers that is why I am quoting from them. It was decided to launch an agitation again. What emerged from the Kanda Port Trust affair. It was also decided that in the case there is no change in the decision, then Shri V.P. Singh will go there on 28 June to launch Satyagraha then how this decision has been taken. Srikant must have gone to hide his face

he knows that he cannot face anybody on this. Therefore, he will move out leaving it to others on his side to face the music. What about their policies then and where would they like to lead this country to? They are not at all worried about the country's security. They are inviting the private sector, the multinationals to set up ports and justify it on the ground that at our ports there is always inordinate delay in handling when new machines are installed at ports, the work which now takes seven days in handling will be finished within just seven eight hours. Have they ever been concerned about the labourers? Mahatma Gandhi said that in this country there is vast man power but little capital and we would adopt policies which require more man power and lesser investment. On the contrary, the policies being adopted now are such as require more investment, with no concern whatsoever for this vast man power. Even then what are they upto? This Government rests on two things. For one thing there is the slogan of liberalisation under which doors are to be opened for all and sundry. We would like to have their answers on what type of money is coming in as a result of that and all other questions related therewith.

What about the investment of Rs. 750 crore. How much out of that investment is likely to take place. As for internal savings, the port trust has its own internal resources, add to it the market borrowings, bank loans, loans taken from financial institutions, the money likely to be available from shareholders if issue of shares is allowed. Why do not they run all the bodies on the basis of internal resources plus 5 per cent. But they won't do so. Whatever money they have will not be put to good use by them. They would rather prefer to open the doors for the foreigners inviting them to come over and earn money.

What do they have abroad? They will constitute an authority. Earlier the Port Trust was a Board to be replaced now by the authority which will determine the freight structure etc. and other things. That means the Government has determined firmly because I have been carefully going through all the bills that were brought forward almost daily. The retiring bureaucrats are the ones who are really going to benefit by it because all the Bills provide that Chairman of the authority will be one who have been a Secretary or has throughout had the facilities equal to these of the Secretary's rank or have been equal to a Secretary as per status. We have seen this provision in all the Bills which were introduced during this session. Through this provision the top ranking bureaucrats have sought to ensure for themselves employment for the next five ten years and to make it into law. The trend still continues. They want that

some of them may get employment under multinational companies and they will get it done by influencing the policies and creating psychological fear in the Government. I know that those in the Government, if they have really made their rise from the grassroots or may have had even a little bit of touch with the people or if the people belonging to their areas may have been associated with the movement for independence must be deeply aware and must have heard of 'Swavlamban' self-dependence and Swadeshi indigenous. They must also be aware that the coming of East India Company to India was followed by British imperialism and these multinational companies will certainly be followed by American imperialism.

They must have been hearing all such things while they were still active politically at the grassroot level. But on their reaching here to the seats of power and handling their respective departments, they cannot help being influenced by the multinational's lobby and the bureaucrats makes them do all that he wants to. This is the political situation of the country. They have to face the electorate again. But the bureaucrat has nothing to worry at all because he has made their future safe. While in Government service they lead the multinationals and later on get jobs in them. That is to say they ensure to get employment even after their retirement and it is the Government which introduced Bills for their sake providing for everything they seek. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not satisfied with this Bill from any angle.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be brief, you have also to make room for the right of reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What is need for the right of reply. In any case the right of reply is nothing but a mockery after 6 o'clock. Private Members' Day (i.e. today) also tends to become a mockery.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : BAC has allotted one hour only.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : BAC is okay, but what is the modus operandi of the Government? The Parliament has nowhere been obstructed. The Parliament marked for 9,10 or even 12 days at a stretch. But what does this mean, what is the hurry. The Government errs by bringing ordinance and says that there will be constitutional crisis. Therefore, I, for one, would request the House that after the Private Members' Business it should rise for the day. Now the Government intends to introduce the Aqua-culture Bill which has been circulated today. There is something wrong and unjust in the Bill regarding which the court has

pronounced judgement. The Government has the option to approach the Court again for review and place all the facts before it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Right now please speak on the present Bill only.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Please let me ventilate the grievance. The Government could go to court.. They will try to rush through the Bills in the House. Whether sanction of the House will be sought to circumvent the court's verdict or the Parliament will made a party to the whole mess by issuing ordinance. I fail to understand why the Parliament is getting into the mess. I know that whether it is the BAC or the leaders' meetings, all tend to get fascinated by the illusion created by the Government and with this methodology work the Government does not deserve any support at all.

**15.00 hrs.**

I am not talking of political support. I am talking of Parliamentary business. In parliament the Government should not be helped in any way for such type of acts on its part. This Government would issue ordinance and ask us to sit beyond 6 o'clock to pass the Bill. I strongly object to it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, bowing to your wishes I would like to conclude but before that I want to express my anguish that this Bill is meaningless and quite unnecessary which will lead the country to slavery. When we spoke about the Kandla Port the move of the Government regarding that was meeting with opposition even from the Navy. Did the Government care to ascertain opinion? What would become the national security under such circumstances? Where the investment would come from, has not been clarified at all. The Government has create an atmosphere in favour of investment but how would it come? We have capital, we have resources but we are not making use of them. The investments will not come and the Government will raise funds from the people. Whether they do not resort to raising funds in this way? Port trust is incapable of doing that. It can be modernised. Right now everything is going on. Our Ports are not running into losses. They are making profit. The policy of the Government is to invest their profits elsewhere and then dispense with them. This is improper. This Bill will strike at the national interests and jeopardise the country's security.

Through the ordinance it has been designed in the House and prevent discussion by the Standing Committee.

Therefore, keeping all these points in view I would to place the motion for disapproval of this ordinance and would emphasis and make an appeal to the Government to have at least some regard for the national spirit, they still have a little bit of in them. They are quite unmidful what will it happen tomorrow. The coming generation will curse them. They should be mindful of the coming generation. The Governments will come and go. The polices once framed come to stay for a long time to come and gain ground. The coming generation is unduly made to pay for it. The Government should not go by such empty and superficial things. The Government should themselves see what can be done and what are the possibilities? The Government is overlooking everything without searching for the possibilities and without doing any home work. This decision is wrong and contrary to national interests in my opinion. The Government will not be able to get such type of investment. The Multinational companies will make profits here and take the money of this country to their country. Multinational giants have their eyes set on this objective and their annual turnover is even bigger than our Budget. Under the circumstances, we should before of the impending danger. They should foresee the danger.

There is a talk outside that court cases and enquiries are going on regarding the deals that have been made for changing political ideas. What do the Government want? They want that the multinational companies may arrive and in order to get a foothold here may spread out their net in such a way as to make our politics dirty and enslave our country. If a little bit of pride for the country is still there, we would request them not to bring forward such Bills here. They should search for other avenues to invite investment. They should not lead the country astray. With these words, while supporting the Motion given by me, I oppose this Bill and the ordinance.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : Sir, I bet to move

"That the bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act 1908 and the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

With your permission I would like to say a few words while moving the Port Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997 for consideration and approval.

There are eleven major ports in the country, six on West Coast and five on East Coast which are administered by the Port Trusts the control of the Central Government.

Over 90 per cent of India's sea borne trade moves through the eleven major ports. The traffic being handled at the major ports has been increasing steadily over the years.

On a conservative estimate of cumulative growth of nine per cent per annum in terms of traffic, our ports would need to be capable of handling a traffic of approximately 850 MTs by 2012. This would call for 300 to 400 additional berths to handle the cargo of different kinds. The creation of additional port capacity of this order at the current costs, would require an investment of over Rs. 40,000 crores. Our projections indicate that not more than Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 crores would be available from plan funds and the internal resources of the ports for investment in ports development and the balance would have to come from the private sector or the capital market.

We have laid down guidelines for private sector participation in the major ports. We have decided that the questions pertaining to fixation and revision of tariff, be decided by an independent Regulatory Authority with a view to introduce a measure of confidence among, particularly, private providers of port facilities in respect of charges to be collected. The main purpose of this Bill is to enable the constitution of such an Authority. The functions of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports would be to fix the rates chargeable at the major ports in respect of various port charges and also to revise the rates as and when becomes necessary due to increase in cost of labour, operational cost, inflation, etc., under the provisions of the Indian Ports Act, 1908 as well as the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. The Authority shall fix the charges both in respect of cargo related charges and vessel related charges to be collected both by the Port Trust Boards and private providers of any specific facility/service.

The Authority would be a body corporate by the name Tariff Authority for Major Ports having perpetual succession and common seal with power under the provisions of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 and it would consist of a Chairperson and two Members to be appointed by the Central Government would have the powers to issue directions on policies and to supersede the Authority, if considered necessary in public interest and by notification in the official gazette.

Charges to be paid at major ports by the owners/agents of various vessels at major ports are regulated under the Indian Ports Act, 1908 and the powers to fix and revise the rates are vested in the Central Government. In order to vest these powers in the proposed Tariff Authority for Major Ports, amendments to sections 33, 34

and 35 of the Indian Ports Act in the main and other consequential amendments are being proposed.

Similarly, under the Major Ports Trusts Act, 1963, each Port Trust Board is required to frame the scale of rates for services performed by the Board to by any other person or for use of property belonging to the Board. The scale of rates and statement of condition are required to be approved by the Central Government and after approval, the Port Trust Boards publish the approved rates in the official gazette of the State concerned. To give this power to the proposed Tariff Authority for Major Ports, amendments to the sections 48, 49, 50, 51 and 52 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 and other consequential changes are being proposed.

The Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 18th March, 1997 and is now in this House for consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motions moved .

"That this House disapproves of the Port Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No.1 of 1997) promulgated by the President on January 9, 1997."

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908 and the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, earlier Speaker, Shri Nitish Kumar has brought this Statutory Resolution regarding disapproval of Port Laws (Amendment) Ordinance. I support Shri Nitish Kumar because this Government consisting of 14 different political parties, has promulgated 14 ordinances in the inter session period between winter session and the Budget session. The hon. Minister has himself given the details that it was decided by the Cabinet on 10.10.1996 that the Port Laws (Amendment) Bill 1997 should be brought about further to amend the Indian Port Act, 1908 and the Major Port Trust Act, 1963 with a view to constitute an Authority. When this decision was taken in October, the Government could have brought a Bill in winter session. But that was not done and later on an ordinance was issued.

We have a democratic system in our country and if this Government believes in that system then why it is violating democratic process and taking recourse of ordinances. I would like to know whether the Government has constituted an Authority after issuing this ordinance? Why the constitution of this Authority is being delayed? I condemn the attitude of the Government to take recourse

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

of ordinances and I hope that in future it would not do so.

Our country has been blessed by the nature. It is surrounded by ocean from three sides. We have a long coastal line where we have major ports – six on western coast i.e. Kandla, Mumbai, Marmagoa, Jawahar Lal Nehru, port, New Manglore and Kochin, and five on Eastern coast i.e. Calcutta, Haldiya, Paradeep, Vishakhapatnam, Madras and Tutikonn. In addition to these ports there are 144 small ports of State Government. The Government needs resources for the development of these ports. The Port Trust looks after all the arrangements of these ports including tariff etc. It is necessary to have an Authority for attracting private investments and determining tariff. That is why I welcome the provision made in the Bill for an Independent Tariff Authority. When we have Telecom Regulatory Authority, Environment Authority and we are also going to have an Authority for Insurance, then we must have an Independent Tariff Authority because under economic liberalisation there will be private investment along with the Government investment. Therefore, it is necessary to have an Authority to determine the Tariff, loading-unloading charges, payments to porters, adhering to Government rules and maintaining coordination between the Government Port Trust and private investors. From that point of view I welcome this Bill.

Sir, one more thing I would like to say that as of today 90 per cent import and export of our country is being done through these ports but they are in dilapidated condition. Under an agreement we have given Ganga water share to Bangladesh as a result of which water level in Haldiya is decreasing and silt is increasing at its mouth in Calcutta. It has made this port unuseful and the Government has to spend a huge amount on desilting. Now shortage of water would further deteriorate its condition. Similar is the condition of Kandla, Madras and Mumbai ports which are in dilapidated condition as compared to other ports of the world. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government is going to constitute an Authority and it is also inviting private investors which would definitely increase the resources. The Government has already received an assurance from private investors to get an investment of Rs.700 crore. The Government is aware of the fact that the capacity of our ports would substantially reduce after 2000 AD therefore, to develop the ports, according to our needs, the Government is inviting the private investors and

that is why it needs an Authority. I would request the Government to pay more attention towards improving the condition of our ports. The Government has to pay attention towards the clearing of docks, speedy loading and unloading of cargo, desilting, welfare of workers and other officials working there. As has also been pointed out by Shri Nitish Kumar ji that the question of national security is also involved in it. So I would like to know that when the Government is inviting foreign investment, will it maintain its own ship or not? At present IAS officers are the Chairman of Port Trust. The Government should clarify whether the private investors would work under them and whether they would be responsible for the work assigned to them or not.

I would conclude after saying one more point. Kandla is main port of North India and it covers Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana states.

This port was developed with a specific purpose but even then there is shortage of economic resources. I have seen that port. Many development works have been carried out there but many more have yet to be done. Our major ports should have all the infrastructure as are available with the ports of developed countries. Sir, the previous Government announced a new port policy but it proved to be very vague from the attitude of the Government as well as of the investors. This vagueness costs much to the importers and exporters. As per a World Bank study, carrying of a container at a port in India costs 500 to 525 dollars where as in other countries including Pakistan, Arab countries or Indonesia it costs 300 to 350 dollars per box. It shows that the facility of carrying container at ports is not as good as it should be and as a result of which sometimes we have to pay more freight charges. In this way the country is deprived of the more profit and more income.

