

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Sixth Session  
(Part I)  
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. XVIII contains Nos. 1 to 4)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
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**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates  
(English Version)**

**Friday, November 21, 1997/Kartika 30, 1919 (Saka).**

....

<u>Col./Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
8/9 (from below)	SHRI ANNANT GANGARAM GEETE	SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE
29/3 161/6	SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHWAKARMA	SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHWAKARMA
59/29	THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR.BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH)	THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR.BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH)
67/19	SHRI ANAND RATAN MAURYA	SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA
68/24	(b)	(d)
77/26	(c) to (g)	(c), (d) and (g)
77/3 (from below)	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ)
110/4 (from below) 111/14	THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR.BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH)	THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR.BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH)
112/15	THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ)	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ)
131 & 132/10	10950	10958
139/5 (from below)	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ)
149/Last line	(b)	(d)
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161/13 (from below)	(d)	(c)
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189/23 190/24	MOHAMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGAWAR	SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR
228/21	THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L.JALLAPPA)	THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L.JALAPPA)
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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Friday, November 21, 1997/Kartika 30, 1919 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Laisram Achaw Singh.

Shri Laisram Achaw Singh was a Member of Second Lok Sabha representing Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency of Manipur during 1957-62.

Earlier, he was a Member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly in 1948.

An active social and political worker, Shri Achaw Singh took keen interest in the spread of education. He was founder Principal of the Ananda Singh Academy during 1950-54 and Imphal Night College in 1952. He was also the Principal of the Canchipur Polytechnic, Imphal during 1949-50.

Shri Laisram Achaw Singh passed away on 14th November, 1997 at Dispur, Guwahati, at the age of 77 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.02 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while*

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, Dr. Kalpana Chawla achieved the distinction of becoming an astronaut. We should all congratulate her on this achievement.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, the ATR which was placed on the Table yesterday is not a correct ATR

because the Cabinet is composed of DMK also. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Q.No. 41, Shri Bhakta Charan Das.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am on my legs, please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Sir, we want the Bofors and Thakkar Commission reports to be placed on the Table of the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let me have my say. Will you please listen to me? Will you allow me to speak a few words?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I am not saying anything new. A few days back Special Session was convened in which certain decisions were taken. It has already been repeated that no Member will raise slogans or create disturbances during Question Hour. Have we forgotten all that in such a short time? I know that it is an extraordinary situation.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, it is a very serious issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you after Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : How can the Cabinet in which DMK is sitting decide the ATR? That is very surprising. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sharad Pawarji, I request you to exercise some control on your Members.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MANY HON. MEMBERS : The House should transact no business today.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak one by one.

[English]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : What about Andhra Pradesh? The Andhra people killed Shri Rajiv Gandhi. ...(Interruptions) You come for an open discussion. We will discuss it in the House. We are ready to discuss outside the House also. ...(Interruptions) Your activities are anti-democratic. You are anti-people.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What impression will it have on those, who are outside the House. Please take your seat.

[English]

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1100 hours on Monday.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Revival of Sick Industrial Units

\*41. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :  
SHR! SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units wound up by BIFR during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of units recommended for revival during the above period, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals pending with BIFR for revival of sick industrial units, State-wise;

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared;

(e) whether the Government propose to bring forward a comprehensive policy for revival of sick industrial units; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) : A statement is attached.

(d) The cases registered with the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) are dealt in accordance with the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The disposal of the cases depends upon the nature of sickness of each case, preparation of rehabilitation schemes with fully tied up financial arrangements and implementation of the revival packages by all concerned agencies.

(e) and (f) The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill, 1997 has been introduced in the Parliament to replace the existing Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

### Statement

#### State-wise Break up of cases as on 31.10.97

State/Union Territory	1994-1995		1995-96		1996-97		
	Winding up recommended to High Court	Revival schemes sanctioned/approved	Winding up recommended to High Court	Revival schemes sanctioned/approved	Winding up recommended to High Court	Revival schemes sanctioned/approved	Cases pending as on 31.10.97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	11	8	10	13	17	16	40
Assam	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Bihar	8	1	1	0	2	4	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Goa	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Gujarat	4	3	13	8	6	15	32
Haryana	2	0	0	0	5	5	23
Himachal Pradesh	3	0	0	2	4	2	5
Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	2	1	1	1	0
Kerala	1	6	3	7	3	4	8
Karnataka	2	1	5	7	6	6	18
Madhya Pradesh	10	4	3	4	4	9	27
Maharashtra	13	17	9	29	15	12	67
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NCT of Delhi	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
Orissa	2	4	0	2	0	2	10
Pondicherry	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Punjab	1	1	2	4	2	4	21
Rajasthan	5	1	3	3	4	3	25
Tamilnadu	3	9	2	10	7	11	34
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Uttar Pradesh	14	5	8	10	18	6	48
West Bengal	2	9	4	7	7	5	49
Total	83	72	65	109	103	106	430



### Electoral Reforms

\*42. SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA :  
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

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

(a) whether the Election Commission has taken a stand that the person with criminal background will not be allowed to contest election and also sent some suggestions to the Government in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government have formed a ministerial panel to discuss proposal on electoral reforms;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which this panel is likely to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) The Election Commission has taken note of certain judicial pronouncements to the effect that suspension of the sentence and release on bail does not wipe off the disqualification under section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and has directed all the Returning Officers to decide validity or otherwise of the candidature of contestants accordingly. The main suggestions made by the Election Commission for strengthening said section are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (f) A group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister has been constituted to consider the proposals on electoral reforms, including proposals for amending section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and to make its recommendations. A meeting of the Group has already been held on 5.11.97 and its recommendations are expected shortly.

### Statement

*The main suggestions made by the Election Commission for strengthening section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951*

- (i) the disqualification in all cases provided under section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 should start from the date of conviction and the period of disqualification should be the period of sentence and additional six years thereafter;

(ii) Clauses (2) and (3) of section 8 of the said Act be put together, simplified and the minimum sentence reduced from two years to six months; and

(iii) Instead of clauses (1), (2) and (3), a simple provision be made that any one sentenced to imprisonment for six months or more should be debarred from contesting elections.

### TWRF Scheme

\*43 SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:  
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI  
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to cover State and Central PSUs Textile workers under the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Scheme has been under the consideration of the government for the last many years;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in taking a decision in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the decision and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken to cover these workers under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) At present payments under the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Funds Scheme (TWRFS) are restricted to workers of eligible private sector mills. However, there is a request for extending the benefit under the Scheme to the workers of a closed State Public Sector mill.

Consultations with Textile Commissioner and Ministry of Finance are required for taking a decision in the matter. Efforts will be made to take an appropriate decision early.

### Recession in Industry

\*44 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
SHRI ANNANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 5 per cent cut in Plan expenditure announced by the Government is likely to cause recession as feared by the industry;

(b) if so, the impact thereof on the domestic industry and economic growth; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The 5 per cent cut in the Central Plan Expenditure (excluding externally aided projects) is expected to lead to a saving of about Rs. 1800 crores. The overall saving is just 0.16 per cent of GDP at market prices in 1995–96. At the current level of GDP the proportion would be even lower.

(c) In the Union Budget 1997–98 and the Credit Policy announced thereafter in April–October, 1997, strong initiatives have been provided to improve investor's confidence, industry profitability and credit flow. In a meeting convened by the Prime Minister with Infrastructure sectors on 22nd July, 1997 and with other Manufacturing Industry on 14th October, 1997, issues relating to temporary slow down in some of the sectors were discussed and steps such as restoration of duty draw-back to encourage exports have already been taken. Further, with the sharp increase in availability of lendable resources with banks with phased reduction of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), substantial lowering of interest rates and release of arrears of pay to Central Government Employees on implementation of the Recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission, the overall demand for industrial products is expected to go up.

#### Import of Rubber

\*45. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Natural Rubber imported during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the quantity of rubber procured by STC so far and per kg. price offered to the natural rubber growers;

(c) whether there is a steep fall in the price of natural rubber in the domestic market;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether the Government have received any representation from the rubber growers of Kerala in this regard; and

(f) if so, the steps taken thereon to save the rubber growers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The quantity of Natural Rubber imported during each of the last three years is as under:—

Year	Qty (MT)
1994–95	8094
1995–96	51644
1996–97	18057

(Source: DGCI&S. Statistics)

Country-wise details of imports of Natural Rubber are available in Foreign Trade Statistics of India Published by DGCI&S, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) As on 17.11.97, 1193 MT of Natural Rubber has been delivered against authorisation of 9256 MT by STC. The authorisation has been at prevailing day to day market prices.

(c) and (d) Due to sluggish demand of Natural Rubber from the tyre industry & general slowness in industrial activities, the prices of Natural Rubber have been showing a declining trend in tandem with International Rubber Prices. However, the domestic prices are still higher than the International Rubber Prices.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. In order to stabilise the price of Natural Rubber in the domestic market Govt. has already directed STC to intervene in the market and procure Natural Rubber on Government Account up to 10,000 MT at current prevailing prices not exceeding Rs. 42/- per kg.

[Translation]

#### Development of Handloom Sector

\*46. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are ample possibilities for the development of handloom textile industry in Maharashtra and other States;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ascertain the possibilities of handloom development in such States; and

(c) the details of assistance proposed to be provided for this purpose?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The formulation of policies and programmes for handloom development is a continuous process. The Government is presently implementing a number of programmes for the development of handloom sector and welfare of weavers. These provide support to weavers for modernising their looms, upgradation of weaving skills through training, developing of designs, provision of product input like yarn and dyeing facilities and marketing of their products. Some of the schemes under which assistance is being provided to weavers are Project Package Scheme, Scheme for Export Development, Scheme for Freelance Designers, Market Development Assistance, scheme for setting up of Marketing Complexes, setting up of Handloom Development Centre & Quality Dyeing Units and assistance for organising fairs and exhibitions. In addition, welfare

schemes such as Group Insurance, Thrift Fund and Health package & Workshed-cum-Housing scheme are also being implemented.

(c) An annual plan provision of Rs. 110.00 crores has been made for 1997-98 for this sector. Assistance under various ongoing schemes is sanctioned on basis of proposals received from the State Governments and Implementing agencies. The State Governments and Union Territories have been advised to submit adequate number of proposals for this purpose.

[English]

### **Jute Bags**

\*47. DR. VALLABHABHAI KATHIRIA :  
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

*Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :*

(a) *whether the Government have made any study about the packaging of cement; fertilizers in jute bags and HDPE/PP bags;*

(b) *whether these commodities are prone to pilferage at a large scale during transportation and by traders affecting the consumers in general;*

(c) *whether a number of representation have been made against the application of the provisions of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 in the field of these commodities in particular;*

(d) *if so, whether the Government have examined this issue afresh; and*

(e) *if so, the action taken or proposed in this regard?*

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

(a) and (b) National Council for Cement & Building Materials conducted a study to assess the comparative performance of Jute and different synthetic bags for packing of Cement only. Cement is prone to pilferage/transit loss during various stage for transportation both from Jute Bags and HDPE/PP bags. The pilferage/transit loss from Jute bags is marginally higher i.e. 0.4 per cent than that from HDPE/PP bag. No such study was conducted in respect of fertilizer.

(c) to (e) Several representations have been received from the Chief Ministers of various state Governments, Members of Parliament and different associations for and against the enforcement of the mandatory reservations, particularly with respect to packing of cement in jute bags. After consideration of the issues involved, the Government issued a revised Jute Packaging order effective from 1.7.1997 in respect of foodgrains, sugar & urea whereby, foodgrains (100%) sugar (100%) and Urea (50%) were required to be compulsory packed in jute packaging materials for the jute year (1997-98) &

(1998-99). In respect of Cement, the issue of existing revision in reservation percentage is pending final decision of the Government.

### **Interest Rate Policy**

\*48 SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) *whether the Reserve Bank of India has revised its interest and finance policy;*

(b) *if so, the number of times it has done so during the last three years with details thereof;*

(c) *the reasons therefor and the benefits accrued therefrom; and*

(d) *whether the Union Government propose to ensure that the commercial banks in the public and private sectors grant the loans to the industry, farmers, business community and individual including pensioners for purchase of flats without much difficulty?*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) to (d) : The monetary and credit policy including interest rate policy is under continuing review of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Modifications in the policy are made when necessary on the basis of emerging developments in the economy. RBI announced the monetary and credit policy for the second half of 1997-98 on 21.10.1997. Broadly the monetary and credit policy aims at maintaining a reasonable degree of price stability and availability of adequate credit to support the growth of real sector of the economy. With the economy operating in a more outward-looking and competitive environment, the monetary and credit policy initiatives are increasingly directed towards maintaining a stable financial environment in relation to price, interest rate and exchange rates. The monetary and credit policy initiatives have helped to bring about a better control over money supply, and mainly through it to influence the inflation rate (as measured by the wholesale price index) which has come down from double digit figures in 1993-94 and 1994-95 to a low level of about 4 percent by October 25, 1997. Efforts to operationalise the bank rate as a device to transmit the stance of monetary policy and as a reference rate for influencing the direction in the movements of market interest rate have been successful as reduction in the Bank Rate has been followed by reduction in the lending and deposit rate of bank.