One more drawback is there. In our country loading and unloading of the cargo takes from 15 to 45 days where as in other countries of the world it is done just in 6 hours. Many of my friends must have visited Mumbai port. At Mumbai, you can find so many ships waiting in the ocean for entering into the port for unloading. They remain waiting for 3-4 days in the ocean. You can imagine how much demurrage or freight charge we would have to pay on the imported goods. Therefore, there is need to provide more facilities at our ports because 95 per cent of our import and export is done through these ports. The Government should make proper arrangement to provide more facilities at our ports.

The Bill is not clear. It has been mentioned that an

Independent Tariff Authority would be constituted for major ports with a purpose.

[English]

"To provide fair Tariff Structure at the major ports for private sector investors, major port trusts and the port users

[Translation]

Three things have been mentioned in it that to provide fair tariff structure at ports for private sector investors, major port trusts port users, traders etc. an Independent Authority would be constituted. But where it would have its office? There is no clear provision in the Bill whether its office would be at Mumbai, Madras or Calcutta. I think it should be made clear by the Government as to where office of the Authority would be set up

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Its office would be at New York.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Would it be located out side the country ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You are appreciating and support those who are selling the country. It is surprising that you are giving slogan of Swadeshi on the one hand and supporting them on the other.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Nitish ji, why are using such harsh words.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under economic liberalisation policy the capital is being diverted from Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Industrialisation sector to other sectors. I think from that point of view it is good.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, secondly I would like to say that when this ordinance was issued by the Government then why it has not yet constituted the Authority. Therefore, I would like to say that this Authority should be constituted as early as possible and it should be decided as to where its office would be located. Sir, it is a technical matter therefore, persons having knowledge of ships, navigation, oceanography, import export business should be appointed its Chairman and Members so that they may protect the interests of workers, businessmen, ships and shipcrews. Our national interests are above all and they should be protected with these words I oppose the practice of issuing ordinances but I welcome the constitution of an independent Authority which would monitor the working of private investors and port trust Board, determine the tariff structure and would protect the national interests. With

these words I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (Cuttack) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with due humility, I may point out that the United Front Government has a penchant for promulgating Ordinance. Within the last seven months, 14 Ordinances have been promulgated and this is one of them. To add insult to injury, a Bill has been introduced and it is going at a galloping speed. A horse gallops when there is an emergency, otherwise it trots or canters.

In this particular Bill, the type of galloping is reprehensible in the sense that there is no urgency as to why the horse should be galloping so fast.

I would like to say, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a Diarchy is being introduced in this Bill. Kindly go back to 1920 when there was a Constitution of Diarchy in this country and the Diarchy did not last long. The Amendment, I may say, definitely will not be in the best interest of the ports of India. I, as a Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Orissa State Commercial Transport Corporation had first-hand knowledge about the working of the Paradip port and I was the CIF agent of the Orissa State during a particular period. I know that are the difficulties that a port faces.

The persons who have brought in this enactment, I would like to say without casting any aspersion, did not have any idea as to what is a catamaran and a flat and as to what is a quay and what is a wharf. All these matters which have been indicated in this Bill would not go a very long way, as a result of which we would face difficulty.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, let us go back to 1908 when the Port act was enacted replacing certain regulations of 1855 and 1875. In the Port act of 1908, the major indicator was to consolidate the enactments relating to port and port charges. It was very brief. And Section 6 of that act is quite relevant. The summary of the Section 6 is, the power to make port rules for regulating the time of leaving or entering the berths, stations, anchorings, regulating the vessels, fastening, fixing rates for moorings, buoys, etc.

Kindly look at this particular sentence itself. How has it been written there in the law books ? Whenever you are thinking of regulating tariff, you must think of regulating the movement of the fixtures that will be there in the port. I will not go into the details because it will take a lot of time.

[Shri Anadi Charan Sahu]

What I intent to tell the House is that whenever an enactment is thought of, the history of enactments which had been earlier there should be thought of. When we thought of enacting this amendment, we should have taken into consideration the first Act that come into being, that is the Port Act of 1908 and in amending that Act itself they have taken into consideration Section 36 where an appointment is made of an Authority. There is the question of appointing an Authority.

In Section 47 of the Major Ports Act, there is a provision of constituting an authority. Kindly go through that. That is the difference between appointing and constituting. The law makers should be able to find out what is the difference between the two. Now I would not go into the details of the Ports Act. But kindly go through the Major Ports Act 1963. The objective also is very precise. The objective is to make provisions for constitution of Port Authorities for major ports and to vest administration, control and management on them. There should be one authority. As I said earlier, they have taken into consideration Diarchy – two authorities. One will be a Board and the other will be an Authority.

In this connection, I invite the attention of the hon. Members to *Arthashastra* of Kautilya. In Book II of *Arthashastra*, Kautilya, the Machiavelli of India had always thought of dividing the people. He had two types of people in the ports. One was the Controller of Shipping and the other was Controller or Commissioner of Ports. You can go through the Book. I will not go into the details. He had one persons called Controller of Shipping. The other person was Commissioner of Ports.

The Commissioner of Ports was to levy rates and the Controller of Shipping was to take into account all the fixtures and the destitute ships that were coming into the port, etc. So there was some sort of a diarchy. I do not know in those days, say about 2,300 years back or 2,400 years back, we might be having four or five ports in India and people used to move in a very leisurely way. I do not know, whether that type of diarchy will ever be possible, at present, in India.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Who is Kautilya now ?

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : I cannot say that. May be the United Front Government, for the matter.

What I would like to point out are the difficulties that

he persons who use the ports will face if this amendment comes into being. First of all, let us think of the provision which has be the explanatory note itself shows that it will be for private sector participation. If you are thinking of private sector participation, in the amendment itself the hon. Minister should have indicated what type of structures the private parties will set up in the ports and what type of tariff this Authority will impose for use of those private party properties by Government.

The hon. Minister has indicated in this Port Act 'only for use of Government properties' If I have some knowledge about ports or some knowledge in the legal profession also, I could make out what it intends to say and I could not find any mention of use of private buoys, wharfs or quays by Government people or some other people. I would like to know what would be the authority of this Tariff Authority in relation to the tariff to be imposed by the private party.

Now, take for example, any port for that matter Government has lots of quays, wharfs, moorings, piers and all those things. Say, if hundred rupees or thousand rupees or a lakh of rupees is the tariff fixed by this Authority then what about equally higher number of things, equally efficient ? Say, if conveyers or say, fork lifts or any type of taking up from the holds of the ships may be imported by the private party then what would be the rate for those equipment and machinery ? That has to be indicated in this Act itself.

Otherwise, it would be very difficult to have two types of working, one by the Government and one by the private companies. I do not go against privatisation. It is absolutely necessary but there should be certain rules, certain regulations and certain guidelines to be followed. Otherwise, it would not be possible to implement this amendment at this stage. My humble submission now is kindly go through some of the provisions which you have indicated in this amendment.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : MR. Anadi Charan Sahu if you want to say something more, you can speak in the next session because this is the time for private members business

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : But I would like to point out some of the defects.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can speak in the next Session.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Thank you, Sir, you have said that he will speak in the next Session. That means this Bill will be carried over to the next Session.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If the House has taken any such decision we can sit even after 6.00 P.M.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is quite unfortunate that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is not here. The Government is very careless about their business but it has been agreed that we will work after 6.00 p.m. only because there is another important Bill in addition to this Ordinance. Otherwise the Government and the fishermen will be in trouble. The Aquaculture Authority Bill is there. It has been decided that if necessary, we will work after 6 p.m.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is why, I said that we can sit even after 6 p.m.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : When you said, 'next Session', I was a little confused.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It was also mentioned that we can sit even after 6.00 p.m. whatever decision was taken at least I was not informed of that.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you remain strict to your point. Don't deviate from your point. Now there is no justification in the sitting of the House after 6.00 p.m. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : This shows the total callous attitude of the Government

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : At least, I have not been informed

SHRI RAM NAIK : The Parliamentary Affairs Minister should be here. The Government should say something about it.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have objection House is above Business Advisory committee. This House is above all. What is justification in sitting after 6.00 P.M. today . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : His speech is not finished. It is not the next Session. It is after the recess. After the recess, on the same business, he will be on his legs and nobody else.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Yes, of course. That is true.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is what I said. But still, I have said, even after 6 o'clock, you can sit and pass this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, don't deviate from your decision. This Chair has much importance.

[English]

Next session means next inter-session.

[Translation]

When you have asked him to bring this bill in the next session, he should follow the decision. It is the decision of the Chair. Now it will be introduced in the next session.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have put forth both the options. Now it is to be decided by the House.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : They take the House for a ride. This Government does not have any system to function. Today is the day fixed for private member business and today itself is the last day. So what is the justification to hold sitting even after 6.00 p.m. ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry to say that I am unaware of the decision taken by the House . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, sir, it is a very serious matter. We have already made a request to the Government and called on even the Prime Minister before the start of the session regarding aqua-culture. Today aqua-culture farmers are facing very critical situation. . . . (Interruptions)

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alrigh, Let us see how it is to be taken up but now the discussion on private members business has started.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : The Hon'ble Members who can get it passed, are not present in the House  
... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if you allow the House after 6 P.M. I will stage a walk out in protest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Surendra Yadav.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If the House is to sit even after 6.00 P.M., I shall not withdraw my motion. I have heard the speech of the BJP members and their speech also. If is to be negated, people will negate it but I don't agree with the decision.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : There will be close after March 31, therefore, this bill is to passed today itself  
... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : This is about the Aquaculture Authority Bill which is very important.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, The Minister wants to say something

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : I want to submit one thing. I have nothing to say against the discussion by the hon. Members. But there is one difficulty. I am ready to cooperate with you at any time. I am submitting that by 4th April, this Ordinance will lapse. Therefore, let them have a discussion. I am ready to be here.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Who told you to promulgate this Ordinance ? What was the urgency to promulgate this Ordinance ? You have done nothing.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Please hear me.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I would like to make it one thing very clear. The Minister and the Government know the business and for the last few days, how we have been trying to accommodate the business. We sat till 10.00 p.m.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We sat the whole night.

SHRI P.S. DASMUNSI : We always talk of Parliamentary decorum and everything. Sometimes, we feel

it convenient to our Party purposes. That is not fair.

If an item in the List of Business is that urgent which is required to be passed today even after six O'clock, why should the Minister feel that something would happen to the Bill if the Bill is not passed ? That is not fair. What I am trying to say is – please let me conclude – if the Deputy-Speaker allows the Private Members' Legislative Business to be taken up, it must be taken up without encroaching upon the rights of the private Members. After discussing the Private Members' Business, if it is the opinion of the House to extend the time to finish the Government Bills to get legitimacy to the Ordinance to be completed, fair enough. We are prepared to cooperate here and it is not that we kill it. But the Minister must come with a specific proposal and desire and the House will consider. It is not that we are uncertain. We can sit even after six o'clock.

SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN : I never said that. Yesterday in my statement I mentioned it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Where is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs ?

SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN : I have on objection for the discussion by the Members. But I have pointed out the difficulty. I am ready to sit even after six O'clock, any time they want to for discussing the Bill. I am ready here.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : We are not against enlarging of the Governemnt Business. The point is that a proper notice should be given. Such an important Bill should not have been made to wait till the last day and should have been brought much earlier, in advance. We could have discussed it. ... (Interruptions) We have to inform our Members.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Pelase call the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, ask him what the Government wants. Otherwise, once the Members go even the Government will not be in a position to muster the required quorum. So, let the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs come and say what the Government wants to do. We are ready to cooperate.

The Aquaculture Authority Bill is very very important. It must be passed. But we do not allow the Government to do it this way.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : By the time the Parliamen-

tary Affairs Minister comes we may take up private Members business.

[English]

We will get it clarified. Shri Surendra Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I think that the Government is not serious towards the House and they want to transact this business in this way after 6.00 p.m. We Vehemently oppose it. If the House sits after 6.00 p.m., I shall absent my self in protest.

15.38 hrs.

MOTION RE: SEVENTH REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS  
AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV (Khalilabad) : I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 19th March, 1997."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolution presented to the House on the 19th March, 1997

*The motion was adopted*

15.39 hrs.

\*THE MOTHERS LINEAGE BILL

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the right to trace one's lineage from the side of one's mother.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the right to trace one's lineage from the side of one's mother."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : I introduce the Bill.

15.39½ hrs.

[English]

\*PROVISION OF COMMUNICATION FACILITIES  
IN EVERY VILLAGE BILL

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the facilities of telephone and post and telegraph office in all the village of the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the facilities of telephone and post and telegraph office in all the village of the country."

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

15.39¾ hrs.

\*YOUTH WELFARE BILL

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Viskhapatnam) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive policy for the development of the youth in the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive policy for the development of the youth in the country."

*The motion was adopted*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

**\*COTTON GROWERS (BENEFIT) BILL\***

[English]

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of cotton growers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of cotton growers."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.40½ hrs.

**\*CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL\***  
**(Amendment of article 324)**

[English]

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend to Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.40½ hrs.

**\*ACCESS TO INFORMATION BILL\***

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for access to information to all citizens of the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for access to information to all citizens of the country and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : I introduce the Bill.

15.40¾ hrs.

**\*PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION  
(AMENDMENT) BILL\***

[English]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Koral Bagh - Delhi) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill of amend the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave the granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : I introduce the Bill.