The banks have also been directed to lay down in clear cut terms the loan policies in respect of different categories of borrowers—small, medium and large to ensure that all productive sectors, including housing sector, get their due attention from the organised credit market.

[Translation]

**Maruti Udyog**

\*49. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any dispute has cropped up over the appointment of Managing Director of Maruti Udyog Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons behind the dispute;

(c) whether any positive measures have been taken to settle the dispute;

(d) if so, the details along-with the present status thereof;

(e) whether M/s. Suzuki motor Corporation of Japan has approached the International Chamber of Commerce for seeking their intervention and arbitration; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) has been a success story because of the concessions and help extended by the Government of India as also the active involvement of Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) and the efforts of MUL employees and management as a whole. As per the provisions of the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) of 2nd October 1982 between the Government of India, SMC and MUL, as amended by the Subscription and Amendment Agreement (SAA) of 2nd June 1992, SMC nominated Shri R.C. Bhargava as Managing Director (MD) of MUL in 1992. As per the said Agreements, the Government, in its turn, nominated Shri RSSLN Bhaskarudu as Managing Director, MUL on 27th August 1997. SMC has objected to this appointment on the grounds that the Government did not consult SMC or take its concurrence while nominating Shri Bhaskarudu, and that Shri Bhaskarudu did not have the ability to head a company of the size of MUL. The action of the Government has been fully in conformity with letter and spirit of the subsisting agreements.

Shri Bhaskarudu, who has been with MUL since 1983, has been a Director for over nine years, including 4 years as Joint Managing Director and has acted as Managing Director in the absence of latter. He has handled competently the Project, Production and Materials Management divisions of MUL. He is also the senior most Director in MUL and is eminently qualified to head the Company. Government has taken into account the merit and seniority of all eligible candidates in nominating Shri Bhaskarudu as the MD.

(c) and (d) Discussions held with SMC representatives on 17th, 20th and 21st September 1997 to resolve the differences proved unsuccessful.

(e) and (f) SMC has submitted a Request for Arbitration to the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce raising a dispute against the Government of India and Maruti Udyog Ltd. on the above grounds.

[English]

**Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme**

\*50. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :  
SHRI CHAMANLAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the aim of VDIS (Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme) announced by the Government;

(b) the amount spent on the advertisement of this Scheme upto September 1997;

(c) the total number of people who disclosed their assets/income under VDIS, till date, along-with the response of the Scheme in the States;

(d) the total value of such assets;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage people to disclose their assets/income;

(f) the extent to which the objectives of the scheme have been fulfilled;

(g) whether any analysis has been made about the adverse effect of the above scheme; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme was announced to mop up substantial amount of black money for productive purposes.

(b) The total amount sanctioned for the multimedia publicity of this Scheme was Rs. 29.4 crores. A total sum of Rs. 84.00 lakh has been released to the ad. agencies on the advertisement of the Scheme upto September, 1997.

(c) to (h) This Scheme guarantees strict confidentiality in respect of the declarations and the declarants. Keeping this in view, the Scheme provided that declarations shall be filed only to the Commissioners of Income-tax. For this reason, the details are not being obtained centrally from the Commissioners regarding the number of declarants or the amounts disclosed, etc. It has been decided to take stock only towards the end of the period of operation of the Scheme.

[Translation]

### Bank Loan to Commercial Sector

\*51. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :  
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the loans being given to the commercial sector by the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any specific steps are being taken to augment the flow of credit to the commercial sector from the nationalised banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that during the current financial year 1997-98, the outstanding non-food bank credit of scheduled commercial banks has increased from Rs. 270805 crore as on March 28, 1997 to Rs. 274209 crore as on October 24, 1997, an increase of Rs. 3404 crore (1.3 per cent). During the corresponding period of the previous year the non-food bank credit of scheduled commercial banks increased by Rs. 2382 crore (1.0 per cent)

(c) and (d) The monetary policy announced by the RBI during 1997-98 contains several measures to facilitate faster growth of resource availability to the commercial sector which, inter-alia, include :

- (i) Reductions in bank rate by 3 per cent in stages.
- (ii) Reduction in cash reservation ratio by 2 per cent (to be reduced in 8 phases).
- (iii) Liberalisation of stipulations in respect of obligatory consortium system of credit to borrowers.
- (iv) Withdrawal of instructions regarding Maximum Permissible Bank Finance (MPBF) for assessing working capital requirements.
- (v) Permission to banks to sanction bridge loans to companies against expected equity flows/issues.

[English]

### Anti-Defection Law

\*52. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many loopholes in the Anti-Defection Law and there is a need to review the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution to ban defection altogether;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government now propose to amend the law and bring forward a Bill to ban defection;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) Demands have been made to strengthen the Anti-Defection Law on the ground that it has not been able to achieve the desired goal of checking defections. A proposal made in this regard is to delete the provision of Anti Defection Law which recognises a split by one-third members.

(c) to (e) The Government will bring forward a Bill as soon as consensus is reached amongst political parties on changes to be made in Anti Defection Law.

### Anti-Dumping Duty on Textiles

\*53. SHRI K.S. RAYUDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union have imposed anti-dumping duties on certain categories of Indian textiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity and value of textiles exported to European Union countries during the first six months of this year as compared to last year in the corresponding period; and

(d) the steps taken to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) the European Union (EU) has imposed provisional anti-dumping duties at rates ranging from 3.9% to 27.3% on the imports of Cotton Bed Linen from India. The provisional anti-dumping duty has come into effect from 6th June, 1997 for a period of six months. As regards Unbleached Cotton Fabrics, anti-dumping investigations have been initiated on 11.7.97 and no duties have been imposed as yet.

(c) As per Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council data, during April-Sept. '97, 320 million sq.mtrs. of fabrics valued at Rs. 546.50 crores were exported to European Union countries as compared to 366.83 million sq. mtrs. valued at Rs. 560.50 crores during the corresponding period last year. As regards Made-ups (including Bed Linen), the exports were Rs. 701 crores during April-Sept. '97 as compared to Rs. 643 crores in the corresponding period last year. (This information is based on data collected by the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council.)

(d) The Government of India has taken up this matter with the European Union Authorities through Embassy of India at Brussels.

[Translation]

### Closed Textile Mills

\*54. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to states:

(a) the total number of NTC and State Textile Corporations owned as well as mills in the private sector closed during the last three years in the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of textile mills closed in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh during the above period along with the number of workers rendered jobless in each mill; and

(c) the position of their rehabilitation and payments of provident fund in each mill?

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

(a) The number of mills closed in the last 3 years State-wise as on date is as under:—

Andhra Pradesh	11
Assam	0
Bihar	1
Gujarat	22
Haryana	3
Karnataka	2
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	1
Maharashtra	8
Orissa	0
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	2
Tamil Nadu	25
Uttar Pradesh	3
West Bengal	2
Delhi	3
Manipur	0
Daman & Diu	1

As far as the mills under National Textile Corporation (NTC) are concerned, no mill under NTC has been closed under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, as wages and salaries continue to be paid. However, Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi under NTC (DP&R) Ltd. has been closed as per

the orders/directions of the Supreme Court of India regarding relocation/closure of the polluting industries. The workers of Ajudhia Textile Mills have been paid enhanced additional compensation as per the orders of the Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) M/s Indore Textiles Ltd., Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh has been closed, affecting 1792 workers. As per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act., 1985, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) is entrusted with the responsibility of taking measures for rehabilitation of the sick industrial companies. The Government has also established Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme to provide interim relief to the workers rendered jobless due to permanent/partial closure of the mills. As far as the private sector mills and mills of the State Textile Corporations are concerned, details of the P.F. dues/ payments are not maintained.

[English]

### Quantitative Restriction

\*55. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE to be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign countries are pressurising India to remove Quantitative Restrictions (QR) on imports;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to settle the phasing out of Quantitative Restrictions with United States and other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Pursuant to the meeting of the Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held on 20–21 January 1997, India had presented a plan for the elimination of all residual quantitative restrictions on imports maintained for balance of payments purposes to the WTO. This plan was considered by the WTO Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions in June-July 1997, when noting the divergence of opinion among WTO Members on the plan, it was agreed to conclude the consultations. Subsequently, six WTO Members, namely, Australia, Canada, the European Communities, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States of America, requested consultations with India under Article XXII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes. During these consultations agreement has been reached with Canada, the EC and

Switzerland in respect of the time-schedules for the elimination of residual quantitative restrictions on imports maintained for balance of payments purposes. Negotiations towards a mutually satisfactory solution with Australia and New Zealand are in an advanced stage. At the request of the USA, a panel has been constituted on 18 November 1997 to examine the US allegation that the continued maintenance of quantitative restrictions on imports by India is inconsistent with India's obligations under the WTO Agreement.

#### **Cuts in PLR by Banks/FI**

\*56 SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various banks and financial institutions have started announcing cut in their prime lending rates (PLR) on commercial loans following the direction set by the Busy Season Credit Policy of the RBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact, this measure will have on industrial production?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that following the announcement of monetary and credit policy for the second half of 1997-98 on October 21, 1997, several commercial banks and major financial institutions have further reduced their Prime Lending Rates (PLRs) as indicated below:—

#### *Prime Lending Rates (PLRs)*

Sr. No.	Type of bank/financial institutions	PLR before busy season policy	PLR after busy season policy	No. of banks announcing change
1.	Public Sector	13.5-15.0	12.5-13.5	14
2.	Private sector	14.0-17.0	13.0-14.0	7
3.	Foreign banks	14.5-17.5	14.0-15.0	14
4.	IDBI	14.5	12.5-13.5	—
5.	IFCI	14.5	12.5-13.5	—
6.	ICICI	12.5-14.5	12.0-13.5	—
7.	SIDBI	14.0	12.5-13.0	—

The measures envisaged in the credit policy are expected to contribute to the growth in bank credit which in turn would increase industrial activity.

[Translation]

#### **Rate of Inflation**

\*57. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether consequent upon implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, the rate of inflation would increase;

(b) if so, the extent to which it would increase; and

(c) its likely impact on the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The increase in the purchasing power of Central Government employees was expected to generate some buoyancy in demand. However, the effect so far has been limited and the current inflation rate continues to remain below 4 per cent itself is an 11-year low inflation rate.

[English]

#### **Mini-Ratnas**

\*58. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :  
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) which have been given the special status of Mini-Ratnas;

(b) the criteria adopted to identify such PSUs;

(c) whether the Government have decided to grant financial and functional autonomy to such PSUs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Trade Unions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) The Government have given Mini-Ratnas status to the public enterprises which have made profits continuously for the last three years, which have positive net worth, which have not defaulted in the repayment of loans and interest and which do not seek budgetary support from the Government. Based on the profitability and networth criteria, 95 PSUs, as per statement attached herewith have tentatively been identified as Mini-Ratnas. Final inclusion will be decided by the Administrative Ministries after checking all criteria, including non-default on Govt. loans. The Mini-Ratna enterprises have been delegated enhanced powers subject to certain guidelines issued in this regard, which include the powers to incur capital expenditure upto enhanced limits, to enter into joint ventures; to formalise technological and strategic alliances; to

formulate schemes of human resources management etc. So far, Government have not received any reactions from Trade Unions on the delegation of powers to the Mini-Ratna enterprises.

### **Statement**

#### ***Tentative List of Mini Ratnas PSUs.***

1. Air India Ltd.
2. Airports Authority of India.
3. Andaman & Nicobar Isl. Forest & Plantation Dev. Corpn.
4. Antrix Corporation of India Ltd.
5. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
6. Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.
7. Bharat Dynamics Ltd.
8. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.
9. Bharat Electronics Ltd.
10. Biecco Lawrie Ltd.
11. Bongaigon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.
12. Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.
13. Central Cottage Industries Corpn. of India Ltd.
14. Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.
15. Central Warehousing Corpn.
16. Cochin Refineries Ltd.
17. Container Corporation of India Ltd.
18. Cotton Corpn. of India Ltd.
19. Dredging Corpn. of India Ltd.
20. Educational Consultants (India) Ltd.
21. Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.
22. Engineers India Ltd.
23. Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd.
24. Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.
25. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.
26. Goa Shipyard Ltd.
27. H.T.L. Ltd.
28. H.M.T. (International) Ltd.
29. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.
30. Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.
31. Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.
32. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.
33. Hindustan Zinc Ltd.
34. HMT Bearings Ltd.
35. Hooghly Printing Company Ltd.
36. Hospital Services Consultancy Corpn. (India) Ltd.
37. Housing & Urban Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
38. I.B.P. Co. Ltd.
39. India Tourism Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
40. India Trade Promotion Organisation.
41. Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corpn. Ltd.
42. Indian Oil Blending Ltd.
43. Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.
44. Indian Renewable Energy Dev. Agency Ltd.
45. Indo Hokke Hotels Ltd.
46. Ircon International Ltd.
47. Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
48. Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.
49. Lagan Jute Machinery Co. Ltd.
50. Lubrizol India Ltd.
51. M.M.T.C. Ltd.
52. M.S.T.C. Ltd.
53. Madras Refineries Ltd.
54. Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd.
55. Maharashtra Elektros melt Ltd.
56. Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.
57. Mazagon Dock Ltd.
58. Metallurgical & Engg. Consultants (India) Ltd.
59. Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.
60. Modren Food Industries (India) Ltd.



61. National Aluminium Company Ltd.
62. National Backward Classes Finance & Development.
63. National Fertilizers Ltd.
64. National Film Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
65. National Hydro Electric Power Corpn. Ltd.
66. National Industrial Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
67. National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
68. National Research Development Corpn. of India.
69. National SC/ST Finance & Development Corporation.
70. National Small industries Corpn. Ltd.
71. Neyveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.
72. North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.
73. Northern Coal Fields Ltd.
74. Oil India Ltd.
75. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.
76. Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.
77. Power Finance Corporation.
78. Power Grid Corporation.
79. Project & Equipment Corpn. Ltd.
80. Rail India Technicals & Economic Services Ltd.
81. Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
82. Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Ltd.
83. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.
84. Rural Electrification Corpn. Ltd.
85. Semi-Conductor Complex Ltd.
86. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.
87. South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.
88. Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.
89. State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.
90. Telecommunications Consultants (India) Ltd.
91. Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.
92. Uranium Corporation of India Ltd.

93. Vignyan Industries Ltd.

94. Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd.

95. Western Coalfields Ltd.

[Translation]

#### Gold and Silver Import Policy

\*59. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL :  
SHRI MADAN PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made any announcement for further liberalisation of gold and silver import policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the agencies/banks authorised to import these metals for sale in the domestic market along with the terms and conditions fixed therefor;

(d) the impact of this decision on the domestic market; and

(e) the extent to which this decision is likely to boost the export of jewellery and check smuggling of gold?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The Government have framed a Policy for Import of Gold and Silver by Agencies authorised by the Reserve Bank of India for sale of Gold and Silver in the domestic market. The rate of duty for Gold is Rs. 220 per 10 grams. and for Silver Rs. 500 per kg. This duty is payable in Indian rupees.

(c) The Agencies/Banks authorised are: State Trading Corporation, The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, The Handloom and Handicrafts Export Corporation, The State Bank of India, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Allahabad Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia, Standard Chartered Bank and ABN-Amro Bank. The Agencies are eligible to import Gold and Silver in any form without a licence or without surrender of special Import Licence at the above rates.

(d) After the Gold/Silver imported under the Scheme is available in Indian market, the prices of these precious metals are expected to be closer to their international prices.

(e) Easy availability of Gold and Silver through the above schemes would help the manufacturers of jewellery for export production to obtain their inputs at very reasonable rates. The Scheme would also make available the precious metals at various places where the authorised importers have their sales outlets. This is also likely to have salutary effect on checking of gold smuggling.

*[English]***Decline in Industrial Growth**

\*60. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :  
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of industrial growth has declined during February to September, 1997 as compared to the corresponding period during the previous years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons for decline;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the growth rate;

(d) whether international Monetary Fund has blamed India in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The overall industrial growth in February–August, 1997 was 4.2 per cent as compared to 11.6 per cent in the corresponding period last year. The deceleration in industrial growth is perceived to be a cumulative effect of many macro factors which include subdued export growth, slow down in investment and consumer demand, poor performance of infrastructure industries and high cost of capital during most part of 1996–97.

(c) After discussions with representatives of Industry Associations, initiatives have been taken by the Government to improve the investment climate and to remove infrastructural constraints adversely affecting the industrial growth.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

*[Translation]***N.P.A.**

449. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present value of non-performing assets of the State Bank of India and the nationalised banks alongwith bank-wise figures thereof; and

(b) the steps taken for the recovery of the above amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) The details of net non-performing assets of State Bank of India and

nationalised banks for the year 1996–97 as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are given below:—

Name of the Bank	Amount (Rs. in crores)	%age of Total Advances
State Bank of India	10961.54	16.02
Allahabad Bank	1302.89	23.93
Andhra Bank	365.68	11.81
Bank of Baroda	3116.00	17.15
Bank of Maharashtra	749.43	20.67
Canara Bank	3323.72	20.26
Central Bank of India	2520.00	25.00
Corporation Bank	316.78	9.92
Dena Bank	674.21	15.10
Indian Bank	3303.00	39.12
Indian Overseas Bank	1317.00	15.80
Oriental Bank of Commerce	367.56	7.36
Punjab & Sind Bank	1089.70	30.71
Punjab National Bank	2426.14	16.31
Syndicate Bank	1291.78	19.32
UCO bank	1872.62	28.35
Union Bank of India	987.80	10.38
United Bank of India	1398.00	36.20
Vijaya Bank	511.96	18.73
Bank of India	2275.00	11.78

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have impressed upon the banks the need to set up Recovery Cells at their Head Offices and to fix branchwise targets for recovery of NPAs. The performance of the branches in their recovery is monitored at the Head Office level on monthly basis by Chief Executives. The Board of Directors of the banks concerned is also kept informed about the progress in recovery at quarterly intervals. The targets for recovery/reduction of NPAs are fixed by RBI for individual nationalised banks after due deliberations with banks top management. These are monitored by RBI through periodic meetings with top management of the banks.

*[English]***Joint Venture in Field of Trade with Pakistan**

450. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:  
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand for Indian Tyres in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether any delegation has visited Pakistan in this regard, to explore avenues of joint venture in several fields of trade; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir, There is a good demand for Indian Tyres in Pakistan.

(b) and (c) A trade delegation of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which had representatives from the Indian Tyre Industry also, visited Pakistan from 28th July to 2nd August, 1997. The delegation visited Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi, and attended meetings with Pakistani business & trade representatives who are stated to have showed considerable enthusiasm in their interactions with the Indian delegation supporting close trade relations with India while at the same time stressing the need to protect the interest of the Pakistani manufacturers. In respect of the Tyre Industry, however, the emphasis was more on increasing exports of tyres to Pakistan rather than on joint ventures in this sector.

**Rice Export**

451. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian rice export has been affected badly due to devaluation of ASEAN currencies in the recent past keeping in view that ASEAN countries are the main competitors of India in rice export; and

(b) if so, the steps take by the Government to protect the interests of Indian rice exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) It is not possible to assess the impact of devaluation of ASEAN currencies on rice exports on account of different varieties traded, variations in quality and additional expenditure incurred in grading and packaging.

(b) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of rice include participation in international trade fairs; arranging buyer-seller meets; conducting market development compaigns; and providing assistance for product development.

*[Translation]***Piparwar Project**

452. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal produced in Piparwar project of Bihar during 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(b) the amount spent under Piparwar project for the development of adjoining area during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) The quantum of coal produced in Piparwar project under Central Coal-fields Limited (Bihar) and amount spent for the community development in adjoining areas of the project during 1990-91 to 1993-94 are as under:—

Year	Coal produced (million tonnes)	Amount spent on commu- nity development (Rs. in lakhs)
1990-91	0.73	1.91
1991-92	1.08	4.13
1992-93	2.62	3.31
1993-94	4.24	5.86

**Excise Duty on Stone Industry**

453. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the stone industry is facing a serious crisis due to excise duty levied on it in the last budget, thus treating it at par with the marble-stone;

(b) the rate at which the excise duty has been increased in respect of cutting, smoothening and finishing of stone respectively in the Stone Industry during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have received various memoranda from stone traders, organisations and peoples representatives of Rajasthan for reducing excise duty;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government had sent a team of tax experts to ascertain the factual position of the Stone Industry in this regard and whether the Government has also given assurance in the House for taking necessary action; and

(f) if so, the report of the said team of tax experts and the efforts being made by the Government to save the Stone Industry in the context of the above report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No excise duty was imposed on stone, at par with marble slabs, tiles etc., in the last Budget. On the other hand, excise duty on articles of stone falling under heading No. 68.07 was reduced from 20% to 18% ad valorem.

(b) to (f) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

#### **Gupta Committee on Pay Scale of RRB Employees**

454. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the report of working group constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Gupta to look into the disparities in the pay scale of the employees of rural banks; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to implement this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Gupta was constituted by them in the year 1991 which submitted its report in February, 1992. The report was considered by the Government/ NABARD and appropriate instructions were issued by NABARD in March, 1993 to the banks. These, inter-alia, included methodology of implementing the National Industrial Tribunal (NIT) Award, loans and advances to be extended to RRB staff, clarifications on equation of posts in RRBs vis-a-vis sponsor banks and various aspects relating to fitment of RRB staff.

[English]

#### **Committee on Intellectual Property Rights**

455. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee under Intellectual Property Rights to check illegal publishing and sale of Government publications;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no, the reasons therefor and other measures being taken to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Action for infringement of Copyright of Government work can be taken under the Copyright Act, 1957.

[Translation]

#### **Financial Assistance to the Sick Units**

456. Dr. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick industries in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to such sick units during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals for providing financial assistance to sick units are pending with the Union Government, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be disposed of?

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

[English]

#### **Projects of VEPZ**

457. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to uncertainties since its inception, Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone (VEPZ) has finally made a turn-around;

(b) whether approval of 4 projects with an estimated investment of over Rs. 350 crores by the Union government have come as a shot in the arm of the VEPZ;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have been approached for speedy approval of VEPZ; Phase II;

(d) if so, whether the Government have agreed to the proposal of the VEPZ, Phase II; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the amount of VEPZ is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone has been operationalised with effect from 1.4. 1993 on completion of basic infrastructural facilities of the first phase covering an area of 163 acres. Development of the Zone has proceeded satisfactorily after transfer of land in a compact block by the State Government. 18 projects have so far been approved

for establishment in the Zone, which include 4 recently approved projects, with a total estimated investment of Rs. 205 crores and projected exports of Rs. 1708 crores over a period of 5 years from the commencement of commercial operations.

(c) to (e) : As developed area is currently available for allotment to units in Phase-I, the development of Phase II in VEPZ will be considered at the appropriate time.

#### **Exchange Rate of Rupee**

458. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHVAN:  
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

*Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:*

(a) whether the real effective exchange rate of the rupee against the U.S. dollar has appreciated by 7 to 8 per cent in the last one year or so;

(b) whether this is the principal reason for a fall in India's export;

(c) if so, whether any steps are being taken to make the rupee reflect its real effective exchange rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The bilateral real exchange rate of the rupee against the US dollar is estimated to have appreciated by about 2 per cent in October 1997 compared with the level in October, 1996.

(b) The slowdown in export growth in recent periods could be attributed, *inter alia*, to the decline in world trade coupled with sluggishness in manufacturing goods prices in the global market, variation in cross currency exchange rates and deceleration in domestic industrial activities.

(c) to (e) The exchange rate of the rupee is determined by the market forces of demand and supply. The exchange rate developments are monitored continuously and measures are taken, as and when necessary, to maintain orderly market conditions as well as to ensure that the exchange rate of the rupee remains consistent with economic fundamentals.

#### **Demand and Supply of Cements**

459. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand and supply of cement in the country;

(b) whether the Government have identified cement as an "extreme focus" item for export; and

(c) the total cement exported during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The year-wise consumption and production of cement in the last 3 years is as under :—

(In Million tonnes)

Year	Production	Consumption
1994-95	62.35	60.67
1995-96	69.63	68.07
1996-97	76.22	74.39

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The total export of cement and clinker during the last two years is as under:—

Year	Export of Cement & Clinker (In Million tonnes)
1995-96	2.4
1996-97	2.7

#### **Bilateral Trade with Spain**

460. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand bilateral trade with Spain;

(b) if so, the areas identified to expand trade between both the countries; and

(c) the details of expansion programme drawn up for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) It is Government's endeavour to expand bilateral trade with all trading partners, including Spain.