15.41 hrs.

**COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF RELIGIOUS  
CONVERSIONS BILL**

[English]

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA (Surat) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of religious conversions in India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of religious conversions in India."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : I introduce the Bill.

15.41¼ hrs.

**\*DECLARATION AND PUBLIC SCRUTINY OF ASSETS OF MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT BILL**

[English]

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA (Surat) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for declaration and public scrutiny of assets of Ministers and Members of Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill of provide for declaration and public scrutiny of assets of Ministers and Members of Parliament."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI KASHI RAM : I introduce the Bill.

15.41½ hrs

**\*UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE BILL**

[English]

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for unemployment allowance to all educated unemployed persons and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for unemployment allowance to all educated unemployed persons and for matter connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.41¾ hrs.

**\*DEPOSIT INSURANCE AND CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL  
(Amendment of Section 16)**

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, I beg to move

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 21.3.97

for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI RAM NAIK : I introduce the Bill.

15.42 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL  
(Omission of article 44, etc.)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we shall take up item No.19 – further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat on the 6th March, 1997. Shri Banatwalla is to continue his speech.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Sir, last time when Shri Banatwalla was speaking, the Chair had given a ruling that immediately after him, I would be able to speak because he had made certain remarks on which the clarification had to be provided by me.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : That was about Illegal Migrants. Today we are not discussing Illegal Migrants. You forgot. Today we are discussing the Uniform Civil Code. So, the hon. Member has forgotten and mixed up the things.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Anyway, you speak now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, it was there even before that. So, there was no such thing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, you have already spoken for 21 minutes please be brief.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, this is very important thing. Let us have a national debate on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have already taken 2 minutes.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I will cooperate.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I had already submitted that the concept of a uniform civil code is based on certain

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

fallacies. Now, unfortunately, various extraneous matters had also been brought in during the discussion. For example, there was a reference to polygamy among the Muslims. It is a point extraneous to the concept of a common civil code because there may be a uniform civil code with provision for bigamy. It is possible. Therefore, such extraneous matters have been brought in.

For example, in Goa, the polygamy among the Hindus is protected under certain circumstances. Therefore, I say that this question of polygamous marriages and other were brought in which are extraneous to the concept of a uniform civil code. They may be relevant for what they call as reform in the personal laws of certain communities. Such reform, as far as the Muslim personal law is concerned, is not needed. However, I may point out that the rate of polygamy among the Muslims is the lowest as compared to the various other sections of the people.

I may refer to the report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India which was presented in 1974. It considered the incidence of polygamous marriages as per a study of the census of India in the year 1961. The report gives us the incidence of polygamous marriages among various sections of our people and these figures also show that among the tribal communities the rate of polygamous marriages is 15.25 per cent and it is 7.97 per cent among the Buddhists and 6.72 per cent among the Jains and it is 5.8 per cent among the Hindus and it is the lowest at 5.7 per among the Muslims.

Now, Sir, not only this – but the incidence of polygamy among the tribals is on the increase. During the decade 1931-40 it was 9.53 per cent. During the decade 1941-50 it rose to 17.53 per cent and during the decade 1951-60 it rose further to 17.98 per cent. All these things are already there. But then, as I said, various extraneous matters have been unfortunately brought in. There was a reference.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Banatwallaji Hindu and Muslim aspect have been linked with every thing. In their context I am reminded of an Urdu couplet.

"Munafarat ki jung mein dekho kya-kya hogaya

Subjiyan Hindu hain bakra Musلمان hogaya"

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is a very good couplet. But I have been assessing that when I am on my legs

you are reminded of so many couplets.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright. It is because of the fact that both of us know urdu language.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : That is why I would like to express my thanks. Please preserve some couplets for those people who have brought that extraneous material, which I am referring, in the bill. I often say that we have to keep the word 'Hum' in our mind as Hindustan emerges out of 'Hum' and therefore the word 'Hum' is very important. In Hindi it is 'Ha' and 'Ma' and in Urdu it is 'Ha' and 'Hum'. 'Ha' indicates the Hindu and 'Ma' indicate the Musلمان and other Minorities. When these words 'Ha' and 'ma' joined together, the word Hum emerged and Hindustan is because of we people. But problem is that certain concepts are being brought forward which divide the nation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It does not matter. All problem will be solved.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Yes, it is the only House where this problem will be solved. The most important works of the House, of the country, as Parliamentarians and Jurists have stated, is the resolution of conflict.

[English]

That is the resolution of conflict.

Therefore, the discussion here is most welcome. For example, we are told about divorce. The Prophet, may peace be upon him, has said that divorce is the worst thing among all the permitted things. The Prophet, may peace be upon him, has further said that when a divorce is pronounced, heavens shake. These traditions, these *Sunnah*, have their impact on Muslim society also.

Then, I must point out here what is said in Yusuf Rowther vs. Sowamma AIR 1971, Kerala 271. At that time, Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer was a judge in Kerala High Court. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer said about the Islamic Law of Divorce :

"Indeed a deeper study to the subject discloses a surprisingly rational, realistic and modern law of divorce."

There are the various factors. As far as divorce is concerned, the United States of America leads the entire world. I will not take the time of the House by going into the history of divorce, by tracing the history of divorce among Hindus. But as you know very well, there was no concept of divorce during the Vedic period. Thereafter,

during the *Smriti* period, the idea of divorce was put forward by Narad and others. In the third period, we have discovered divorce as a remedy for ill-conceived, inconvenient and ill-honoured marriages. After the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act, 1955 and its major amendment in 1976, the incidence of divorce has been on increase.

However, all these things, as I said, are extraneous to the concept of the Uniform Civil Code. The Uniform Civil Code is advocated on the ironic belief that it will promote unity. As I have already submitted earlier and in good details, it will divide the nation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, last time we were told about the Muslim countries. Here, I must clarify the misunderstanding that is there. Let it be known that no legislation has been introduced to change the traditional Islamic law in countries like Saudi Arabia, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Afghanistan and others.

I am not taking the whole list. In the case of Syria, Iraq, Pakistan and certain other countries, the few changes brought about are only in the nature of replacing any particular principle of one school of Islamic jurisprudence by another school of Islamic jurisprudence. So it is clear that the entire work is within the framework of the Islamic jurisprudence. In the case of only two countries, perhaps, there is a break from the *Shariat*, but there also, there is a strong movement to go back to the Islamic Law. Nevertheless, as I said earlier, we look not to the Muslim countries, but to the *quran* and the *Sannah* for our guidance.

Now, the hon. Member has referred to the judgement in Sarla Mudgal's case. In *Sarla Mudgal Vs Union of India - 1995, 3 SCC 635*, Justice Kuldip Singh had said that all these questions of marriages, divorce, etc. have nothing to do with religion and therefore, the articles 25, 26 and 27 are not attracted. But then I must point out here that in the same case, we had Justice R.M. Sahai. He gave a separate note and in the separate note Justice R.M. Sahai said :

"Marriage, inheritance, divorce, conversion are as much religious in nature and content as any other belief or faith.

This is from paragraph 44 that I have quoted. The hon. mover of the present Bill totally omitted to bring this particular fact and extract before this House. I must, therefore, say that on this question, the two judges have different and since there were only two judges, there is

no majority ruling also. Justice Kuldip Singh could add such an opinion in his judgement. It is therefore, strange and it is contrary even to article 145 (5) which says :

...no such opinion shall be delivered by the Supreme Court save with the concurrence of a majority of the Judges present at the hearing of the case .

But here there were only two judges with two different opinions on this particular aspect.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have already submitted that the concept of a Uniform Civil Code is, in essence, a negation of our cherished objective of 'Unity in Diversity'. The concept is destructive of all the plural nature of our society. It will be the end of secular democracy in our country. I must reiterate that the Uniform Civil Code will prove a disintegrating force. The various communities, the tribals and even the Hindus, all have their own personal laws. Look at article 371A (i) and (g). These articles specifically protect the customary laws and social practices of the Nagas and the Mizos.

16.00 hrs.

The Constitution was amended and people of Nagaland and the people of Mizoram were given this particular guarantee to bring them in the national mainstream and to put an end to the secessionist activities that were there. Therefore, I say that let us not run after mere mirages and concepts that will divide the entire country. Even Hindus, as you know, follow different schools of thought or jurisprudence whatever you may like to say. Any forcible imposition of any Uniform Civil Code upon all is bound to create a lot of tension in our country.

As far as the Muslim Law is concerned, it is a divine and revealed law. It has its roots in the Quran and in the Sunnah, that is to say the traditions of the Prophet (peace be upon him). The Muslim personal Law represents the religious obligation of a Muslim as a Muslim. Therefore, I must say that the rules contained therein are not optional. They are the boundaries which cannot be crossed.

16.01 hrs.

(PROF. RITA VERMA in the chair)

The Quran says :

"These are the limits ordained by Allah. Do not go beyond them and if anyone exceeds these limits, he is the transgressor.

[Shri G.M. Benatwalla]

This is Surrah 2 Ayat 229.

Sir, I must make it extremely clear that a Muslim as a Muslim cannot and will not surrender to any abrogation or interference with the 'Shariat'. The 'Shariat' is dearer to a Muslim than his own life. I must, therefore, impress upon this House that it is a fallacy to consider that Uniform Civil Code will promote unity. No. On the contrary, as I said, it will bring about lots of dissensions. I have also pointed out that in the United States of America the laws differ from State to State and nobody says that these differences in the laws are a threat to the unity and the solidarity of the United States of America.

Here the personal laws of any community have never been an obstruction on the path to unity and integration whether at times of peace or whether at times of war. Therefore, these are fallacious things and insistence on this concept merely brings nothing but dissensions and tensions. I must refer to what Dr. Ambedkar said in the Constituent Assembly when this Article 44 about Uniform Civil Code was under discussion. He said :

"No Government can exercise its power in such a manner as to provoke the Muslim community to rise in rebellion. I think that it would be a mad Government if it did so."

The tribal all over our country and several communities have their own laws. These laws have never obstructed and come in the way of our national unity and integrity. I am happy that, at least, the present Government cannot be called mad according to the dictum of Dr. Ambedkar. I must thank the Prime Minister and let it go on record that we are grateful to the Prime Minister and the United Front Government that they had the courage to file very recently an affidavit in the Supreme Court saying that it is not possible for the Government to impose any Uniform Civil Code forcibly.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : They are afraid of Muslim voters.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You may even accuse Dr. Ambedkar that he has said it for Muslim votes, but I think that shows the closed mind that is there.

I will not take more time of the House. Before I forget,

I was also told that there are criminal laws of Islam and why do we not insist upon them. That is another fallacy. You know that in the Independence movement, we had a very large presence of the Muslim Ulemas and the religious personalities. An important reason among various reasons for the large presence of the Muslim Ulemas and the religious personalities was the interference of the Britishers in the Muslim law. The Britishers want on abolishing various aspects of the Muslim law which had created this particular situation. There was a thinking that with independent India, Muslim will have the run of these laws as usual. Today also, in the same spirit, let the Sharia Courts be established as an integral part of our judiciary and then let the criminal laws of Islam also be imposed. It will be in the interest of the nation to do so.

Madam Chairperson, I appeal to the Mover of the Bill asking for a Compulsory Uniform Civil Code not to create dissensions, not to generate tensions and not to divide the nation. I appeal to the Mover of the Bill that in the interest of unity of the country not to talk about such disintegrative and disruptive idea as the Uniform Civil Code and to withdraw his Bill. Of course, I am sure, the Government will also make such an appeal. But I am trying to take the precedence. It is good enough that we have had such a discussion and since a long time, I have been speaking on the various aspects and the fallacies that are there among them.

I appreciate the concern for gender justice and I assure him that as far as we are concerned and our system is concerned, it is most concerned about the gender justice. If there are other communities who want any changes in their own personal laws, it is a matter for them to decide. Of course, I do not want to take up the time of the House by going into the question of the gender justice, and by now putting before you all the various provisions which say that Islam has given gender justice to the maximum and in the most happiest form. It is more than what you find in any other prevalent system, I claim. Of course, we are open for a discussion on that. The present discussion, it may serve or may not serve any purpose, was limited only to Uniform Civil code.

There is a parrot-like repetition to have it and to keep tension and pressure in the country. I hope that with all this discussion, the Bill will now be withdrawn and that we will continue to march forward hand-in-hand to solve the various problems of the development concerning the nation.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : The Bill has been brought under the provision of the Directive Principle of

the Constitution. It is very necessary to understand what constitutes Part IV of the Constitution says. From Article 39 to Article 51, there is a long list of wishes and statements made by the Constitution signifying that the State will make endeavours to frame the State's policy on the basis of that principle. Let me read out Article 44 from the Constitution itself so that there may not be any misunderstanding as to what I like to say in order to make my position clear on the subject. Article 44 states as follows :-

"The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.

Let us begin from Article 39 :-

"The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing -

- (a) that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means to livelihood;
- (b) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good;
- (c) that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment;
- (d) that there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women."

I say that there are a large number of items which the Constitution proposes on which the Government should frame its policies so that objective can be gradually achieved.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request the hon. Members not to make running commentaries.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : It is an empty House.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is not a question of emptiness. It is a question of principle. I also want to be on record on this Bill by expressing what my party has given me as the Party's view.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : This is the time for Private Members Bills. Can we also have Party issues to be added in this ?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is not that I am a depoliticised animal. I am a political animal. I do not believe in the theory

of de-idealisation. I do believe in ideology. We are here to represent ideology. We are here not to be yesmen or good men.