(b) The areas identified include marine products, computer software, electronic and engineering goods, mining products, leather and sports goods, marble and granite, coffee, tea, carpets, silk, agro-items, processed food and chemicals etc.

(c) The meetings of Indo-Spanish Joint Commission and Indo-Spanish Joint Business Council were held in May, 1997 in Madrid where the measures to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation were identified which included exchange of trade delegations, participation in international trade fairs and dissemination of literature on India in Spain. Both the official and business delegations also visited Bilbao, a major port in

North Spain and explored possibilities of establishing trade and industrial links with the entrepreneurs of that region. In October 1997, Government of Spain staged a massive industrial and investment fair in New Delhi called the EXPOTECNIA at Pragati Maidan which was meant to show-case Spanish industry and invite investment from India into Spain. As a result of these activities, trade is expected to diversity and increase significantly in the coming years.

#### Loan Released by NABARD

461. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan released by the nationalised and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development during the 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 in agricultural sector in the country, State-wise; and

(b) State-wise ratio with all India loan released during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Loan to SC/ST Under PMRY

462 SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SCs/STs entrepreneurs provided loans in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh, under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during each of the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the loans provided during the above period is below the target fixed during the above period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna (PMRY) guidelines provide for reservation of 22.5% to SC/ST borrowers. The state-wise details of loans granted by banks under the scheme during the last three years are given in Statements I, II and III attached.

The share of SC/ST borrowers in the scheme both in Uttar Pradesh and at the national level has been between 9.7% and 13.6% during the last three years. RBI has reported that sponsoring agencies are not getting sufficient number of applications from eligible SC/ST borrowers. Further, various studies conducted by RBI regarding implementation of PMRY indicate that SC/ST borrowers prefer salaried employment in Government/Semi-Government institutions to the risk prone self-employment ventures under the PMRY scheme.

#### Statement-I

#### PMRY PROGRAMME YEAR — 1994-95

*Report showing position for year ended 31st March 1995*

(Rs. Lakhs)

Name of Bank:		All Scheduled Commercial Banks				
Name of the State/ Union Territory	Target	Total loans sanctioned		Loans sanctioned to SC/ ST out of total loan		% of Col. 5 to 2
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Andhra Pradesh	25000	18356	10429.02	2841	1369.40	11.4
2. Arunachal Pradesh	250	159	98.30	34	31.20	13.6
3. Assam	6600	5582	4209.90	887	596.72	13.4
4. Bihar	22150	11364	8407.80	1940	989.21	8.8
5. Gujarat	8500	5775	2409.35	667	280.19	7.8

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
6.	Goa	520	315	213.91	11	5.00	2.1
7.	Haryana	4100	4297	2096.99	370	148.28	9.0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2100	2276	1157.62	306	148.50	14.6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2000	2041	1258.20	100	50.29	5.0
10.	Karnataka	15000	12375	5943.30	1116	428.61	7.4
11.	Kerala	15000	11367	5593.37	887	403.74	5.9
12.	Maharashtra	20500	21518	10382.24	2598	1059.97	12.7
13.	Manipur	2000	1834	1175.90	257	152.33	12.9
14.	Madhya Pradesh	20000	19839	12361.27	2644	1366.58	13.2
15.	Meghalaya	300	282	187.40	153	85.52	51.0
16.	Mizoram	250	193	165.13	111	27.65	44.4
17.	Nagaland	250	205	183.59	75	52.38	30.0
18.	Orissa	6570	5393	3701.45	561	318.21	8.5
19.	Punjab	4900	5118	3033.13	665	324.10	13.6
20.	Rajasthan	8300	7082	3874.69	1306	580.74	15.7
21.	Sikkim	250	58	30.24	13	8.00	5.2
22.	Tripura	1000	775	626.95	84	48.95	8.4
23.	Tamil Nadu	17400	13880	7508.12	1268	642.26	7.3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	27400	20901	11644.75	2693	1407.30	9.8
25.	West Bengal	22900	8941	4366.92	1334	602.95	5.8
26.	NCT of Delhi	4540	1936	1014.20	185	81.94	4.1

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	250	52	34.49	6	3.51	2.4
28.	Chandigarh	150	213	151.69	17	8.28	11.3
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	250	215	170.40	43	30.61	17.2
30.	Daman & Diu	250	36	24.66	8	5.45	3.2
31.	Lakshadweep	75	0	0.00	—	—	0.0
32.	Pondicherry	460	341	137.49	45	64.35	9.8
NOT SPECIFIED		—	—	—	—	—	—
ALL INDIA		239215	182718	102592.47	23225	11322.22	9.7

**Statement-II**

PMRY-PROGRAMME YEAR — 1995-96

*Report showing position for the year ended March 1996*

(Rs. Lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name of Bank:		All Scheduled Commercial Banks			
	Target	Total loans sanctioned		Loans sanctioned to SC/ ST out of total loan		% of Col. 5 to 2
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Andhra Pradesh	31900	29776	16424.26	4613	2331.92	14.5
2. Arunachal Pradesh	300	256	190.81	242	179.40	80.7
3. Assam	10125	8784	6773.43	1762	1403.96	17.4
4. Bihar	22150	17100	12571.35	3107	2241.03	14.0
5. Gujarat	8500	10455	4499.29	1313	524.64	15.4
6. Goa	550	514	386.69	28	15.06	5.1
7. Haryana	7480	9003	4741.65	781	403.62	10.4
8. Himachal Pradesh	2100	2570	1476.49	438	206.72	20.9



	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3152	2658	1810.52	143	97.41	4.5
10.	Karnataka	17700	15877	8802.55	1912	902.88	10.8
11.	Kerala	16000	14211	7405.03	1427	692.41	8.9
12.	Maharashtra	35980	40070	19383.38	5643	2687.48	15.7
13.	Manipur	4000	1272	1113.24	269	216.44	6.7
14.	Madhya Pradesh	27050	30592	20360.76	5133	3164.56	19.0
15.	Meghalaya	550	534	415.77	492	372.46	89.5
16.	Mizoram	250	250	230.99	117	86.06	46.8
17.	Nagaland	300	295	218.78	264	206.64	88.0
18.	Orissa	8310	7941	5881.70	1280	827.28	15.4
19.	Punjab	15000	15312	9088.77	2372	1276.76	15.8
20.	Rajasthan	14000	9936	5231.75	1602	719.80	1.4
21.	Sikkim	200	161	81.86	30	16.47	15.0
22.	Tripura	1300	1407	964.85	313	224.96	24.1
23.	Tamil Nadu	22870	18311	9950.35	2363	1130.50	10.3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	42613	34477	20151.47	5689	3092.92	13.4
25.	West Bengal	25950	11535	6962.38	1699	1145.84	6.5
26.	NCT of Delhi	4550	4358	2331.89	532	255.43	11.7
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	100	92	57.64	16	11.29	16.0
28.	Chandigarh	150	177	138.27	19	15.15	12.7
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	150	188	128.05	81	55.38	54.0
30.	Daman & Diu	100	44	27.81	6	2.20	6.0
31.	Lakshadweep	50	35	24.00	35	24.00	70.0
32.	Pondicherry	500	402	170.83	46	19.06	9.2
NOT SPECIFIED		—	11	5.33	2	0.72	—
ALL INDIA		321360	288604	168011.94	43769	24550.45	13.6

**Statement III**

PMRY-PROGRAMME YEAR—1996–97

*Report showing position for the year ended March 1997*

(Rs. Lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name of Bank:		All Scheduled Commercial Banks			
	Target	Total loans sanctioned		Loans sanctioned to Sc/ ST out of total loan		% of Col. 5 to 2
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Andhra Pradesh	31900	27293	15107.03	2397	1570.29	7.5
2. Arunachal Pradesh	450	283	203.35	260	150.54	57.8
3. Assam	15000	7789	6126.41	1174	731.02	7.8
4. Bihar	22150	17303	13065.97	2240	1619.08	10.1
5. Gujarat	8500	9502	4055.65	1132	422.95	13.3
6. Goa	550	480	359.49	5	3.19	6.9
7. Haryana	7200	8182	4393.05	590	292.64	8.2
8. Himachal Pradesh	2100	2398	1354.24	280	159.17	18.3
9. Jammu & Kashmir	3500	1240	901.82	94	50.13	1.7
10. Karnataka	17700	15791	8944.87	1997	1059.68	11.6
11. Kerala	15000	14090	7544.17	1211	668.10	8.4
12. Maharashtra	35900	36620	18665.23	4869	2275.13	14.6
13. Manipur	3000	1799	1566.96	285	219.93	9.5
14. Madhya Pradesh	27050	31465	20275.37	4143	2518.63	15.3
15. Meghalaya	825	495	378.41	356	213.26	43.2
16. Mizoram	375	225	208.83	225	208.86	60.0
17. Nagaland	450	306	243.89	255	188.93	56.7

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
18. Orissa		8250	7289	5333.73	958	559.67	11.6
19. Punjab		8600	9889	5981.74	1309	743.57	15.2
20. Rajasthan		10400	10256	5629.46	1510	736.48	14.5
21. Sikkim		200	126	58.97	92	38.49	46.0
22. Tripura		1950	1355	937.94	585	267.17	30.0
23. Tamil Nadu		21800	13758	7264.37	1511	639.14	6.9
24. Uttar Pradesh		35813	33287	19616.46	3493	1908.51	9.8
25. West Bengal		22900	8585	5364.21	1053	627.84	4.6
26. NCT of Delhi		4550	1859	996.88	160	75.78	3.5
27. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		100	81	48.66	46	21.60	45.0
28. Chandigarh		150	148	118.11	9	6.97	6.0
29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		150	173	115.41	79	54.06	52.7
30. Daman & Diu		100	24	16.85	—	—	0.0
31. Lakshadweep		50	36	29.27	36	29.27	72.0
32. Pondicherry		500	270	115.72	28	10.41	5.6
NOT SPECIFIED		2	18	11.55	2	0.36	100.0
ALL INDIA		307163	262415	155034.07	32383	18069.87	10.5

[English]

**Sick Coal Mines**

463. SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some coal mines which are incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to revive or close down those coal mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1996–97, following 381 mines incurred losses:—

S. No.	Company	No. of loss making mines
1.	ECL	109
2.	BCCL	61
3.	CCL	51
4.	WCL	36
5.	SECL	27
6.	MCL	29
7.	NEC/CIL	06
8.	SCCL	62
Total :		318

(c) to (e) The coal companies have taken a number of steps for revival of the loss making mines such as:—

- i) Reorganisation of manpower.
- ii) Short term schemes to augment production.
- iii) Replacement of manual loading by SDL & LHD.
- iv) Conversion of underground mines into opencast, wherever feasible.
- v) Proper utilisation of equipment.
- vi) Better maintenance, adequate back-up of spare parts and proper training to operators and maintenance personnel.
- vii) Strict cost control measures.
- viii) Additional resource generations through better quality control of despatches.

However, during 1996–97, 6 mines (4 in ECL and 2 in WCL) were closed down as the revival plan did not succeed because of geo-mining conditions, safety reasons and inadequate working reserves.

#### **Ban on Import of Carpets**

464. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of United States has decided to put a ban on import of carpets from India;

(b) if so, the main reasons for such a ban; and

(c) the steps taken to avert the ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) According to information available, an amendment has recently been enacted under US Government's Treasury, Postal Services and General Appropriation Act, 1998 which reads as follows:

"Section 633. None of the funds made available in this Act for the United States Custom Service may be used to allow the importation into the United States of any goods, ware, article or merchandise mined, produced or manufactured by forced or indentured child labour, as determined pursuant to section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307)"

There is a possibility that this amendment may have adverse impact on carpet exports from India.

(c) The steps being taken by the Government to counter the adverse impact of the legislation on carpet exports from the country include: examination of U.S. legislation and its implication in term of Indian Law; intensifying efforts for mobilizing support against trade restriction measures for reasons relating to labour standards in ILO; considering raising the issue formally and informally at W.T.O; taking up the issue at diplomatic level with U.S. Government; interaction with leading U.S. importers of Indian carpets; sending of delegation to U.S. by Carpet Export Promotion Council; publicity campaign; adoption of voluntary code of conduct by the carpet trade.

#### **I.D.F.C**

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (I.D.F.C);

(b) If so, whether International Financial Corporation has agreed to invest for infrastructure development; and

(c) If so, details of the work undertaken by the IDFC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited (IDFC) was incorporated as a company on January 30, 1997 to act as a specialised financial intermediary to specifically cater to the financial requirements of the infrastructure sector in the country.

(b) IDFC has reported that amongst the international investors, International Finance Corporation has agreed to subscribe upto US Dollar 20 million to the company's share capital.

(c) The mission of IDFC will be to lead private capital investments for infrastructure projects on a commercially viable basis. IDFC will be proactive on both the supply and demand side of the infrastructure sector. It will nurture and develop bankable projects as well as develop expertise in structured financing for infrastructure. In its initial phase of operations, IDFC will be active in the fields of power, telecommunications, roads & highways, ports and urban finance.

#### **Loans/Advances to Minorities**

466. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state:

(a) whether banks submit regularly to the Reserve Bank of India, their returns indicating loans/advances to specified minorities;

(b) the arrangements for the scrutiny of these returns and the follow up work;

(c) the annual target and the amount of loans/advances to each of the specified minorities during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken in case of banks with shortfalls and deficiencies in channelising the flow of credit to minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the public sector banks submit details regarding priority sector advances granted to specified minority communities on half yearly basis. The returns furnished by the public sector banks are scrutinised by the RBI and consolidated statements are sent to the administrative Ministries and the National Commission for Minorities. Wherever delays are noticed, the banks are advised by the RBI for taking remedial action.

(c) and (d) RBI has further reported that under the present arrangement, no specific targets have been earmarked for the minority communities within the priority sector advances. Information regarding priority sector advances granted by public sector banks (balance amount outstanding) the minority communities in the country as of the end of March, 1994, March, 1995 and March, 1996 (latest available), as furnished by RBI are given below:—

A/cs in Lakhs)  
(Amount : Rs. in Crores)

Year ended March, 1994		Year ended March, 1995		Year ended March, 1996	
No. of A/cs	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs	Amount Outstanding
59.11	6351.61	61.20	6946.79	64.43	7916.23

As evaluation of credit facilities to minority communities in 18 of the 41 districts identified as having concentration of minority communities undertaken by RBI revealed, *inter-alia*, that the assistance given to the members of the minority communities by banks was normally found adequate. The banks have also been advised by the RBI to take steps to facilitate the flow of credit to the minority communities and to review the progress made regularly at the District Consultative Committee (DCC) and the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) meetings.

[Translation]

#### **Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973**

467. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make amendment in the Coal Mines Act, 1973;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have noted that the projections of coal production and of coal demand show that there will be a gap towards the end of the 9th Plan which will increase during the 10th Plan period. This gap will remain even though the investment in the 9th Plan will be more than double the investment in the 8th Plan. In 1993 the Coal Mines

(Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was amended to permit companies engaged in business of steel production, power generation and other end uses to burn coal. In view of the anticipated gap the Government are contemplating to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 in order to enable any Indian company to mine coal, so that investment in mining coal may increase to facilitate increased production.

(c) The Government have not yet decided when the Bill to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 will be introduced in Parliament.

[*English*]

#### **Appreciation in the Value of Rupee**

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

(a) whether in the Annual Report of Reserve Bank for 1996–1997, Reserve Bank of India has recorded that every fall in gold prices, appreciation in the value of the rupee against US dollar and a gain in the value of dollar against other currencies hurts the Central Bank badly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) According to the Annual Report-1996–97 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), while the quantity of gold holdings of the RBI remained unchanged, there has been a decline in the value of gold holdings during 1996–97 and in the first quarter of 1997–98 on account of the decline in international prices of gold. Similarly, the increase in foreign currency assets, in US dollar terms, during 1996–97 was moderated somewhat because of valuation loss resulting from the depreciation of non-dollar currencies vis-a-vis the US dollar.

(b) Upward or downward movements in exchange rates and gold prices in the international market are normal occurrences and the resulting valuation gain or loss in RBI's holdings of foreign exchange reserves is unavoidable. Such valuation changes, however, do not affect the quantity of gold holdings of the RBI or the amount of foreign currency asset holdings in respective foreign currencies. The Reserve Bank also maintains a Contingency Reserve to be able to absorb unexpected and unforeseen liabilities in its balance sheet arising out of valuation losses.

[*Translation*]

#### **Loan Provided by Banks to Small and Marginal Farmers**

469. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loan given to small and marginal farmers by cooperative banks/commercial banks and

regional rural banks in Bihar during each of the last three years and current financial year, till date;

(b) whether some irregularities were noticed while sanctioning these loans;

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard;

(d) the amount of loans recovered during the above period; and

(e) the steps being taken to simplify the bank loan procedure for the farmers in the State?

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

[*English*]

#### **Allotment of Chambers**

470. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some advocates on record of the Supreme Court have sent representation/memorandum to the Government regarding allotment of chambers to them during the last nine months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some advocates had sent a memorandum in March, 1997 requesting the Government to allot the new chambers at Dr. Bhagwan Das Road in such a manner that all the advocates registered as Advocates-on-Record of the Supreme Court till 1996, are accommodated within the available resources of the Government.

(c) The allotment of chambers to the Advocates-on-Record of the Supreme Court is made by the Registry of the Supreme Court with the approval of the Chief Justice of India or a Committee appointed by him in this regard. Accordingly, a copy of the above memorandum was forward to the Registry of Supreme Court for necessary action.

#### **Restructuring of HCL**

471. SHRI DHARMABIKSHAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether final decision on the proposal for financial restructuring of Hindustan Cables Limited has been taken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status thereof Unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Vigilance Division in Canara Bank**

472 SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : With the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the organisational set up of the vigilance division in the Canara Bank and the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to known income investigated by the Vigilance Department during 1996-97;

(b) the number of officers involved in such cases, Grade-wise;

(c) the number of complaints of corruption, dishonesty and fraud received in 1996 and 1997;

(d) whether the Vigilance Section initiated any action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Canara Bank have made any review of the functioning of powers of the Vigilance Section under their control; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The vigilance set up in Canara Bank comprises of Chief Vigilance Officer at the head Office who is assisted by a Vigilance Cell. The Chief Vigilance Officer is also assisted by 12 Vigilance Officers working at Circles/Zones. Canara Bank has reported that during the years 1996 and 1997 (upto September), 296 vigilance cases were investigated/initiated.

(b) The grade-wise position of number of officers involved in the above cases is as follows:—

Scale I	54
Scale II	35
Scale III	21
Scale IV	6
Scale V	2
Scale VI	1
Scale VII	2

(c) During the years 1996 and 1997 (upto September) Canara Bank has received 27 complaints relating to corruption, dishonesty and frauds.

(d) and (e) The Vigilance Cell in Canara Bank has initiated *suo moto* action against 18 officials suspected to be dishonest and corrupt.

(f) and (g) Canara Bank has reported that they conducted review of the functioning and powers of the Vigilance Department and it is found to be adequate. A review note regarding functioning of the vigilance machinery is being placed before the Board of Directors of the bank on a quarterly basis. A quarterly note regarding functioning of the vigilance machinery vis-a-vis status position of vigilance activities in the bank is also placed before the Chairman & Managing Director of the bank.

[Translation]

#### **Production of Cars**

473. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether manufacturing of cars in India is not sufficient to meet the demand of foreign countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether any proposal to manufacture more cars is pending with the Government for approval; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith time since when it is pending?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Automobile sector in India has adequate installed capacity for manufacture of cars to meet both domestic demand and exports to other countries. The country is producing different types of cars including sophisticated and luxury cars for catering to different class of consumers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, Manufacture of car is delicensed and no specific approval of Govt. is required.

[English]

#### **Import of Beef**

474. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation is pressurising India to allow import of Beef for its local market, even if such meat is not required;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantity of Beef likely to be imported;

(c) whether any measures are being taken by the Government to stop such imports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Dues from PSUs in U.P**

475. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings in Uttar Pradesh, as on date;

(b) the arrears of U.P. Electricity Board Outstanding against these undertakings towards power supply till date; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the UPEB to recover the arrears from these undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) 18 central PSUs have their registered offices in the State of U.P. As per the available information, no dues are pending in respect to one of these. The amount of outstanding dues between UPEB and central PSUs keeps on varying from time to time. This matter comes under the day-to-day affairs of the PSUs which are not monitored by the Central Government.

[*English*]

#### **Withdrawal of Turban from Sikh Class IV Employees of LIC**

476. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that Sikh Class IV employees of the LIC of India used to get "Turban" as a part of their uniform;

(b) whether the Turban has now been withdrawn from the uniform of the Sikh Class IV employees of the LIC; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that prior to 1983, the uniform for their Class IV employees used to be cotton shirt and pant, and a cap in the case of non-sikh employees and a turban in the case of Sikh employees. Since 1983, on the demand of the Employees'

Unions, the cotton shirt and pant were replaced with terrycot shirt and pant, and the cap in the case of non-sikh employees and the turban in the case of Sikh employees was discontinued.

#### **Transfer of Shares**

477. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 4975 dated May 7, 1997 regarding transfer of shares and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be laid on the Table of the House; and

(d) the steps taken to redress the grievances of investors, particularly mentioned in part (b) above?

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

#### **Duty-Evasion**

478. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 1248 dated February 28, 1997 regarding duty evasion and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The information has since been collected.

(b) A show cause-notice was issued to M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd., (RIL) Patalganga on 4.12.92 demanding Central Excise duty amounting to Rs. 16.4 crores approximately, which was adjudicated on 28.8.96. The Customs, Excise & Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal, Mumbai vide their order dated 10.10.98 had rejected and application of M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. for waiver of pre-deposit of amount and directed them to deposit the total amount within 3 months from the date of the order. Now, it has been reported that an amount of Rs. 16,39,84,343 has been deposited by M/s. RIL.

(c) On the basis of the information received, the assurance given to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1248 dated 28.2.97 was fulfilled on 21.4.97 within the stipulated time of 3 months.



[Translation]

**Percentage of GDP**

479. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of G.D.P. being spent by the Government on agriculture, bio-technology, medicine, industrial research and atomic energy at present;

(b) the comparative data of this expenditure vis-a-vis other developing countries;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase this budget in the field of research;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) As per the data available in the Handbook of Industrial Policy & Statistics 1997 published by the Ministry

of Industry the comparable data for R & D Research & Development expenditure as a percentage of gross national product for select countries is as follows:—

(Figures within bracket indicate the year to which the figures pertain) Argentina 0.3% (1988), Brazil 0.4% (1985), India 0.8% (1994) and Indonesia 0.2% (1988).

(c) to (e) The Central Government expenditure as per the expenditure budget is budgeted to increase by 5.9 per cent for agriculture research and education, 23.9 per cent in bio-technology, 11.6 per cent in health; 28.5 per cent in medicine (Indian & Homeo.), 9.2 per cent in scientific and industrial research and 11.4 per cent in atomic energy in 1997–98 (BE) over the revised estimates for 1996–97. Besides, the budget for 1997–98 has enhanced allocation for Technology Development Fund; instituted “Swarnajayanti” fellowships for outstanding scientists to attain and sustain world class levels in science and; taken some new initiatives to foster closer links between Indian industry and publicly funded research laboratories. These measures are expected to have a favourable impact on scientific research and development.

**Statement***Total Central Government Expenditure as a Percentage of Estimated Gross Domestic Product*

	Ministry/Department	1996–97 (Revised Estimates)	1997–98 (Budget Estimates)
1	Agriculture	0.31	0.30
	(a) Agriculture & cooperation	0.25	0.25
	(b) Agriculture research & education	0.05	0.04
	(c) animal husbandry & dairying	0.02	0.01
2	Biotechnology	0.01	0.01
3	Health	0.10	0.10
4	Family welfare	0.12	0.13
5	Medicine (Indian & Homeopathy)	0.00	0.00
6	Scientific & Industrial Research	0.04	0.04
7	Atomic Energy	0.13	0.13
	<b>Total (1 to 7)</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>0.71</b>

*[English]***Reorganisation of Consulates**

480. DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to reorganise all the consulates in a bid to accelerate the export promotion efforts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have called for information from these consulates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. However, a proposal to streamline the functioning of India's Commercial Wings abroad with a view to achieve our export trade objectives, is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

**Economic Growth Rate**

481. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targeted economic growth rate fixed by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the actual achievement of economic growth rate at the end of the Eight Plan is far below the target fixed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The targeted economic growth (in terms of GDP at factor cost) fixed by the end of the Eight Five Year Plan was 5.6 per cent per annum. As per the latest available information the actual rate of economic growth in the Eight Five Year Plan is likely to be 6.5 per cent per annum.