These are the many aspects of the fundamental objective of the Government. May I put a simple question to you as the Chairperson, have the Government been able to implement all those Directive Principles ?

No. It has not been done. If you allow me to say, I would say that within the present system, it will never be able to implement all those objectives unless a new social order is created. The new social order can be created only by a social change. In what way that social change will take place is a matter of debate and Parliament will become the instrument of the social revolution or some other method are necessary. It is a great ideological battle. We shall have to continue that battle inside and outside the House. I would say that all these things have not been implemented. I further want to say that the Government will not be able to implement these things unless the old social order is changed by a new political system.

Part IV of the Constitution speaks about the Directive Principles. Part IV A of the Constitution of the country also speaks about the duty of the citizen. Article 51A says :

"It shall be the duty of every citizen of India-

- (a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- (b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- (c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- (d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- (e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women ...

This is also a national duty. This is also a part of the Holy Book. Madam, when we raise the question of abolition of omission of Article 44, are we really doing our duty as prescribed in the Constitution itself ? we do not. The omission of Article 44 does not harmonise social and different religious forces in our country. It does not unify

[Shri Chitta Basu]

India. It does divide India. It does bring in the spirit of disunity. It does not strengthen the spirit the harmony. It does not harmonise the relation among different communities. By not doing so, we would be failing to perform the duties as citizens of this country, as prescribed by the Constitution of the country. I want the answer from the House itself, not from you. Part IV is a part of the Constitution. Part IVA is also a part of the Constitution. If Part IV and Part IVA are changed, what will happen? According to me, any change, particularly the oblition or omission of Article 44, as is sought in this Bill, negates completely Part IVA. I did not like to raise this question earlier. Therefore, it is to be answered.

As you have already said, I would not take much time or make an ideological dissertation. Ours is a secular country. It is not a theocratic State. We have to primarily understand what secularism really means. Secularism is not irreligious, secularism is not atheism. If somebody feels that secularism is equal to irreligiosity – non-believer or believer – it is a wrong interpretation. It is not a scientific interpretation of secularism. Secularism is not non-atheism; secularism, in the scientific explanation or interpretation, is delinking the religion from the State. Government is Government has got nothing to do with religion. It is not synonymous also with the equality of all religion. If you accept any of the definitions other than what I have said, you have to lend ourselves into trouble particularly in the plural character of India. India ceases to be India when you denounce secularism based on the scientific interpretation of the word. I know, secularism in Europe and secularism in India may not be one and the same. But the commonality of the idea is that it is the plural society. And in a plural society, we shall have to harmonise, we shall have to be tolerant. We are to inculcate the spirit of unity in diversity. Even in a single community, there is a diversity

If we come to personal laws or personal customs, there is no end of it. My friend was right in saying that. You cannot impose your Hindu rule on Naga society. They have got customary laws. I have seen it. I have learnt it and I have understood it. I am in agreement with him. Therefore, even in Manipur, Hindus do not have the same marriage laws and divorce laws. There is no such uniformity even in the Hindu society. And I hope, the same is the case the in Muslim society. Of course, I am not a *Mullah* or a Muslim. As far as I understand, the climate of India is diversified. And the diversification cannot but reflect the

individual's life. Your life is also influenced by that diversity; my life is also influenced by diversity. No one can live above diversity. Today, the world is like the star planet. This is the progress of human civilisation. Therefore, I have my objection to this omission of Article 44. It will be firstly in contradiction with Article 4(A) which is the Chapter called Duties. Therefore, I cannot destroy, I cannot kill Article 4(A) of the Constitution simply by omitting Article 44 of the Constitution, which is the major, primary and specific objection of the Bill.

In this case, the law and the court have got a very minimal role to play. The primary role will be played and should be played by the society and the community itself. Even if a law is passed, that is not going to reform the society, that is not going to remodel or refashion the civil life, the society. Whether a person has got more than one wife or less one wife – I do not know whether there can be a less than one wife . . . .

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpatu) : One wife is enough . . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : That is right. This is the social progress.

Madam, since you are there, I appeal to you that you are not merely a women but you are a personality of your own which may be different from other men also. Men and women are equal. It is at her own discretion if a woman has a particular method of life style. We cannot also ignore the very fundamental right of a person who happens to be a woman.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I wish all other men are as generous as you.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am saying that other Members should also be generous as you are.

SHRI CHITTA BASU . You should also speak in the same spirit.

*[English]*

Therefore, reforms are needed.

Even the court is divided on this issue. I do not like to dilute on this. My friend has done it. I am in agreement with Justice Sahai's note. The same Judge says: "It is more with the society than with the court." So, let us go with

the society. Society needs to be changed and it can be changed by its own volition. Whether a Muslim man will have more than one wife or two wives or three wives, if he goes by his religious belief, the law cannot prevent him from doing so. That does not harm the country's unit also. I do not know how many Hindu men have got one wife and more women without being legally married.

Madam, you do not know this. We have got the experience. One woman came to me for giving the certificate that she happens to be a legally married woman or legally married wife of such and such a man. She said, if that certificate was not produced she would not get pension from the treasury office.

So, you have to reform the society. For reforming the society, you have to remove poverty first. Without removing poverty, you cannot remove the cultural backwardness. If you cannot remove the cultural backwardness, you cannot have the fullest opportunity for development of your own personality. By 'you' I mean, the masses of our country. What is needed is the full scope and opportunity for the development of all. We want development of one and all which is tantamount to development of all.

Let us have that social view. If that social view is accepted, I think, uniform or different or varied code of life will be simply a matter of the past.

Therefore, let us all try to reform the society in our own way and try to create a climate that the society, the community or the individual changes the life, the thought process according to the changes in the society.

Madam, I am very much pained to say that this kind of amendment of the Constitution is being sought for when we are approaching fast towards the 21st Century of civilization.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the bill introduced by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. In fact to a serious discussion was held in this regard when some years ago Shah Bano case was under discussion. After that a verdict given by a bench of two judges of the Supreme Court this subject again came under discussion. My senior friends, who spoke prior to me expressed their opinion on this subject. That is why I feel that there should be no matter of unhappiness in this regard. As the both judges unanimously gave their verdict that it is necessary to form a Uniform Civil Code

for both the aspects the security of the oppressed people and to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. They further added that first of all the civil laws relating to minorities should be made logical so as to bring religious and cultural harmony. Here our aim is not to disturb harmony.

Just now one of our friends said that India is because of them but India is in existence long before. The culture of our country is such that who soever came here preferred to settle down here itself. It is the culture of Hindustan. In each country of the world atrocities were committed on each and every one but in this country everybody was received with love and affection and offered a place to settle.

I think that the provision under article 44 clearly states that the state will make efforts with regards to form a uniform civil code for all citizens of India and thus get it implemented accordingly. I think earlier Governments did not make any effort in this direction. They did not have any concern about it. I would like to know from the Honble Minister whether merely writing of a single sentence was enough? After independence i.e. for the last 50 years what work has been done in this direction in the country? Separatist tendency in our country has continued to increase for the last 50 years. No effect was made to bring in uniformity which is resulting in the division of all of us in communities, castes and sub-castes. After independence if we had taken this aspect into our consideration, today this situation would not have arisen in our country. In the other countries we prefer to be identified as belonging to that region or that state instead of belonging to India. Now who can be held responsible for such feelings of separatism? The people who remained in power earlier can be held responsible first. After verdict of the Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court, definitely it was necessary that we should seriously contemplate on this issue. We should discuss how to remove this feeling of separatism which is brewing among us. To resolve this issue we shall have to take some aspects into our consideration. I do not mean that we should separate any community or any culture from the society, we should join our hands to discuss some issues. We should not take the issue on basis of vote banks and who so ever brings the vote banks in the discussion of the concerned issue, they definitely are not talking about the unity of the country.

I am not going to go into detail, as far as my point is concerned. I want to say this only that whatever differences exist among us we should resolve them well in time. Today the need of the hour is to see as to what

[Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar]

extent we have adopted the direction which the founders of the constitution have drafted. We continue to make amendments to the constitution as we wish. We have made 73rd and 74th amendments to the constitution. Whether we have been able to conform ourselves to the situation. We are talking about reservation to all categories but even today it contains divisions and we have not been able to adopt the division which we had thought after independence. It was written in the constitution that the reservation policy would continue for 10 years and after that it would either be taken into consideration or it would be withdrawn. But now the people say that they shall continue it for 200, 300 years. Today we are not worried about the raising the living standard of the common people and common men may have faith in each other. Today we want to take every issue in such a manner as how to create differences among the people so as to have their votes in your favour. Our friend Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat has introduced this Bill Keeping in view all these aspects because today India is losing its identity gradually. We shall have to do something with a view to bring uniformity.

I do not want to further elaborate this law here, our other colleagues will speak on it, but I would certainly like to say that we should not allow to develop any sense of division amongst ourselves. The way the gulf between man and man is in the country is widening today, calls for efforts to bridge it. Today 80 per cent of the people of the country want one kind of law while 20-25 per cent of the people want another kind of law. So far as I can understand, we should not interfere in each other's affairs, and this House should take initiative for considering this matter. We tend to set up committees on various subjects, then will it not be fit to constitute a committee on this matter to find out the subjects which require amendment or alteration. Even after 50 years of independence, the country is still going in the same direction. While we boast of entering the 21st century, we also tend to take a narrow view of various matters. We must get rid of this narrow vision and start thinking a new.

The issue raised by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat in this House is very important. We go by the court's view on many matters, give utmost importance to its verdicts, but when the same does not suit us, we try to change it so as to suit our convenience. This is what happened in the Shah Bano case. I feel some people do not hesitate to even criticise the court calling its verdict as bereft of carrying any meaning. But in many ways we should consider

the issue rising above narrowmindedness.

Without going deep into this issue, I would certainly like to appeal to the House that this being an issue fit to be considered seriously, a committee should be set up to decide as to which course we would like the country to take and whether we are interested in maintaining the unity and integrity of the country? For that purpose uniform civil code is needed. It is not a matter concerning an individual but one which calls for taking the whole country into confidence and ponder over it. We are of the opinion that there are as a number of matters regarding which a common civil code is most essential, in spite of some people advancing differing arguments in this regard.

Therefore, without dealing with it at length and associating myself with the spirit of the Bill brought forward by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, I would appeal to the House that we should think over the subject rising above politics and with full confidence. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me the time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time for discussion on the Bill is going to be over by 4.37 PM. If the House so wishes, the time for discussion may be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, the time may be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN : O.K. The time for discussion on this Bill is extended by one hour.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, ever since I have joined this House, I have witnessed discussions here on similar Bills on 4-5 occasions and this is the sixth time that such a discussion is being held. I want that, to begin with, we should try to understand what personal law is? Personal law is a law which does not affect any other community. Our criminal law is common other civil laws are also common but that law is personal law which is meant for a particular community or a particular family. I can adopt Hindu law if I so wish, likewise anybody from the other side can adopt Muslim Law of his own accord – it is optional for an individual. The issue keeps coming up here time and again.

Just now Shri Banatwalla put forward many arguments here. I don't want to go into them, we will have to keep in mind that a vast country like India has various communities and provinces, every community having its own district practices rules and laws. Whether it is

Christian Common Code, Hindu Common Code, Muslim personal law or other, each one has its own customs regarding marriage which provide as to who can marry whom and with whom, marriage is taboo.

Mr. Chairman, in Southern God India, marriage between maternal uncle and sister's daughter is the most pertinent point in this context. whether it is to be retained or dispensed with. Muslim women have the right on Mehrana. Whether this right is to be retained or dispensed with. If this right is dispensed with, it will not be just to the Muslim women. This there are a number of questions which are have been creating many new complications.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Madam Chairperson, I read in the newspapers today morning that in Afghanistan, the Taliban have issued an order where by it has been enjoined to keep the windows and the screens of cars closed so that a woman may be invisible from outside. Such is the edict issued by the Taliban. I would request the hon. Members to come out with any information which may be available with them.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Madam Chairperson, I am not a Taliban. I do not belong to Afghanistan either. I belong to India and the subject of the speech is what the Indian law should be like. I may tell you, . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : As per the Shariat the personal law is the same.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Personal law is different between Shias and Sunnis. Personal law is different between Hanafi and Ahladis. The Dawoodi Vohras of Gujarat are guided by the Hindu personal law. Jinnah Sat Saheb who was responsible for the country's dismemberment, was also guided by the Hindu personal law. Not only this, he also believed in the theory of ten incarnations of god. The man to whom the grave incidents of Mumbai are ascribed i.e. Dawood Ibrahim too has not longer to do anything with the Hanafi school of personal law, rather he is connected to your and shine personal laws.

I do not fully agree to what Banatwalla Saheb has said. A Muslim as rather too much inclined to follow the tradition with which the law of the land has also come to be associated. Anyway, I do not want to make a lengthy speech. I am making it short and here I would like to make the point that the shape of society does not undergo a change by merely altering the law. Changing the shape

of the society is something different to changing the law. Now the question is regarding policy any. It may be seen in Parliament . . . (interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Madam chairperson, The Law Minister is not present in the House. while the subject being discussed here pertains to law.

[English]

Madam, this subject is concerned with law. The Minister of Law is not present in the House and nobody is taking note of what the hon. Member is saying.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : The other hon. Ministers are present here. It is a collective responsibility.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : We are discussing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill. We request that the hon. Minister of law should be present in the House.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Madam, I am taking note of what the hon. Member is saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The other hon. Minister is taking note of what the hon. Member is saying.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The hon. Minister of Surface Transport, Shri T.G. Venkatraman and me are law graduates.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Madam, should I go on with your permission or with their permission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : With the permission of the Chair.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : There is no hindrance from your side, interruptions are from that side.