(c) Does not arise.

**Trade Embargo Policy**

482. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government have urged the United States to review its embargo policy;

(b) if so, whether this was discussed with the President of USA during his recent visit; and

(c) if so, the extent to which United States Government has agreed to review its embargo policy towards India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The Government of the United States has recently named certain Indian organisations and industrial enterprises under the US Export Administration Regulations (USEAR), which entails the requirement of specific Export Licence for all commodities imported by these organisations/companies.

The matter was strongly taken up at various Ministerial and official levels to convince and urge the US Authorities to review their decision.

While some progress has been made the outcome is not fully satisfactory and further discussion in this issue will continue.

**Assets of Industrial House**

483. SHRI N. N. KRISHANDAS:  
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Consequent upon the omission of Section 26 of the MRTTP Act, 1969 by the MRTTP (Amendment) Act, 1991, large industrial houses are no longer required to be registered with the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether there is any other source to know the assets to industrial houses in the county; and

(c) if so, the names of the top one hundred industrial houses and the assets they hold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Consequent upon deletion of part A of Chapter III of the MRTTP Act, 1969 with effect from 27.09.1991, data on industrial houses are not compiled separately by the Department of Company Affairs.

**Confiscation of Heroin**

484. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether highly refined heroin was recently confiscated from the possession of the senior Air India Commander at Mumbai International Airport;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of the heroin and the countries of its origin and destination;

(c) whether the contact persons to whom the heroin was to be delivered in Mumbai have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the Air India Commander?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF THE FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Yes, Sir. 1080 gms of Heroin valued at Rs. 2.16 lakhs at illicit market rate was seized on 9.10. 1997 from a Senior Air India Commander when he was leaving by flight No. AI-101 from Mumbai to New York. Available report indicate that the country of origin of Heroin is India and the country of destination was USA.

(c) and (d) Investigation reveal that the heroin was not to be delivered in Mumbai.

(e) The Air India Commander involved in the case has been arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

#### **Diamond Processing Project**

485. DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded its approval to set up four units including Diamond Project in the Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone;

(b) if so, the total investment involved in this project;

(c) whether the Diamond Processing Unit is to be set up by the World-wide Diamond Manufacturing Private Limited, for processing imported rough diamonds; and

(d) the estimated export of diamonds from this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Four recently approved projects for establishment in Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone includes a diamond processing project with a projected investment of Rs. 11.83 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Estimated exports of Rs. 753.45 crores have been projected by the unit over a period of five years from the commencement of commercial operations.

#### **GPF Contributions**

486. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for ceiling in G.P.F. contributions for Central Government servants;

(b) whether the Government propose to relax the ceiling to enable the Government servants to deposit the arrears due to them on account of Fifth Pay Commission Report in the interest of economic stability in the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The ceiling in GPF contributions for Central Govt. servants has been prescribed in GPF (CS) Rules. 1960 which provides that the amount of subscription may be any sum not less than 6 per cent of the emoluments and not more than the total emoluments of an employee.

(b) The proposal to allow voluntary deposit of arrears due to Government Servants on account of acceptance of the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission into GPF is under consideration.

(c) Question does not arise.

#### **Housing Finance Companies**

487. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Housing Finance Companies operating in the country both in public as well as in the private sector, State-wise;

(b) the rate of interest paid on deposits and the rate of interest charged by them on housing loan given to the individuals;

(c) whether the norms have recently been revised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that as per information available with them there were 389 Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) as on 10th November, 1997 whose State-wise details are given in the Statement attached.

(b) to (d) The interest rates on public deposits charged by HFCs are governed by the Housing Finance Companies (NHB) Directions, 1989. In terms of these, the minimum rate of interest on such deposits is 10 per cent per annum while the maximum rate of interest is 15 per cent per annum with effect from 1st November, 1995. With effect from 14th March, 1997, NHB has been relaxing the ceiling on the rate of interest on deposits to be offered by HFCs with net owned fund of Rs. 50 lakh and above, on a case to case basis.

The rate of interest charged by HFCs on housing loans extended to individuals are determined by HFCs themselves. The latest rates of interest in respect of HFCs approved by the NHB for the purpose of refinance vary at present between 12 per cent to 19 per cent.

**Statement***Profile of existing Housing Finance Companies (As on 10th November, 1997)*

Name of the States/ Union Territory	HFCs in NHD's approved list for its refinance eligibility			Private	Total
	Bank Sponsored	Institutionally Sponsored	Private		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	1	—	1	21	23
Assam	—	—	—	3	3
Bihar	—	—	—	3	3
Goa	—	—	—	2	2
Gujarat	—	1	3	40	44
Haryana	—	—	—	2	2
Karnataka	3	—	1	24	28
Kerala	—	—	—	3	3
Madhya Pradesh	1	—	—	14	15
Orissa	—	1	—	11	12
Punjab	—	—	—	5	5
Pondicherry	—	—	—	2	2
Rajasthan	1	—	—	12	13
Tamil Nadu	1	—	1	34	36
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	38	38
West Bengal	1	—	2	46	49
NCT of Delhi	1	1	1	41	44
Total	9	6	11	363	309

*[Translation]***Export of Meat**

488. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:  
CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA:  
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether meat is exported to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the quantity of the meat exported during each of the last three years, animal-wise and country-wise; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years?

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

(a) and (c) Animal-wise export of meat during the last three years is as follows:—

Qty.: in MT  
Value: in Rs. Lakhs

	1994–95		1995–96		1996–97*	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1. Buffalo meat	116137.6	32437.0	159704.0	55500.0	247573.8	61903.5
2. Sheep/Goat meat	10819.3	6603.1	8612.8	5642.5	8691.0	7103.5
3. Swine meat	741.0	252.2	908.0	262.2	352.5	136.6
4. Poultry meat	40.5	11.0	13.7	5.4	2.0	0.9
	127738.4	39303.3	169238.5	61410.1	256619.3	69144.5

\*Provisional (Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.)

Meat is mainly exported to Bahrain, Brunei, France, Greece, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Malawi, Mauritius, Netherlands, Oman, Philippines, Qattar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Turkey, U.A.E., U.K. and U.S.A. Country-wise details of export are available in monthly/annual bulletins published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta and are available in the Parliament House Library.

[English]

#### **Vysya Bank Limited**

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

(a) the number of times the Reserve Bank of India inspected the branches of the Vysya Bank Limited during the last three years;

(b) the details of the shortcomings noticed during such inspections; and

(c) the action taken against the bank/officers of the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that during the last three years (1995–97), the Vysya Bank Limited was inspected twice with reference to its position as on 29th December, 1995 and 31st March, 1997.

(b) Inspection of branches are taken up on selective basis and not all branches are inspected. The focus of RBI inspection, *inter-alia*, is to assess compliance by banks with instructions/guidelines issued by RBI as well as the policies and procedures laid down internally by the management of the bank themselves.

(c) RBI has levied a penalty of Rs. 20 lakhs on Vysya Bank Ltd. for violations of its instructions with regard to bills, bridge loans and advance against shares.

#### **Vacant Posts in MMTC/STC**

490. SHRI KARIA MUNDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of vacancies in Group 'D' post (Peon/Frash) in the reserved categories of SC/ST and OBC have been lying vacant in State Trading Corporation of India and Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation in their Delhi/New Delhi office since a long;

(b) if so, the details of such vacancies which are to be filled up through direct recruitment; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) In STC, there are no group 'D' posts. The lowest cadre of posts of Peon etc. in STC falls in Group 'C' and there is no vacancy reserved for SC/ST and OBC in this category.

In the case of MMTC, there is only one post belonging to ST category in Group 'D' lying vacant at its Corporate Office. The post is to be filled up through direct recruitment for which MMTC has initiated action.

#### **Pension to Pensioners of Desert Area of Rajasthan**

491. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have received any representation from retired Central Government Employees and Ex-servicemen regarding payment of pension to the pensioners of under-developed, backward, desert areas of Rajasthan through Thar Anchalik Gramin Banks;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering disbursement of pension through Thar Anchalik Gramin Banks located in interior area, especially considering number of problems being faced by old aged persons; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Central Pension Accounting Office and the Controller General of Defence Accounts who administer the payment of pensions for civilians and Defence Personnel respectively have confirmed that they have not received any representation from the retired Central Government employees and Ex-servicemen regarding payment of pension to the pensioners of under-developed, backward, desert areas of Rajasthan, through Thar Anchalik Gramin Banks.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) the question does not arise.

#### **UNDP Aid in Handicrafts Sector**

492. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and UNDP propose to launch "Wood crafts" projects to harness the existing potential of the handicrafts sector in Southern India;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the new projects;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up "Wood Seasoning" Plant at Mysore for technology upgradation and focus on design development of wood crafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government with assistance from UNDP proposes to launch "Promoting Exports of wood based handicrafts" project to harness the potential of handicrafts sector in Southern India as well as in Northern India. The total estimated cost of this new project is around Rs. 5.60 crores. Under the project wood

seasoning plant are proposed to be set up at Trivandrum and Jodhpur only.

[*Translation*]

#### **New Coal Reserves**

493. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge reserve of coal has been identified in Raigarh district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the quality of coal available therein; and

(c) the time by which the mining is likely to be started there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Raigarh District encompasses major part of Mand-Raigarh coalfield in Madhya Pradesh. The total coal reserves (upto 600 metres depth) estimated as on 1.1.1997 by Geological Survey of India (GSI) of this coalfield are 9824.63 million tonnes. Of these reserves 7843.90 million tonnes are in the proved/indicated category and 1980.73 are in the inferred category. The grade-wise break-up of the coal reserves in proved and indicated category are given below:

Grades (Non-coking coal)	Quantity (In Million Tonnes)
A	208.44
B	105.09
C	350.15
D	642.73
E, F&G	6537.49

(c) Two underground mines and one opencast mine are in operation in Raigarh Coalfield.

#### **Tribunals**

494. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tribunals were set up with a view to remove delay in justice and provide speedy justice;

(b) if so, when these tribunals were set up;

(c) whether the objectives of these tribunals have not been achieved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore;

(e) the number of cases pending, till date, tribunal-wise; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of these tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a), (c), (d) & (f) A number of Tribunals have been set up by the Government under various Acts for dealing with cases arising under these Acts. These Tribunals are under the administrative control of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India.

(b) and (e) The Income-tax Appellate Tribunal and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board which are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Law and Justice were set up on 5.1.1941 and 1.1.1974 respectively. The number of cases pending in the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal (as on 1.10.1997) and the FERA Board (as on 18.11.97) are 3,00,939 and 4516 respectively.

#### **New Automobile Policy**

495. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:  
SHRI ANAND RATAN MAURYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any new Automobile policy to explore the potential of export of spare parts;

(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 STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The Exim Policy provides the framework for exports including export of automotive spare parts. Since the import of CKD/SKD kits of passenger cars is restricted under Exim Policy, policy guidelines were formulated in the year 1995 for issuance of import licences to the joint venture auto companies for the import of CKD/SKD kits by way of signing MoU's of such companies with the Government of India. One of the parameters stipulated under the MoU was exports to be performed by MoU signing companies on the basis of projections made by them. These guidelines are subject to review by the Government, when the need arises.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Saree Scam**

496. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :  
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handloom (ACASH) had committed a big scam in the supply of dhoties and sarees to Bihar;

(b) is so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard:

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total amount involved therein; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the guilty persons and ACASH?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Certain complaints have been received, alleging that some of the Dhoties and Sarees supplied by Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handloom (ACASH) to Government of Bihar were produced on powerloom instead of handloom. Immediately, the matter was referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for preliminary enquiry. As internal enquiry was also conducted by the Textile Commissioner under Ministry of Textiles. This was again referred to CBI for investigation. The CBI has registered the case and the matter is under their investigation of the total actual supplies of approximately Rs. 35.40 crores to Government of Bihar, the actual value of supplies produced on powerlooms will be known after enquiry.

(b) Pending receipt of the Findings of CBI, the then Chairman, ACASH has been transferred and an official of the ACASH handling the subject matter has been placed under suspension.

#### **Deregulation of Coal Prices**

497. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have deregularised the coal prices to improve generation of internal financial resources of coal companies;

(b) if so, the extent to which this decision is likely to facilitate in implementing the new projects and modernisation of the existing mines;

(c) whether the Government have also identified any blocks of the Coal India Ltd. with estimated reserves of 18856 million tonnes for captive mining by private and public sector companies;

(d) if so, the details of such coal blocks identified for the purpose and the names of the private and public sector companies which have been offered for mining; and

(e) the time by which these mining blocks are likely to be handed over for captive mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The prices of coking coal and A, B, C & D grades of non-coking coal and hard coke and soft coke have been deregulated to enable the coal companies to generate internal financial resource for reinvestment in coal projects and in the expansion programme.

(b) The deregulation of coal prices has made the coal companies financially stronger. This has helped them in getting access to the debt market for mobilising funds for financing new projects besides modernising the existing mines without depending on budgetary support from the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. 47 non-coking coal mining blocks and 9 coking coal mining blocks have been identified for captive coal mining. So far, 20 parties have been identified for coal mining for power generation and iron & steel

production. The details of the captive mining blocks identified and the names of the respective parties are given in the attached statement.

(e) These blocks have been identified for the interested captive mining parties after their proposals were considered by a Screening Committee constituted in the Ministry. The parties have to apply as per the prescribed procedures under the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 (MMRD Act, 1957) and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, to the concerned State Governments for grant of mining lease. In the case of 5 parties approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease under Section 5 of the MM(R&D) Act, 1957 has been sought by the concerned State Government and in four cases the approval has been accorded. The captive mining blocks can be handed over to the parties to start mining operation after they comply with the statutory requirements under the concerned Statutes.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name	End use	Coalfields in which blocks identified/ indicated or located	Linked mining blocks/ sub-blocks	Geological reserves (M.T.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	R.P.G. Industries/CESC Ltd.	Power generation	Raniganj Mahan	Sarisatoli	147.52
2.	M/s Kalinga Power Corporation	Power generation	Talcher	Utkal—A	304.00
3.	M/s Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd.	Power generation	Wardha/Bander	Baranj I-VI Bander Lohara West	64.31 110.00 120.50
4.	M/s Gujarat Power Corporation	Power generation	Ib Valley	Chaturdhara	127.00
5.	M/s Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	Power generation	Talcher	Western Part of Gopalprasad West	371.00
6.	M/s Indian Aluminium Company Ltd.	Power generation	Ib Valley	Talabira I	17.00
7.	M/s Development Consultants Ltd.	Power generation	Rajmahal	Chuperbita	1200.92



1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	M/s Associated Cement Company Ltd.	Power generation	Wardha	Lohara West	57.21
9.	M/s HOKI	Power generation	Talcher	Utkal-B 2	106.00
10.	M/s Samlai Power Private Ltd.	Power generation	Ib Valley	Talabira II	154.00
11.	M/s WBSEB Bengal Emta Coal Company	Power generation	Raniganj	Tara East	84.48
12.	M/s Videocon Power Ltd.	Power generation	Talcher	Utkal-B 1	228.00
13.	M/s Jindal Strips Ltd.	Sponge Iron	Mand Raigarh	Gare Palma Sub-block-IV/1	99.20
14.	M/s Birla Technical Services	Pig Iron	CCL area	Pakriburba-dih	1400.00
15.	SAIL	Steel	Jharia	Tasra	285.00
16.	M/s WBPDCCL Bengal Emta Coal Company	Power generation	Raniganj	Tara West	125.71
17.	M/s Monnet Ispat	Sponge Iron	Mand Raigarh	Gare Palma Sub-Block IV/5	100.80
18.	M/s Prakash Industries	Sponge Iron	SECL area	Hansdeo Arand	
19.	M/s BLA Industries	Power generation	Mohapani	Goititoria East	5.15
				Goititoria West	8.53
20.	TNEB	Power generation	Talcher	A mining block in Gopalprasad	

**High Court Benches**

498. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :  
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :  
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :  
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :

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

(a) whether Benches of some High Courts in the country are inactive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether memoranda/request, have been received by the Government during the last three years for setting up of new Benches of some High Courts and reviving inactive benches of High Courts in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government on each proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Representations have been received from time to time from various Bar Associations, Bar Councils,

Members of Central and State Legislatures, other organisations and individuals, etc. for establishing Benches of various High Courts at places away from their principal seats. Necessary action in the matter is taken by the Central Government only when a specific, complete proposal is received from the concerned State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. No such proposal is pending with the Central Government.

[Translation]

**Export of Fruits, Vegetables and Flowers**

499. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :  
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of fruits, vegetables and flowers exported during the last three years; item-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of such items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The quantity and value of fruits, vegetables and flowers exported during the last three years are as follows:

Quantity : In Metric Tons; Value : in Rupees Crores

		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1.	Fruits	88255	123.88	102778	147.55	NA*	249.33
2.	Vegetables	459832	248.74	434401	301.19	NA*	342.85
3.	Flowers (including floriculture products)	NA*	38.83	NA*	60.14	NA*	61.80

\*The details of quantity exported are not available.

The major items exported are mangose and grapes; fresh onions and potatoes; and cut flowers. The details of export figures of various items of fruits, vegetables and flowers are available in the Annual Number of Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are supplied to the Parliament Library.

(b) Some of the schemes under which assistance is provided to growers/exporters to enhance exports of agricultural items including fruits, vegetables and flowers are as under:

- (i) Provision of financial assistance for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of precooking/cold storage facilities;

- (ii) Soft loans given for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;
- (iii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;
- (iv) Establishment of walk-in-type cold storage for export consignments awaiting clearance;
- (v) Setting up of Air cargo facilities for cargo booking and customs clearance facilities under one roof;
- (vi) Setting up of dedicated cargo handling facilities for perishables at airports;
- (vii) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improved acceptability of the products;
- (viii) Implementation of a UNDP Project on Floriculture for enhancing productivity and exports of floriculture products particularly cut flowers;
- (ix) Provision of air freight subsidy for selected floricultural, horticultural products and fresh vegetables;
- (x) Organisation of export promotion activities such as buyer-seller meets and participation in Internal Trade Fairs/Exhibitions.

#### **Funds for Community Development**

500. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the Central Coal Fields Limited for community development during the last three years and during the current year;

(b) the number of Developmental Works executed/to be executed out of the funds allocated; and

(c) the existing rule for utilisation of funds for community development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The funds allocated since 94-95 for community development in CCL is as under:

1994-95	Rs. 119.50 Lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 93.00 Lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 88.20 Lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 90.00 Lakhs

(b) The number of development works executed during 1994-95 to 1996-97 and target for 1997-98 is as under:

1994-95	124
1995-96	224
1996-97	183
1997-98	240

(c) Funds for community development are utilised under community development plan, tribal sub plan and special component plan for the overall development of collieries and its surroundings.

#### **Loan by H.P. Government**

501. SHRI SUKH RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh had raised loans aggregating to Rs. 424.85 crores during 1994-95 through H.P.S.E.B. and paid Rs. 34.02 crores as interest on these loans besides Rs. 1.97 crores had been paid as service charges;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh violated Article 293(3) of the Constitution of India by raising loan without concurrence of the Union Government as pointed out in C&AG Report for the year ended 31st March, 1995 No. 3; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) This has been reported by the CAG in his Report No. 3 of Himachal Pradesh for the period ending 31.3.1995.

(b) and (c) Article 293(3) of the Constitution of India prohibits raising of loans by the State Governments if there is any outstanding loan which has been made to the State Government by the Government of India or in respect of which a guarantee has been given by the Government of India except with the consent of Government of India. The report of the CAG had pointed out that in the instant case loan was raised by HPSEB though it was stated to be not for the purpose related to HPSEB. The report of the CAG has already been placed before the State Legislature for necessary action.

#### **Airport Tax**

502. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :  
SHRI G.M. BANATWALIA :  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any recent increase in the airport tax or FTT on international passengers;

(b) if so, the extent of increase indicating the reasons therefor and the amount per passenger that is payable now;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations to withdraw the increase in Airport tax/FTT;

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

(e) whether the standards and facilities at Airports are proposed to be increased;

(f) if so, the details of such proposals at each Airport; and

(g) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce this tax and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Foreign Travel Tax has been increased with effect from 26th September, 1997 from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 750/- per passenger embarking on a journey to countries other than the neighbouring countries. The last increase was made in the year 1989 and the present increase has been made to keep pace with the allround increase in the costs associated with the foreign travel.

(c) to (g) The Government have received representations from various individuals and Associations, and they have been examined. There is no proposal under consideration to reduce this tax.

(e) and (f) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Smuggled Goods and Foreign Currency

503. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and amount of smuggled goods and foreign currency seized by Customs officials and other agencies during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of arrests made in each case; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the entry of smuggled goods and foreign currency in the country in future?

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

#### Vacant Posts of CMDs

504. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of CMD's and Directors lying vacant in the subsidiary companies under Coal India Limited and Neyveli Lignite Corporation and since when these vacancies are lying vacant;

(b) the reasons for not filling these vacancies;

(c) whether officers joining as DIC's retire after years of service as such without being regular specially in Mahanadi Coal Fields;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) The position regarding vacancies in board level posts in CIL subsidiaries and NLC Limited is indicated below:—

Name of Post	Date of Vacancy	Reasons thereof
1. Dir (Fin) NLC	1.3.96	Approval of the competent authority is awaited.
2. CMD, MCL	1.12.96	
3. CMD, SECL	1.2.97	
4. CMD, CCL	31.10.97	Recommendations of the competent authority for empanelment awaited.
5. Dir (Tech), CMPDIL	27.9.96	
6. Dir (Tech), NCL	18.12.96	
7. Dir (Tech), BCCL	1.7.97	
8. Dir (Tech), CCL	1.8.97	
9. Dir (Tech), ECL	31.8.97	
10. Dir (Tech), WCL	31.10.97	
11. Dir (Fin), MCL	18.9.97	
12. Dir (Tech.), CMPDIL	19.11.97	Approval of the competent authority awaited.
13. Dir (Per), MCL	18.9.97	
14. DIR (P&P), NLC	1.10.97	

(c) and (d) As and when the post of Chairman cum-Managing Director falls vacant in a company including Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, suitable arrangements are made for entrusting additional charge of the post to a Functional Director of the company for its smooth functioning pending appointment of regular CMD. The continuance of DIC depends on whether the regular appointment can be made before his date of superannuation. In the case of M.C.L., the DIC will continue till 30.11.97 his date of retirement if the regular appointment, for which a proposal has been processed, does not materialise, before this day.

(e) Concerted efforts are made for timely filling up of board level posts in the Central Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of this Ministry.

### **Corruption Cases**

505. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of the Ministry during 1995–96.

(b) the number of officers involved in such cases, Grade-wise;

(c) the number of complaints received of corruption and dishonesty during 1995–96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance Department initiate any action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt; and

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the functioning of powers of the vigilance section under their control and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### **Textile Workers**

506. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether around one thousand workers are working in a textile mill in Dhulia city of Maharashtra on the wages basis for the last 7–8 years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to regularise their services;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) NTC has got one mill at Dhule, namely, Dhule Textile Mills. In this mill there are 719 permanent and 353 badli workers. There is no worker employed on daily wage basis in the mill.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### **Neyveli Lignite Corporation**

507. SH. VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Neyveli Lignite Corporation has been illegally cutting down green trees causing a loss in crores of rupees and adding to the pollution in environment;

(b) whether the NLC has turned out to be a mafia den in collusion with top officials of the management and mining, plantation and cutting down of green trees is assigned on the contract basis;

(c) whether the Government propose to order a C.B.I. probe in thefts, loot, fraudulent activities and large scale illegal cutting down of green trees in the NLC; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

### **Supply of Coal**

508. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the likely requirement of coal for the generation of electricity during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to meet this requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) The likely demand of coal in the terminal year (2001–02) of the IXth Five Year Plan by power sector; as assessed by the Central Electricity Authority/Ministry of Power is 280.62 million tonnes. The coal availability for the power grade coal from Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. as assessed by the Working Group on Coal and Lignite for the formulation of IXth Plan constituted by the Planning Commission is expected to be 237 million tonnes including washery middlings for CIL and 22.68 million tonnes for SCCL for the year 2001–02.

In order to reduce the gap in production and demand envisaged at the end of IXth Plan period, under the directives of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI), in July, 1997, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Member-Secretary, Planning Commission, with Secretary (Coal), Secretary (Power) and Chairman, Railway Board as its Members, to consider, among other things, measures for removal of bottlenecks and accelerating the progress of implementation of on-going coal projects to reduce the above gap in production and demand. Arising out of the recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry of Coal carried out a project-by-project exercise to explore the possibilities for incremental coal production during the Ninth Plan period. The Ministry concluded that an incremental production of 11 million tonnes of coal from CIL sources is possible during the Ninth Plan over and above the Ninth Plan target of 303 million tonnes if additional resources were made available to CIL and acquisition of forest land involved in some projects is expedited.