It is good that the Law Minister has come. I did not move on to the point to which I wanted to, because the Law Minister was not present here, I did not raise this question for that reason :

Mohanji I am not raising the question which I wanted, to raise because the Minister was not here. I am raising it now. I do not know whether Bhagwan Shankar is a lawyer or not

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : He is a lawyer.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : I am not aware but certainly there are other lawyers sitting to your side. It would perhaps have been better if other laws of India would also have been explored before introducing this law. Do you really want to have a common code ? If it were really so, you would have been aware that a common code is already there in India. There is the Hindu Personal law, Muslim personal law, Christian personal law and also a Common Law which is not compulsory. It is optional. I am explaining that, after which I would like to put to you one question, the question is : whether you have opted for it or not.

Whether you have heard of the Civil Marriage Act ? Any Community or any person can go in for a marriage under the Civil Marriage Act. Anyone who has married once under the Civil Marriage Act can neither divorce nor go in for a second marriage without the courts permission.

Law of succession would be applied on them differently. Not according to the Personal Code but according to the Indian Succession Act. I have deliberately adopted it because I belong to the Communist Party.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Your party is in favour.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : I am also in favour of Uniform Civil Code but I am not in favour of imposing it. If any communist favour it, it is welcome.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : It is the voice of the Citizens of India.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Those who are opposing are also Indian Citizens.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Ofcourse they are opposing but you are not opposing.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Those who are opposing, those who doesn't want, they are also Citizens of India. We should not forget this fact. I belong to the Communist Party. I have adopted this Code. I did not get married by Calling a Mulla. I have married under the Civil Marriage Act. Neither I can give divorce nor I can marry again. Ofcourse this has benefitted me in one way that I will not be required to give Mehar. I am saved from paying Mehar . . . (Interruptions). I have not to pay Mehar . . . (Interruptions). There is no relation of divorce with Mehar. Even you don't know this.

[English]

'Mehar' is a consideration for marriage and not for divorce.

[Translation]

After my death and after the death of my wife or who soever dies, my property will not go to the communist party but it will be divided.

[English]

It is done not according to the Muslim Personal Law, but according to the Indian Succession Act.

[Translation]

We have a common code. Have any of you adopted it ? (Interruptions). If you wish you can adopt even now. Those who are married they can approach the court and get their marriage registered, this way their previous legal marriage would be cancelled and marriage registered under the Civil Marriage Code would be Legal and would remain so for ever. Lung power would not be so effective as the heart power so speak by heart. Those who are pringing this Bill again and again. Their intention is not good. I have already spoken 3-4 time prior to this. I would request you that chances of this bill being passed during this week are very bleak. Discussion on this bill would go on even after April. I hope those of my B.J.P. and Shiv Sena friends who are whole heartedly supporting this bill would come here with marriage certificates after getting their Civil Marriages registered. . . (Interruptions) It is a fact that it is optional and anybody can have this option. Even otherwise the country is facing lot of problems. There is an atmosphere of evenity and hatred everywhere. We have to bring the people together in the interest of the country by creating an atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood. I wish that the same voice should come from my other communist friends. It would be a matter of happiness if they do so . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : It is the voice of a Muslim Women.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : It is really very surprising that a Muslim woman whispering to Rawale Ji and says that it was her voice. I am neither talking of common code nor of communist party but I am talking of a Muslim woman who is whispering to him instead of me. I have to ponder over this.

I am opposing this bill because the time is not yet ripe for this to do. We have to wait and we do not know as to how long we have to wait. The minority Communities may not think that something is being imposed on its by the majority communities. They'll agree to this we have to wait.

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ (Jamshedpur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, a very sensitive matter has been raised in the House. Though it is a matter of law and law and order but for the last two weeks I am listening to the debate on the law and order situation. Earlier also there was a debate on this subject. I don't know this debate has taken the colour of religion. Today two Hon'able members who spoke earlier to we have linked this bill with their parties and said that he supported the Uniform Civil Code but he belonged to that party and his ideology is that.

I am an educated citizen of this country and today whatever I would like to speak before the house would speak emphasizing as to how India would be heading towards development.

Therefore whenever there is any question of Law and order, Law or regulation is involved I knowing or Unknowing link it with the nation because Constitution was framed during the last 50 years and so many laws were enacted thereunder. But because of lack of adequate interest towards the country today we are talking much about communities, religions castes and other things, we are not talking about the nation as a whole. This is the fiftieth year of India's Independence we know that every thing, every law and every system is required to be changed but this change should be brought with a view that it should evoke and promote national feelings to the desired extent.

Since my childhood till date I have heard the speeches of number of leaders inside and outside of this house. I have witnessed the activities inside the house whenever town. Number of slogans were coined during the last fifty years in this country like poverty should be eradicated, this should be given to that community and that should be given to this community. Policy of reservation was also adopted. But today it is the high time to ponder whether we have achieved the very purpose for which such policies were framed. Poverty is still there, Unemployment is also there. Instead of decreasing all these problems have increased.

The Constitution of India is Secular. The word 'secular' has been interpreted here but we have forgotten that the correct meaning of this word is "Sarvadharmam Som Bhav". Don't think 'Sarvadharmam Sombhav' gives weightage to

one religion and lets down the other or it creates a feeling of second grade citizens amongst some people. Such things have no place in it. Today knowingly or unknowingly all discussions lead to a discussion on Castes Communities and religion. In today's India religion is seen to mean a Hindu, a Sikh, a Christian, a Jain or a Bond. I have born in a Hindu family. I was made to learn all most all the Hindu Scriptures and the one which influenced the most, is Bhagwat Gita where in Srikrishna has said this verything that whenever there attempts are made to belittle or degrade the religion. I am born is a new incarnation. Today when this very definities of religion has been charged I would like to ask the hon'ble & experience members of this House that five thousand years ago when there was no Islam, when there was no Christinity or Jainism what was the Correct meaning of religion at that five when Arjun was directed to do his duty and he was asked to follow the Kshetriya Dharma because he was a Kshetriya. At that time there was nothing like Hindu, Muslim, Sikh or Charistian. The only meaning of religion was to do ones duty to wards his nation, towards his Society and towards his family and Ultrnately the Kshetriya Dharam was followed.

17.00 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the chair*]

Just now one of our colleagues have said that he adopted religion of his own and he followed the code of religion. Ofcourse he was very right. If somebody has adopted Kshtriya Dharma he should follow that. It is his duty to uphold that. Ultimately it leads to only one definition of religion that we have some duty towards our country and that is paramount.

I see this bill with this angle. Whenever elections are held people belonging to different communities, castes and religions gather together and highlight their problems. For solving these problems they want better candidates and seek their cooperation to solve their problems.

But the situation has come to such a pass that whenever elections are announced people start looking for candidates belonging to their own castes, belonging to their own religion and own communities. Being an educated citizen of India I feel that this is something unfortunate for the country. Therefore, in the 50th year of India's Independence it is a time for us to change this attitude. So this Bill has to be looked from this angle.

We people visit so many places. We go to Ajmer Sharif, we go to Shirdi Sai Baba and people from all

[Shri Nitish Bharadwaj]

religions visit these places. I get an inspiration from these places that this society can be integrated if such a feeling of mutual love and trust is inculcated in the hearts of the people.

There was a war in 1857 which was fought by the people of India. As Banatwala ji said that Hindu and Musalman constitute the word 'Hum'. This group of people 'Hum' fought the war and made the enemy to flee. Today we should remember the year 1857. This war came to an end in 1858. Thereafter the Britishers thought of a plan to create a wedge between the Hindus and the Muslims. There was a formal proclamation in this regard by Queen Victoria and Lord Viceroy used to get orders from her majesty that he should follow the policy of divide and rule.

When India got Independence, our Constitution was framed. It was decided that India would be a republic and secular country and the country would be governed with a spirit of 'Sarva Dharam Sambhav'. But I want to ask: what is going on today is really going on in the interest of the country? If you promote the interests of one community or religion then naturally the people of other religions and communities feel offended.

Here the question of personal Law is involved. This country has a culture with multicity of traditions. We have been following those customs and traditions for the last thousands of years culture and Personal Law are the result of those traditions. therefore, whenever we think of changing them it hurts its badly. It is, of course correct that it hurts us but it becomes our duty, the only of those who are present here that we should ponder over this question. The statistical analysis which Mr. Banatwala has given, pertains to polygamy only. It shows that ploygamy cases are more amongst Hindus than Muslims. My submission is not regarding number of cases of ploygamy. It is, of course correct that polygamy is prevalent amongst Hindus also. It is also prevalent amongst Muslims. It is in every society. Tody it is prevalent in every religion. There is no question of percentage. But the real question is whether this is approved of by woman? Have we ever thought about their feelings? Do we indulge in polygamy with their consent? If muslim society has approved of it in their personal law and it is in their religious books also but have they ever enquired from their wives as to how they are leading their lives? Whether Hindu women are ever asked as to how they are leading their lives?

It is also a fact that some Hindus Islam just to marry

two or three wives but will Islam welcome such persons? Can the rights of a women be given a go by in the name of personal law. It is high time to think over all these questions. I would say that discrimination is there in every religion, so there must be a Uniform Civil Code and it has been provided in Article 51 A(e) :

[English]

"To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic, and regional or sectional diversities, to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women".

[Translation]

I want to draw you attention and the attention of the members of this House towards these words.

[English]

"It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women."

[Translation]

When we marry two women, three women do we really follow the provisions of the Constitution being a citizen of this country? I am not talking about any specific religion. Question is not that it is written in a book of Muslims and it is not written anywhere in Hindu books. Is this the subject matter of debate only? I would say that bringing this bill we cam certainly check the menace of polygamy whether percent of it is less amongst Muslims and more amongst Hindus. I would say that this code would provide a great relief to all the women of the country. While indulging in polygamy no body asks his first wife. It is a question of attitude. Even today one Hon'ble member mentioned that Madam Chairman rose to this post because of her qualities. We have some lady friends when I enquired from them as to how you have achieved these heights, we are really proud of you, they replied that their husbands are broad minded any they have allowed us. This have become the very attitude of women of Indian society. It is therefore necessary to bring this Uniform Civil Code to change their very phyche, to give them some relief and to support them as it would protect their rights. I know that it is a very sensitive issue. Mr Banatwala has repeatedly said; if this Uniform Civil Code is brought.

[English]

"There will be a division in this country."

[Translation]

I do not understand when according to the statistical analysis the percentage of polygamy is less amongst muslims then.

[English]

How will this country be divided, and why will this country be divided only because this Bill has come ?

[Translation]

Whenever we talk of protecting women and their rights and when it does not suit to the whims and fancies of some men they talk of division of the country. It really surprises me. He quoted here Ambedkar Ji and said :

[English]

"Don't compel the Muslim community to get into rebellion.

[Translation]

I want to inform the House, through you sir, that Ambedkar Ji said this in a different context. He said these words when riots were going on in 1947. There was tension amongst the Hindus and Muslims. So do not distort the statement of Ambedkar ji for your vested interests. It would belittle Ambedkar Ji. So this should not be done and I do not agree with him.

He said one thing more that women have more opportunities, under Islam, they are given more rights. This bill I feel, is a bill for women. I am talking about the statement which he gave. Mr. Sarpotdar Ji has just said that in Taliban so many restrictions have been put on women. This is the news in today's papers, Sir, Equpt is a country where Muslims are in majority and women there have problem. When we were residing in London, a very good film was shown, which was made by a Muslim activist. I am telling this here because it has been said here that Islam gives protection to the rights of women. Even today in a country like Egpt when then women get married their clitoris is mutilated. Their clitoris is cut off. This has been depicted in this film. It is done so that at the time of consumation the women may not have any feeling. This is called circumcision. This too is going on in the Muslim society. Therefore, I donot understand as to what Muslim Society you are talking about Banatawala Ji, you please tell me. Sir, personally I feel that this bill should be brought. As I have said earlier that it is a question of national feeling. Much has been done during the last fifty

years. Whatever law we enact today, whatever decision we take today should not be a step backward. Therefore, I must say this bill is meant for protecting the rights of women. I do not agree with you that this is being imposed. If some party brings this bill you say that it is being imposed and when some other party brings it you say that this is not being imposed. I would say that we are not sitting here to have party politics only, we are sitting here for doing people's welfare. We are sitting here for doing things in the interest of the masses. I would again say that this is a very sensitive issue. Sir, I would like to urge this House, through you, that a delegation of intellectuals from all religion like Hindu, Muslim and Sikh etc. may be constituted and that delegation may be asked to ponder over this question: whether personal laws can be uniform or not ? And if it is possible, then a unanimous decision be taken by them.

If we lay waste all our energy in mutual bickerings even after 50 years of our Independence, I think we will be moving two steps backwards from the point of view of the development of India. Either a decision may be taken in this House to the effect that personal law, federal law or the state law should be segregated, but in that case you should make me understand the reason that when our brethren belonging to the Muslim Community from both India and Pakistan go to Britain and America,

[English]

Then the law of that land reins supreme on them. The law of the land in Britain is acceptable to the Muslims in Britain. But why the law of the land, if that is going to supercede the personal law in India, not acceptable to Muslims in India ?

[Translation]

This is my question. I am speaking here not to hurt anybody's sentiments. I am just putting across my views. I am placing views of both sides, both these should be weighed together. If we continue to fight amongst ourselves by raising a single issue, like me have all along been doing in the past for the last fifty years, and exhaust all our energy in that, it is a quite useless exercise, because it will not take India further on the path of development.

Sir, this Bill must be introduced because it concerns the rights of women. Therefore, either a committee may be set up and a direction may go through you to the Honse and the Ministry to separate the personal law and the federal law with the option for all individuals to continue

[Shri Nitish Bharadwaj]

to follow their respective personal laws, then there will be the state law and a civil code of the state which will be uniformly applicable to all like the criminal procedural law. Therefore, if we want to have peace, tranquillity and development in India, I consider that very essential after weighing both the things. As of now, I see more advantages, in the Bill particularly its provisions with regard to the rights of women, therefore, I support this Bill in this House. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : For giving rights to the women, feudalism will have be brought back first . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Mr. Chairman Sir, this is the 50th year. This year has a special significance for us, therefore whatever mistakes, faults and errors have been committed so far have to be confessed and analysed in order to move further. But if the Govt. goes to the extent of deleting a line from the President's Address which line only read this much that whatever faults and mistakes have been there on our part will be looked into by us before framing further policies, then I think this sort of attitude of the Government is not proper, that deleted portion of the President's speech would take care of every policy and the process of law-making, two-four Ministers are present here . . . (Interruptions) please don't enter into quarrel some arguments experienced persons are present here. Although it may not be wise to take the issue of deleting a line from the Address any further, yet if we keep the spirit of that line in mind while framing policies, it will be much better for the future of India.

\*SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpattu) : Hon'ble Chairman, I rise to speak on behalf of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam about the Bill introduced in this House by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat.

The Constitution Amendment that is sought to be made pertains to article 44 of our Constitution. It reads "the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India". He wants to bring in 51(C) Part IV-B "The State shall secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India". What is the difference between these two ? He wants to take away the word 'endeavour'. After that it won't read as "the State shall endeavour to secure" but it will merely read as "the State shall secure". He thinks that he will achieve

what he intends to have by way of merely lifting the word 'endeavour'. But our founding fathers who framed our Constitution have taken enough care to weigh the pros and consequences of it, of putting it in the directive principles of State policy instead of doing it otherwise. In these 50 years of independence we have carved out several States. These linguistic States were formed to preserve intact the languages of those while preserving the culture, customs and traditions of those language speaking people. Our founding fathers thought that these cultural entities shall remain without interfering with one another's affairs and shall have the freedom to preserve their own cherished cultural traditions. They thought if fit that this would ensure personal rights of all the citizens of the country. One of my colleagues who spoke prior to me said that our Constitution has been amended more than eighty times in these 50 years. He added that this amendment should also be effected now. If we seek to amend our Constitution there should be a method. I request that colleague of mine to bear in mind that also. Such amendments were made by this House and it was brought about by members like us who marshalled their thoughts and advanced their arguments in proper perspective. That is why we want to emphasise that this amendment should not be made ignoring the right perspective with which it was conceived and given to us in our Constitution. There might have been arguments for and against the amendments so far made. My colleague who has moved this Bill seeking an amendment should realise this also. When Shri Banatwalla spoke, he said that we find polygamy prevalent in certain sections of the society. It is common among the Muslims and several tribal communities. I think it is more among tribals. It has also come to my notice that some of them go for one wife every month. Can we reform them all at once ? Can we interface with their rights ? We now discuss about this amendment and we also believe that this is a normal legislation. But how can we reform overnight the abnormal customs ? Their culture is such. I am wearing shirt. Another may come in coat and suit. A Sardarji may be wearing a beard. Someone else may believe in going clean shaven. We find varying customs and traditions in our society. Such is the diversity of culture in our country. India is a country with pluralism in culture. Our late lamented leader "Anna" said some 50 years ago that there cannot be one culture, one god, one religion. He also said that humankind is one race and there can be only one god. Can you adopt and follow this principle. Gods are one too many here. If you are going to accept one god then we can accept one culture. Then it would mean that we would reform. Christians believe in one god, Muslims

\* Translating of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

have one god. Sikhs believe in one god. Whereas Hindus have got innumerable gods. At a time when we cannot unite all these gods how can we unite all men and how can we do this through this amendment? Will it not divide the country? In order to keep the country united, our founding fathers legislated the way they have done it. They were very serious about it. Their concern was to keep this country united and intact. They thought that the unity and integrity of the country can be preserved only by way of giving freedom to different cultural groups to follow their tradition. Every cultural group has its own identity. That individuality must be allowed to continue. Identities of different groups should not get washed away in a confluence. It was a well thought out enactment by our elders in the Constituent Assembly.

Do we have unity among us today? Leave alone the religious difference, all of us cannot learn and we are not showing mutual respect to each other. We even believe in sacrificing the children from other community. I would like to recall an incident here wherein a statue of an upper caste leader was given a wash for the simple reason that it was unveiled by a leader from a lower caste. That statue was given a 'Ganga Snan'. When we have this kind of divide and difference among us, how can we think of uniform civil code. So the time has not ripe as yet to bring about an amendment in our constitution.

If we want to preserve the unity and integrity of this country, we can have uniform law in every other thing in our political set up but not in the civil code. Civil law and criminal law are two different things. Civil law can be uniform but civil code cannot be but all criminal laws can be equal and all the citizens will be equal before those laws. Expressing my strong opposition to this move to amend the constitution seeking uniform civil code. I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI A. C. JOS (Idukki) This is a very controversial issue whether to have a common Civil Code or not. This debate has been going on in this country right from the advent of freedom. For 50 years we have been debating about it. I agree that time and again, judicial pronouncements have come out giving many directions. Of course, the judiciary in a democracy has to clean the mess, if at all, that is created by somebody.

In 1986 the *Shah Banu* case had come. It was a fillip to the prophets of protagonists of a common Civil Code that there are certain infirmities in the personal laws of each

community and so it had to be changed. Thereafter, the recent decision of the Supreme Court came which added fuel to the fire saying that a common Civil Code is to be enunciated. The confusion or the misunderstanding is that the Supreme Court has never said or never gave any direction to the Central Government to formulate a common Civil Code throughout the country. They, on discussing the case, suggested or expressed their opinion that a common Civil Code may be 'desirable'. A 'direction' from the Supreme Court is different from expressing a desirability.

Lot of things are desired in this country. Lot of things are desired in our personal life. Lot of things are desired for social welfare. But all desirable things cannot be practicable. If all desirable things take shape and are put to programme, our country would have been a Heaven. So, all desirable things cannot happen. That is one.

Secondly, the Court will say 'desirable'. The Government or the political parties or the administration will have to look into the different aspects when they desire or when they take an action on the desirability.

So, my first assumption or contention before this August House is that the Court has never given any direction. It is the business of the political leadership, it is the business of the Government whether to have a common Civil Code or not. After that famous decision, having recently the Supreme Court has come out with another direction that the Court was is not the place to decide it.

So, the Government has to decide it. When we are asking the Government to decide, the Government has to look into all the shades of public opinion of this country. The Government has to look after all the communities of the country. India is a very complex country. There is no other country in the Comity of Nations as complex and complicated as India is. We are talking as to how many languages we have. Is there any count of our languages? I am told, we have got about 1,200 languages with scripts and we have got 21 languages included in the Eighth Schedule. There was only one country in the world which is more or less parallel to India and that was Soviet Union where they spoke 16 languages. Now, the Soviet Union had broken up. After the breaking up of Soviet Union, we are yet to find a country like ours wherein so many languages are spoken.

Then what about the religion? How many religions do we have? Has anybody got the count? According to me, sections and sub-sections will come to about 1,800

[Shri A.C. Jos]

religions. There are different castes. Each caste is not our making; it is an historical making. Our *Chaturvarna* has come into existence because of our *Puranas* and *Vedas*. They were not created. But it happened so. We have got a legacy. We inherited those things. But this is a wonder, with all these disparities and divergence, we have been able to pull on as a country for the past 50 years without and major problem. So, each religion has historically developed the personal laws. Those laws are administered by the religion of different forms. It is enshrined in our Constitution that we would safeguard our fundamental rights. It is clearly enshrined that all the religions, all the castes, right to worship and right to everything would be safeguarded in our Constitution. Our Constitution is not a simple document. It is an historical document. Whatever be its faults, our Constitution is considered to be one of the sacred and valuable documents produced by the best intellects of the world.

The Directive Principles are there. At that time we thought that we would strive to have a Common Civil Code. Sir, for a moment, you please look into the Directive Principles of our Constitution. There also, as I said, many things have been directed by the Constitution. The Constitution directed that total prohibition should be implemented in this country. Did we do it? The prohibition has been lifted wherever we have implemented. I am even told that much propagated prohibition in Andhra Pradesh is going to be lifted by the present Chief Minister. So, many directions have been given. At that point of time, the Founding Fathers of our Constitution thought and dreamt—according to me they dreamt—many things for the nation. But that is not practicable. We have to take into consideration all the minorities, even the smallest of the minority. According to me, minorities are the strength of our nation. Of course, anybody can say that we have got 82 per cent majority and only 18 per cent minority. But can we overlook them? If we overlook them, can it be called a democracy? What had gone wrong due to the lack of Common Civil Code in this country? Have we progressed or not despite not having a Common Civil Code? So, Common Civil Code is a luxury for any country and we cannot afford to have that luxury.

We cannot afford to have that luxury. We have to take into consideration the aspirations of all the minorities of this country. So, my submission is that a common civil code may be desirable but not practicable. Desirability and practicability are different. So, my submission is that as

the Supreme Court, in other cases has. . . (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jos, please resume your seat. We have to extend the time for this Bill.

Hon. Members, we had decided that this discussion will go up to 5.37 p.m. Still there are six more speakers. So, I suggest that we extend the time for this Bill by some more time to accommodate all the Members. Is the House agreeable ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. So, we extend the time. Mr. Jos, you may continue your speech.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I will not take much time of the House. I would say that the Supreme Court itself has said that the very foundation or the very basic structure of the Constitution cannot or changed. By enacting a common civil code, we will be changing the very structure of the Constitution. The basic structure of the Constitution is its democratic nature. Worshipping any place and practising any personal law which is not detrimental to society is a Fundamental Right. I have been repeatedly saying that for the past fifty years, we have been able to pull on with that. So, my submission is that a common civil code is absolutely impractical. Any common civil code will be against the basic foundation of the Constitution and hence this Constitution Amendment Bill cannot be considered and cannot be passed.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Constitution Amendment Bill brought forwarded by my colleague Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat.

When to the Emergency was imposed in India, the Constitution of India was amended. I was an opponent of the Emergency and the then Government, had put us in jail because we opposed the Emergency. I underwent imprisonment in Chandigarh for about one year. We were opposing the policies of the Government throughout Emergency, however, a good thing had happened during Emergency not and it was welcomed by the country, we welcome it even to this day. That welcome feature was the inclusion of the fundamental duties of the citizens through an amendment in the Constitution which already contained the Fundamental Rights of the Citizens. Whereas through that amendment the citizens rights were included in the constitution, today Rawatji seeks to include certain

duties of the Central Govt. also in it through the present amendment. He seeks deletion of Article 44 from Directive Principles of the Constitution and inclusion of the Government's Fundamental Duties in Article 51.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have carefully listened to the arguments put on forward by the hon. Members. Today it is being argued that it that is inserted in the Constitution, at will bad to conversions somewhere religion putting up of opposition to some or the other religion somewhere else and controversies involving questions regarding following of one or other religion. I wish to submit to the followers of all the religions that the concept of a common civil code was put in the constitution not by us but by the makers of the Constitution. Today we are being branded as communal and non-secular for making such a demand. When the Constituent Assembly drafted Article 44, it had no member from the Bhartiya Janata Party. It had great leaders of the country like Dr. Ambedkar and Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Bhartiya Janata Party was formed as late as 1980 and the makers of Indian Constitution had framed the Constitution much before that if it is argued today that it is communal to talk of a common civil code, then I would say with due respects that first they have to brand all those makers of the Indian constitution as communal. Were Dr. Ambedkar, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Communal ?

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Shri Jain, you mentioned about the Directive Principles. I have also mentioned about them. But have we enacted all that is mentioned in the Directive Principle of the Constitution ? . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : These who were holding the reins of power till recently to are responsible for this.

[English]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : I am going to reply to that point. I will be dealing with your argument.

[Translation]

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, to say today that secularism is not there is, I think like insulting the Indian constitution. The Constitution of India has accepted the principle of a common civil code. The only question that may arise is whether it should be implemented immediately or sometime

later. What is the meaning of code. Very incorrect things have been uttered. One gentleman here was saying just now that the mode of marriage differs from man to man. It was never the intention of the makers of the constitution to interfere, through of common civil code, with the modes of marriage under various religions. Even today the Hindu Marriage Law is not applicable to 80 per cent of the country's population. Do they all marry in one and the same way. If you want to marry in under the Sikh Panth, you have to undertake recitation of Guru Granth Saheb while marrying, take four Lavans after 12.00 O'clock in the noon and then marriage is taken to have been performed. Marriage can also be performed by taking rounds around the sacred fire. The methods of taking rounds (*Pheras*) around the sacred fire to are different with Arya Samaj, Sanatana Dharm and Jain Community. No one presents you from marrying in a particular way. Who says that you make the marriage this way or that. However what cannot be permitted is to indulge in activities prejudicial to the interests of the country and the society, under the cover of safe guarding one's religion. It has been argued that we need to take the people in confidence and take their consent, that the Muslim community does not agree to a common civil code, therefore we should not impose a common code, if laws are made by asking for the people's consent, nothing will emerge. I would put a question here, If you go to universities, colleges or schools, hardly 50 per cent of the studying children will support the anti-copying act, they will rather say that they should be at liberty to copy in their exams. Now the question is whether we shall be withdrawing the anti-copying Act on that account.

Similarly so far as landlord and tenant dispute is concerned, no landlord wants that Rent Control Act should be implemented. Every landlord wants the Rent Control Act should be withdrawn so that he may rent out his buildings and get it so vacated at will. So, whether the Rent Control Act will be withdrawn at the behest of landlords ? If same people indulge in theft activities, whether the legislation enacted to check theft will be withdrawn ? Traders indulge in black marketing and Government employees indulge in corruption and if they are asked, they would also say that they should have the permission to indulge in corruption. However, whether we will withdraw the Prevention of Corruption Act at their behest ? It is being stated in the court that the prevention of Corruption Act does not apply on M.P.s and M.L.A.s, so whether the M.P.s unit be prosecuted under Prevention of Corruption Act ? I can give you not are but several instances.

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Simranjit Singh Mann was elected to Lok Sabha from Punjab the said that he would like to bring away 12 foot long sword with him in the House. But the House stated very furiously that this is the Parliament of India. If he could bring a six inch long sword, if no demind, otherwise he would not be allowed to attend the House. would that be termed as interference in religions matters ?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Land Act was enacted, under which thousands of access of land was given to the tenants. These who feel that firstly the consent of Muslims should be sought about it and as long as they do not agree, this law should not be implemented. If the opinion of land-arners were to be sought nobody would have agreed to the proposal of distribution of his land amongst the small farmers. So whether that legislation should be withdrawn ? Hence this argument does not hold water that the legislation enacted in the interest of nation would be implemented only after seeking their opinion. I can say it in the House with surety that there are scores of such laws which will have to be withdrawn and cancelled in this case. why does not the Government want to implement single Uniform Civil Code. Whether there is any rationale behind it. Just now Shri Banatwalla was quoting the percentages regarding Muslims and Hindus. So you should be pleased if polygamy is checked. If percentage of such cases is more in Hindu Community and lesser in Muslims, you should not have objection at all. I am a lawyer, I have also gone through the Muslims personal Law. I would like to ask as to whereis it has been stated in the Muslims law, Muslim religions edicts or the Holy Quran that a Muslim can marry four times. Whether anyone in the House can tell us as to wherein the validity of four marriages has been upheld in the Muslim religion. It is true that if a son is not born, a person is allowed to marry four times. But nowhere it has been mentioned in any religion that one is free to marry four times unconditionally. How can we accept this argument in the present circumstances. There are many problems and difficulties. Our population is increasing manifold.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Satya Pal Jain, please stop for one minute. We have to discuss a very important Bill. Shri Ram Naik has raised the matter of this Aquaculture Bill. The Minister of Agriculture will make an announcement.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : I think that the time for Private Member's Business should not be curtailed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that. Since a very important matter was raised before you came and the Minister was to move this Bill, he may be allowed to make a submission for one minute.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Right now we are discussing Private Members Business. Which bill are you talking about ?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not the Bill. It is same other announcement.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : That can be taken up later on.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is same court judgement about which he wants to make a statement

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDARY AND DAIRY-ING (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had given a notice for introducing a Bill regarding Aquaculture in the House but the Supreme Court has given granted stay in this regard and has stopped demolition. In view of this, I won't be able to introduce the Bill today. After going through the judgement delivered by the Supreme Court, this bill will be introduced in the House later on. This was what I wanted to in form the House

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, this Bill should be referred to the Select Committee. That is my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not introducing the Bill today in view of the Supreme Court Judgement. The Supreme Court has stayed this order.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : When will the Bill be taken up in the House . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Bill is not yet introduced in the House.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, it is the time for Private Member's Business. Let us not take more time. It is now understood that we are not taking it up.

Shri Satya Pal Jain may continue his speech.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : I am pleased to note that Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture invited our attention towards the Judgement delivered by the Supreme Court. That is what I would like to submit that this should not be the case that wherever the judgement delivered by Supreme Court is found suitable by the Government, it is accepted and in case it is not found favourable, it is not accepted. As for the subject on which I am speaking today, the Supreme Court has already given directions for having uniform Civil code. If the Government accepts this judgement, it would be appreciable *(Interruptions)*

I was speaking about the increase in population in the country. Our population has increased manifold. It has crossed the 90 crores mark. *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please maintain order in the House.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, what is going on in the House ? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I went out in connection with some important matter on this Aquaculture Bill. I want to say something about this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Can we do it now ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, this matter must be discussed after six o'clock. If the Minister has said that he does not want to introduce the Bill, I would like to say that the Supreme Court has given the extension up to 30th April. Now, that Bill has been passed by Rajya Sabha. So, I propose that a Select Committee of seven or eleven Members should be constituted. That Committee can report in the first week of the next part of this Session, may be on 23rd or 24th. If that is done, the Bill will be seen properly and the things can be worked out. Otherwise, the Government will be having a problem. In the Rajya Sabha,

it has been passed. So, my suggestion would be that if the Select Committee is constituted, the Committee can very well go through the Bill and report to the Parliament. The Bill will be seen in a proper spirit. Accordingly, I have given the resolution when I came to know of the Supreme Court Judgement. This can be discussed afterwards. But this is a very serious and important matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will take up this matter at six O'Clock.

Shri Satya Pal Jain may continue now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wanted to draw the attention of the House towards the population increase in our country. In any hospital, if there is arrangement for handling 500 patients one would find 10,000 patients there. Similarly if any school has a capacity of imparting education to 1,000 children, one would find 10,000 children of seeking admission. Take the case of Railway buses, schools, colleges or hospitals, one would find them in very bad condition due to increase in population. It is not as if only a particular political party is concerned about this issue. Whichever political party one may be affiliated to whichever religion one might be following, and whichever language he might be speaking, all of us will have to pay attention to this problem. If we are unable to control our increasing population, we may make any number of announcement here, we may formulate major schemes and we may provide more and more funds but even then all our schemes are likely to fail in view of the increasing population. Hence the need of the hour is to check the increase in population.

I would like to ask as to which muslim country throughout the world is allowing four marriages ? In that case, how it is being claimed in our country that it is allowed in the muslim religion. Emphasis is being laid on practising monogamy in all the Muslim Countries throughout the world in order to keep a check on population. Just how a number of the Marxist Communist Part was saying that he was in favour of uniform civil code but still he was not in favour of this Bill. I would like to ask him to tell me about any such Communist Country in the world, whether that country may here been disintegrated or still united where four marriages have been allowed ? When our brother go over to U.K., U.S.A. or any other foreign country, they are allowed to marry as per the law applicable there however here we allow them to marry more than once and that there should be no interference in their religions matters.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we will also have to take into

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

account the financial constraints arising as a result thereof. Some people claim to espouse the cause of Muslims and advocate four marriages but I feel that those very persons have caused the maximum harm to the Muslims. In this period of financial constraints, when inflation has risen to such an extent that it is proving to be very difficult for each and every person to maintain his family. If someone earning Rs. 10,000 a month finds it difficult to maintain a family comprising of his wife and two children, how would such a person be able to maintain his family whose family comprises of 10-12 children.

We have seen that there who kept an speaking in favour of muslim, did not do anything to improve their standard of living. They may have become Ministers or Members of Parliament or might here reached places by using the Muslim card but they have not been able to guide or provide relief to the ordinary Muslim women who are suffering.

Hence we will have to consider this issue from economic point of view also. I fail to understand the reasons for opposing the uniform civil code. How does it interfere in anyone's religious matters. Please tell me as to which other country has any such law under which a woman who has left behind her parents to marry a person and who has given him two or three children is turned out of the matrimonial house in a minute or a few seconds just by saying 'Talaq' thrice and the relationship is considered to be over. This is not acceptable under any law throughout the world. I am surprised at this attitude. When some member mentions any incident of rape of dalit woman in a village or any such other incident is mentioned here, we hold discussion as the atrocities being committed on women.

17.54 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the chair)

But when a Muslim women is treated in such a shabby manner, these speaking in her favour are termed as communal. Whether the Muslim women living in India are any different from other women? Don't they have any right to get any relief? How long we will torment the Muslim women by keeping them locked up in the houses and how long we will avoid the issue of her rights.

As far those who claim that it is allowed in Muslim religion to marry four times, I would like to throw a challenge to them that they should not interfere and should instead let the Muslim women of India decide themselves.

If you give the muslim women the right to decide their own fate, I can say for sure that they will definitely decide against the practice of polygamy.

We want an Uniform Civil Code in this country. Whether we will not introduce it for our Muslim women. Just now my colleague Shri Nitish Bharadwaj was speaking on it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you were also with as in a conference.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in several muslim countries, muslim women do not have a right to vote. Probably in Saudi Arabia, Muslim women do not have right to vote, not to speak of becoming M.P. therefore it is not a religious matter. The point is that we have to Check atrocities being committed on women which is possible only through the introduction of a Uniform Civil Code.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now a reference was made to the Supreme Court. Shri Basu was saying that no ruling has been given by the Supreme Court in this regard. The apex court has just expressed their will. But I would like to quote a paragraph of the ruling given by the Court which is as follows :-

[English]

"When more than 80 percent of citizens have already been brought under the codified personal law, there is no justification whatsoever to keep in abeyance any more the introduction of a Uniform Civil Code for all citizens in the territory of India.

[Translation]

After reading out this extract of the judgement, I would like to ask him whether still anyone can say that the Supreme Court have not given a ruling in this regard? The Apex Court had given the Government two months time to take some steps in pursuance of their ruling under intimation to them. But today we are not ready to accept that verdict.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is quite surprising that the people who advised us to accept the judgement of the Supreme Court in the Ayodhya case, are now saying that this is not a ruling, rather the Court has this in the simply desired so in this case. I want to know from them as to what in the language in which the Supreme Court of High Court write their decisions. Which other text could be more clear than this? Today I request these people, who were advising us to accept the decision of the court, that if you do not want to listen to us at all, please think over the

decision given by the Supreme Court atleast.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Banatwala Sahab has made a point. He said that 'Ha' and 'Ma' Hindi alphabates of 'Ham' stands for Hindu and Muslim respectively. If 'Ham' are united, no doubt the country will also remain united. A person living in this country be he/she a Hindu or Muslim or Christian or Sikh or Arya Samaji or Jain—is a citizen of this country. We pay him full regard. If they are united, the country is united. But this is not correct to say that if people of two different religions live together, country can not remain united. The country has remained united since time immemorable. The country was one when our muslim brethren were not living in this country and the country were not living in this country and the country has remained are when they are living in India. It will remain one in future also. It's unity does not depend on anybody's sweet will. We were one but I want to know as to why did his party allow the partition of the country in 1947? Why did not you stand up and say that we are one. We do want to part from each other. Do not divide us into two nations. My submission is that this country does not depend on the whims of two communities or two parties. Every country has got its own history and ours is also a very old history. Some people say that our history is five thousand years old and some say that it is five lakh years old. When as some others say that Mahabharat dates back to thousand years old period. Thus, the history of this country is very-very old. Think of these myriad of people who laid there lives for this country. Go through the annuals of Sikh history and you will find that they laid their lives while fighting against the Mughal Experors. Many people were bricked up alive. They have built this country. If a couple of people like you join hands with each other and claim that we are one and so is our country. Merely your saying so will not keep this country united.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you, want to say that we are secular because Hindus are in majority in this country. I want Shri Banatwala Sahab to let me know the name of even a single country where muslims are in majority but still that is a secular state. I think there is no such state. Only Hindustan is a country which is secular and not theocratic inspite the fact that Hindus are in majority in this country. No country is a secular state where muslims are in majority. All of them are a theocratic state. Therefore I want to say that secularism is in our blood. This country was never divided in the name of Hindu-Muslim, not it will be divided in the future also. I think you are well aware of the pathetic condition of Hindus in Pakistan. And you

are also aware of the condition of the muslims in Pakistan. Every muslim living in our country is a citizen of India and he is entitled for full respect. He has got the equally respectable status. There is no threat to his life. But in case somebody attempts to tear the tricolour of our country and celebrates the victory of Pakistan in a match against India then Shri Banatwala Ji we will never tolerate such things. Traitor is a traitor— be he Hindu or muslim or Christian or Sikh. A traitor has got no religion to follow. Likewise a patriot has also got no particular religion. The people whose loyalty is with this country and who are with this country, will be provided full protection but the people who are found indulging in anti-national activities have got no place in this country. We will not tolerate them at all. So please do not talk like this.

18.00 hrs.

Further, you have referred to the articles 369, 370 and 371. Banatwala Ji if you go through the constitution, it is written in beginning of that Chapter of Constitution that these are the transitional and temporary articles. If you want, I can read them out and explain the same. These are not permanent articles. These articles were provided for the time being.

Ultimately not have to bring everyone in the main stream. Therefore do not take the support of those transitional and temperary articles. By doing so, you can not oppose the introduction of a Uniform Civil Code.

I want to let you know that you have tried to oppose it by giving the example of Ambedkar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is 6 o'clock now. The time allotted for this Private Member's Bill is already exhausted. There are three or four more speakers left. So, Shall we extent the time by one hour and then take it up next time ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

18.01 hrs.

#### MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Vote on Account) B II, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th March, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th March, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.
- (iii) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th March, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.
- (iv) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st March, 1997 agreed without any amendment to the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th March, 1997."

18.02 hrs.

RE : AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : Sir, the

Supreme Court has today stayed its order to demolish aquaculture-farms etc. In view of that, I have informed the House and I am telling it again that I do not want to proceed with the consideration stage of the Bill. If a situation arises, then we can think of it. We are giving enough time to the Supreme Court and we will see how they manage it.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, I have got the details of the Judgement of the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court has given the stay up to 30th April only. If the Bill cannot be passed, then, according to me, the Bill can be sent to a Select Committee. I will tell you why. The Rajya Sabha has passed it. If we send the Bill to a Select Committee, and accordingly I have given a Resolution also, then the Select Committee can scrutinise this Bill in detail and report back to the House in the first week of the next Session. So, the scrutiny of the Bill can be completed and if the Committee can apply its mind, it would be better. Otherwise, if it is not done, what will happen is—10th is the last date—that we have to consider it in a hurry. So, in order to avoid any hurry, if we appoint a Select Committee, that Select Committee can go through the Bill in the recess and report back to Parliament. That way, the Bill can be complete in all respects and it will be easy for the House also to pass it. The time which has been given by the Supreme Court should be utilised by us and do a perfect job. For doing that perfect job, we should constitute a Select Committee

Sir, Select Committee can also be of one House only. It can not be a Joint Select Committee in this case because the Rajya Sabha has already passed the Bill. If we have a Select Committee comprising the Members of Lok Sabha from the coastal States, then we can go through different States, study the problem have a proper deliberation and we can come with the report in the first week of the next Session. That should be done. Accordingly, Sir, I have submitted the Resolution, and I appeal to the Government that if such a Committee is constituted, it will help because along with the aquaculture problem, there is also the serious problem of the traditional fishermen. The traditional fishermen have started opposing these aquaculture farms. Both these things have to be considered in an integrated way. The traditional fishermen have started their agitation. Earlier, the House could deliberate and we could unanimously arrive at the deep sea fishing policy last year. Similarly, on this aquaculture also, we can do the same thing.

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have made your point.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why, I suggest that a

Committee should be constituted.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Sir, I support the Resolution of Shri Ram Naik because when we are going through the Bill, there are several lacunae that we have found. Since we belong to the coastal State, we know the interests of the farmers, which need to be protected. At the same time, we should also have a *via media* between the interests of the farmers and the traditional fisherman.

Such a policy has to be evolved only after consultation with the people whose life is to be affected. So a Select Committee of this nature consisting of MPs from coastal areas would be really desirable.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : I do not want to go into the merits and demerits of the proposal except to point out that there exists even a precedence. The other House passed the Delimitation Commission Bill without any change. It came to us. There were objections raised in this House about the contents of that Bill. A Select Committee was appointed only of this House. That Select Committee deliberated on the delimitation matter and its report is pending. So, there is a precedent. If it satisfies all sections of the House, it would be a worthwhile course.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I will not take much time. I have only to say that appointment of a Select Committee at this stage is not proper and it will be unjust to the other House, I will explain. The other House today passed the Bill under an impression of an urgency. They did not know about the court's stay order, as far as I think, and in a state of urgency, they passed it . . . (Interruptions) Let me complete. Whenever I get up, you also get up. Please allow me to make my submission. I do not yield like this. You also get up. Please allow me to make my submission. I do not yield like this. You may say when your turn comes.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Supreme Court has given its judgement today

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Yes, I know it. I know all that and I say that in a state of emergency, the other House passed the Bill and thereafter the stay order of the Supreme Court has come. Now for us to take advantage of this and then to form only a Select Committee of this House will, therefore, not be just and fair to the other House.

I have another suggestion to make. Let us not go for this formal Select Committee. I have an appeal to make to the hon. Minister to utilise the Interim period that we

are having by forming a Committee, a Committee of MPs from both the Houses, specially from the coastal area, to study the whole situation and to come forward with a report, but not a Select Committee as such. Let us not ignore the other House which has acted very rightly in a state of emergency. An informal committee can be put up by hon. Minister, of MPs from both the Houses, specially of coastal areas and we can benefit by their report.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silcher) : An all Party meeting was called. All of us went there. It was said at that time that the urgency is there so pass it. Irrespective of party, everybody has accepted it. Now a new dimension has come from Supreme Court. That may stall it for a temporary period. If you send it to the Select Committee, what messages come from it ? Without preparation, we are passing the Bill. This will not be a good thing. What point Shri Ram Naik has made ? He has also a point that we are meeting on 21st and the target date is 30th. So, we also appeal to the Government, we agree here in this House, that it should come before 31st in this House, if any situation arises in the Supreme Court. But let us not send it to the Select Committee. In future, Rajya Sabha would say "First you decide and then you come to us." Our party members have agitated. We said 'No.' We have accepted in a meeting which was called by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. We should go by that. My position is becoming awkward there. Please do not go to that extent. Kindly keep it as he has asked not to omit it. He is a very senior and a very good Minister of CPI.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with you.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I do not want to anticipate what the Supreme Court will do. What they have done is sufficient for me, not to ask for passing this Bill immediately. They have stayed their own Order. It is quite good. Now, the farms will not be demolished. After 30th, whatever their judgement may be, if it will be necessary to come before this House, I will certainly come before this House. In the meantime, I am ready to accept this and I will call Members of Parliament who are interested in this to form a Committee and discuss in detail. But details can be discussed only after their judgement.

Suppose they themselves decide something. (Interruptions) If it is all favourable, they also go ahead with it. They have now understood the spirit of the house. We too have to respect them very much. They are wisemen. They will decide it accordingly. Therefore, there is no necessity of a Select Committee. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I just take a minute because I am very much involved in this issue. I have already said that the traditional fishermen are opposing the Acquaculture. This would be coming in conflict with their interests. So, in order to see that the conflict should not be there, a Committee of the House will be better to go into this problem. Otherwise, they have already started agitation led by Shri Thomas Kochery. The National Fisherme's Forum have already started the agitation. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : That is not the point. There is no problem. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, my point is this. Kindly appoint a Committee. Let us go through the problem.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I will take you in a Committee, if I form it. But I am not in favour of the House Committee because then the question of procedure, notification etc. will arise. All these take time. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister says that he would call a meeting of the Members of Parliament for an informal discussion. In case any Member of Parliament feels that some changes are needed, he can give the suggestions. I would even go further to say that you can send your suggestions in writing. Shri Ram Naik, for everything we need not go for a Select Committee. I have some other problems in having so many Committees like accommodation and so on and so forth.

Mr. Minister, if the hon. Members of Parliament want to give some suggestions, you can invite them for a discussion.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : They are very much welcome. I have already said about it.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we have two Bills to be passed I know some hon. Members of Parliament have booked their tickets to catch the evening flight. I think these are not very controversial Bills also. Everybody has unanimity of opinion on this. We have discussed them sufficiently. We can put the Bill to the vote of the House.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, Shri Ramoowalia has not requested us. . . .(Interruptions)

18.13 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL  
OF PORT LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

PORT LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL – CONTD.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can reply now. Please be very short.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, amendments are there.

MR. SPEAKER : I will take up the amendments later as we go step by step.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I thought that you were giving a direction to Members to take the flight. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : Sir, only three Members have spoken so far.

MR. SPEAKER : You reply. Give a short reply.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, at the outset, I would like to state that though I want to give the reply point by point, I will be brief as you desired. I have already submitted that it is not a controversial Bill. All the hon. Members who have spoken on it have supported it. But they said that they are not amenable to the practice of issuing Ordinances. Apart from that, there is no other legal implication or any objection in this regard. Therefore, request the hon. Members to withdraw the Statutory Resolution and pass the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar—not present.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, Shri Nitish Kumar has already spoken on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House disapproves of the Port Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 1 of 1997) promulgated by the President on January 9, 1997.

*The motion was negatived*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908 and the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted*

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 13 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 13 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 14

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (Cuttack) I beg to move :

Page 3, line 37,-

after "Central Government" insert-

"or has been a Vice Admiral of the Navy or Chairman-cum-Managing Director of a Shipyard".(1)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is rather a good opportunity for me to speak in front of a towering personallty like you in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not think that only when I sit on this Chair, you are speaking in front of me. I listen to everyone of you there is my Chamber.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : As I said earlier, this Bill is trying to steam-roll. It has not taken into consideration many things.

According to Section 3 of the Major Ports Act, a Board has been constituted, where persons from all walks of life are taken, persons coming from different vocations, with different attitudes and aptitudes have been taken. Now this Bill is trying to take away many of the powers of that Board. The Boards of the major ports have different types of actions and activities. There are different types of major ports also. Some minor ports have been elevated to major ports like the Port Blair. It is not a major port. But it has been given the status of a major port by a Cabinet decision. If powers are taken away from different ports, it will create a problem. I would not go into the details. There are a number of things that I have indicated.

If you kindly see part (k) of the Clause 3 on page 2, it is written :

"for licensing and regulating catamarans plying for hire."

It indicates about timing also. Once the timing is given, the Board that is there would not be able to control the working. We may take the case of Kochi Port. Catamarans are very important in that port. when we say "by regulating", it means, "fixing the time for the authority". It will create lots of operational problems. I would not go into the details because there is no time left for it.

I would like to say about Section 47A which is being introduced in this amendment where lots of powers have been given to the authority and the authority will consist of one person as the Chairman who should be of the rank of the Secretary or equivalent and two other members. My intention of bringing this amendment is that a person who has been a member of the Navy or a person who is associated with the construction of ship-Chairman and Managing Director of Shipyards-should be the Chairman and not any other person. Another person my become the Chairman who may not be knowing anything about ballast or draft and he may become the Chairman because of this amendment. So kindly keep this in mind that a person from the Navy be appointed as the Chairman.

According to Section 3 of the Major Ports Act where it has been clearly indicated that a person from the Defence services should be a member of the Board. Here also, I would suggest that the Chairman should be also from the Navy. That is all I want to say.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you withdrawing ?

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

*The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 14 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 14 was added to the Bill*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 15 to 31 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

[Shri Anadi Charan Sahu]

*Clause 15 to 31 were added to the Bill*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill*

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted*

18.20 hrs.

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI  
KARAMCHARIS (AMENDMENT) BILL\***

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Item no. 21. Shri Ramoowalia may kindly move the motion for consideration of the Bill.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, we are sitting from morning to evening. Shri T.G. Venkatraman is only smiling and not saying anything to us. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Ramoowalia will compensate it

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to amend the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to amend the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, please allow Shri Mangat Ram to speak. He will take just one minute. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the National Commission for Safai Karamchari (Amendment) Bill, 1997. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say something on it. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a controversial thing. Everybody has agreed. I have discussed with the leaders.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Is it fair for a Government which proclaims to deliver social justice that harsh action is taken by it against the commission engaged in working for the welfare of the neglected class of our society. A meeting was held in November 1996 and a decision was taken for extending its tenure.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All right. You have made your point

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the Chairpersons of all the three commission i.e. Minority Commission, Commission for Backward Classes and Commission for SC/ST are accorded the Status of cabinet Minister and delegated adequate administrative, financial and judicial powers. But I am very sorry to say that the National Commission for Safai Karamchari has not been given any power. All the other three commissions are permanent whereas it is temporary. The class to which safai Karamchari belong serves the society. These people are very poor and victims of untouchability. Therefore, I request the hon. Ministers to accord the Status of cabinet Minister and all the due rights and power to the Chairperson of commission for Safai Karamchari like the Chairpersons of all the other three commissions. This is my submission. I support this Bill.

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 21.3.97

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rawat, I know, you are one of the biggest contributors to all the debates but not this time please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnor) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Shri Sharma has also mentioned it, I would like to say that Commission for Safai Karamchari should be delegated full powers like the other 3 or 4 commission set up and run by this Ministry. There should be uniformity in their rules and regulations. I am also one of the Members of this Commission and have myself seen the Chairman of this Commission travelling by bus from Delhi to Jaipur. Economic and Financial condition of Safai Karamcharies is quite bad and in view of it required powers should be given to this Commission.

Scavenging is still prevalent in various parts of the country and thus this commission should be made permanent for ever, so that it could work efficiently and solve the problems of this class. In absence of required powers, so far this Commission could not achieve any remarkable target and has only seen that still much has been done throughout the country. Many officials and banks have not cooperated with us. The funds are not being actually disbursed among them. I request the hon. Minister that this commission should be made permanent and given due powers for its efficient functioning like all the other commissions.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the opinion of hon. Members about this commissions, I will consider the matter sympathically. At present, I have moved this amendment for extending the tenure of this commission by five years. I hope that this stigma on the country will be removed within the period of five years.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, the hon. Minister of Welfare take care of welfare of everyone in this country and I request him to consider this matter pertaining to welfare of MPs as this Government proclaims to deliver Social justice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has taken note of it. He will take it into consideration.

The question is :

"That the Bill to amend the National Commission for

Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 to 3 stand part of the Bill*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formul and the Long Title stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill*

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted*

MR. SPEAKER : I may thank all of you for all the cooperation that you have extended. I know you have much more difficult work to do to scrutinise the Budget proposals in the meetings of the Standing Committees. I wish you all the best.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : We, all the M.P.s thank you for your cooperation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The house stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 21st April, 1997 at 11. a.m.

18.28 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 21, 1997/Vaisakha 1, 1919 (Saka)*

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eighth Edition)  
and printed by The Indian Press, Azad Pur, Delhi-110033.

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