Twenty captive mining blocks have been allotted to private parties/public sector undertakings for power generation. As per the assessment of the Working Group, these blocks are expected to produce about 13 million tonnes of coal by 2001-02. Subject to materialisation of the demand mentioned above, the gap between the demand for power sector and availability of coal for the power sector from CIL/SCCL will be bridged by coal production from captive mining blocks/import.

[English]

#### Printing Order of Currency Notes

509. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Reserve Bank of India's printing order of 160 crores of 500/- Rupee notes run into rough whether;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to cover up the shortage of currency notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The following steps have been taken to cover up the shortage of currency notes:

- (1) 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.

- (2) Modernisation of the two note printing presses at Nashik and Dewas.
- (3) Setting up of two new note-printing presses under RBI, i.e. one at Mysore (Karnataka) and other in Salboni (West Bengal) with an annual capacity of 4950 million pieces each.
- (4) Import of 3,600 million pieces of printed notes from abroad, as a one time measure.

#### Pollution in Colliery Areas

510. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :  
SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the "Times of India" dated July 21, 1997 regarding suffering of thousands of people living in the Ib Valley open cast coalfields in Orissa from various diseases due to pollution in the colliery area; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures have been taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The employees of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) working in Ib Valley are also staying in the same coalfield where other non-employees are staying. M.C.L. does not carry medical examination of people other than its own employees nor do MCL have any record of their medical examination. Health check-up of 3658 employees of MCL living in Ib Valley has revealed that not even a single case of pneumoconiosis has been detected and confirmed. However two suspected cases are yet to be confirmed by Pneumoconiosis Board. Two T.B. cases have been detected. It may be noted that diseases such as T.B. & other respiratory problems are not related to coal dust.

(b) Measures for control of coal dust taken by MCL include control of dust at generation point itself by adopting wet drilling, using dust extractors, doing controlled blasting, dust suppression by automatic water sprinklers both fixed point as well as mobile. Black topping of roads, raising of green belts, use of dust suppressing chemical and regenerative air vacuum cleaner is under active consideration of the management. Regular monitoring of air, water, noise and soil is being done through Central Mine Research Institute at Dhanbad.

#### Import Curbs on Foreign Farm Goods

511. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove import curbs on foreign farm goods within a few years being a signatory to the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the main items of farm goods;

(c) whether any plan has been mooted out to protect the interests of the Indian farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (b) Pursuant to the meeting of the Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held on 20–21 January, 1997, India presented to the WTO on 19 May, 1997 a plan for the elimination of all residual quantitative restrictions on imports, including those on agricultural products maintained for balance of payments purposes to the WTO on 19 May 1997. This plan was considered at the resumed consultations with India of the WTO Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions on 10–11 June, 1997 and on 30 June —1 July, 1997, when noting the divergence of opinion among WTO members on the Plan, it was agreed to conclude the consultations.

Subsequently, six WTO Members, namely Australia, Canada, the European Communities, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States of America, requested consultations with India under Article XXII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes. Pursuant to these consultations agreement has been reached with Canada, the EC and Switzerland in respect of the time-schedules for the elimination of residual quantitative restrictions on imports maintained for balance of payment purposes. Negotiations towards a mutually satisfactory solution with Australia and New Zealand are in an advanced stage. At the request of the USA a panel has been constituted on 18 November, 1997 to examine the US allegation that the continued maintenance of quantitative restrictions on imports by India is inconsistent with India's obligations under the WTO Agreement.

(c) to (d) The quantitative restrictions on imports are proposed to be eliminated in a phased manner so that the interests of the farmers in India are protected to the maximum extent. Simultaneously efforts are being made to improve productivity of Indian agriculture and to enhance overall competitiveness. Safeguard measures to protect domestic production, such as protection through tariffs, anti-dumping measures, countervailing measures to offset the effect of unjustifiable subsidies and safeguard measures to prevent damage to domestic production through surge in imports, are proposed to be utilised effectively.

[Translation]

### Export of Ornaments

512. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :  
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state:

(a) whether India has exported gold ornaments in huge quantity to the foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the foreign exchange earned by the country during the said period; and

(d) the value of orders for export of gold ornaments received during 1997–98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c): There has been substantial growth in export of gold jewellery (including studded jewellery) from India over the last three years.

The foreign exchange earned by exports of gold jewellery during the last three years and the growth in this sector are as follow:—

(Value US \$ Million)		
Year	Value	Growth(%)
1994–95	421.20	36.49
1995–96	480.40	14.06
1996–97 (Provisional)	511.80	6.54

(Source : DGCIS)

(d) Export orders are received directly by individual exporters all over India and, therefore, it is not possible to know the exact figures unless exported. However, it is expected that the export growth trend will continue during 1997–98.

### Customs Duty on Edible Oil

513. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently made heavy reduction in the customs duty on the import of edible oils;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the adverse impact of this heavy reduction on domestic food industry; and

(d) if so, the concrete action taken by the Government to provide protection to domestic edible oil industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No reduction in customs duty on edible oils has been made after the presentation of the budget for the year 1997-98.

(c) and (d) The present rates of customs duty applicable to edible oils have been prescribed taking into account all relevant factors, including the interests of the domestic industry, with a view to ensure the availability of edible oils to the consumer at reasonable prices.

[English]

#### NTC Losses

514. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish subsidiary offices of NTC to contain loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the justification therefor?

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

(a) There is at present no proposal to abolish any of the subsidiary corporations of the National Textile Corporation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Posts Lying Vacant in Banks/LIC

515. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the state-wise number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes are lying vacant in Banks and Life Insurance Corporation;

(b) the action being taken to fill up these posts during the current financial year; and

(c) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Empowerment of Women

516. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased be state:

(a) whether in the light of the discussions during the debates in both the Houses of Parliament on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of Independence, the Government have taken or propose to take any effective steps for empowerment of women including provision of due

representation in legislative bodies as committed by various political parties.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress so far made in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill, 1996 which seeks to reserve one-third of the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of every State for women has already been introduced by the Government in the Lok Sabha on 12.9.96. The bill was referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament and the Committee presented its report on 9.12.1996. Government has since accepted all the recommendations made by the Joint Committee.

#### Income Tax Arrears

517. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :  
DR. ARVIND SHARMA :  
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Income Tax arrears outstanding upto June, 1997 alongwith year-wise break up for the last five years;

(b) the details of defaulters who owe arrears amounting to ten lakhs or more;

(c) whether these defaulters have been prosecuted;

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

(e) the efforts made to recover the arrears and the amount of arrears recovered so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total outstanding demand of Corporation tax and income-tax for the last five years are as under:—

Fin. Years	Total Outstanding Demand (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	9211
1993-94	10780
1994-95	22699
1995-96	28970
1996-97 (Prov.)	33979
1997-98 (Upto June, 97)	33320



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

#### **Import of Coins**

518. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of all Government mints have protested against the import of two and five rupee coins;

(b) if so, the silent points in their protest;

(c) the value of the coins to be imported and the country from which the Government have decided to import the coins; and

(d) the cost analysis of the imported coins and manufactured in the country by full utilisation of present machinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Keeping in view the acute shortage of coins and Government Mints' limited capacity, the Government has decided to import 300 million pieces of Rs. 2 coins from the Republic of Korea and 700 million pieces of Re. 1 coins from Mexico on the basis of a global tender. The total value of these coins would be Rs. 130 Crores. The Comparative cost of imported and indigenous coins is as under:—

	Rs. 2 per thousand pieces	Re. 1 per thousand pieces
Coins manufacture by Govt. of India Mints	Rs. 1690	Rs. 870
Imported coins	Rs. 1221	Rs. 541

Some employees Unions in the Mints have expressed apprehensions that their workload and consequently their wages could get reduced on account of imports. Their apprehensions are misplaced as Government is also modernising the Mints to meet the growing demand of coins.

[Translation]

#### **Voluntary Disclosure Scheme**

519. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the business community is in a dilemma with the 'Voluntary Income Disclosure Scheme' since if these happens to be any manipulation in the disclosure of their income, they fear the raids of the Income Tax Department very often and if they observe sincerity in disclosing their

income, they are struck with the fear of departments like excise and sales taxes;

(b) if of, whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to dispel the fear prevailing in the business community on this count; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Any such apprehensions with regard to the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme is not justified. The Scheme provides that the declarations shall be filed only before the Commissioners of Income-tax and strict confidentiality would be maintained in respect of the declarants. The secrecy and the immunity provisions of the Scheme have been widely publicised to dispel any fear lurking in the minds of the declarants.

[English]

#### **Law for Indian Christians**

520. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend certain provisions of law regarding inheritance, marriage, divorce and adoption among Christians in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have held consultations with Christian Leaders and M.Ps in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (d) The Government has under consideration comprehensive proposal for bringing in changes in the Christian personal law regarding marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption. It has made a reference to the National Commission for Minorities requesting the Commission to inform as to whether an ascertainable cross section of the Christian community is in favour of the proposal. The Government also sought the views/comments of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations on the proposal. It also proposes to hold consultations with the Christian Members of Parliaments as soon as possible and in this regard, copies of the proposal were made available to certain Members of Parliament.

#### **Non-Banking Financial Companies**

521. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTADAR :  
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :  
SHRI L. RAMANA :  
SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY :  
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-Banking Financial Companies which have got themselves registered with the Reserve Bank of India so far indicating the net worth of these companies, State-wise;

(b) whether the RBI verifies their trade record before registering these;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received reports that many Non-Banking Financial Companies other than CRB Group Companies have also been defaulting in payment of money due to depositors;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against these; and

(f) the stringent norms fixed/proposed to the fixed for Non-Banking Financial Companies to protect the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the new system of Registration, so far 10 Non-Banking Financial Companies have been granted Certificate of Registration by them. The Net Owned Funds (NOF) of each of them and the State in which the Registered office of the Company is located are furnished below:

No. of Companies	State where located	Net Owned Funds (Rs. in Lacs)
2	NCT of Delhi	409.44 & 414.00
1	West Bengal	99.34
2	Maharashtra	2625.00 & 27.93
2	Tamil Nadu	124.39 & 50.09
1	Karnataka	47.40
1	Jammu & Kashmir	25.00
1	Andhra Pradesh	25.07

(b) and (c) In terms of Sub-Section 4 of Section 45-IA of RBI Act, 1934 for the purpose of considering the application for Registration, the Bank is required to satisfy by inspection of the books of the Non-Banking Financial Company or otherwise certain specified conditions. One of the conditions is that the affairs of the Non-Banking Financial Company are not being conducted in a manner detrimental

to the interest of the present or future depositors. Before giving a certificate of registration. RBI has to satisfy about the financial health of the company, quality of assets, track record of the promoters, directors and compliance with directions, guidelines etc.

(d) and (e) As per the Reserve Bank of India Amendment Act, 1997 the Company Law Board have been empowered to direct repayment of deposits accepted by non-banking financial companies in case of default in making repayment of principal amount and the interest thereon for which an application has to be made in the prescribed form No. 4 of Company Law Board Regulations 1991. RBI have issued prohibitory orders from accepting of fresh deposits in the case of 19 companies during the year 1997 so far.

(f) The Reserve Bank of India has taken a number of measures both regulatory and supervisory to protect the interest of depositors of NBFCs by strengthening the supervisory mechanism and by close monitoring of the returns. The recent amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Act provide for compulsory registration of NBFCs, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of profits to reserve fund, power to issue directions of prudential norms etc. In the light of recent developments in the NBFC sector the Reserve Bank is contemplating to issue fresh set of directions.

#### **Complaints Against Helliou Group and JVG Finance Group**

522. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state :

(a) whether the Patna Office of RBI had made certain complaints against the Helliou Group and JVG Finance Group, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints and action taken by Head Office, RBI;

(c) if no action has been taken the reasons therefore, and

(d) the details of other Financing groups similarly placed and the details of complaints received against these groups by RBI Head Office, Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) no complaint has been made by their Patna Office in respect of the Helliou Group and JVG Finance Group. However, certain supervisory action including issue of prohibitory orders from accepting deposits from public had been taken against the financial companies, belonging to the two groups, based on the finding of Inspection of these companies.

(d) The following companies coming under the jurisdiction of Patna Office RBI were issued prohibitory orders in the past:

- (i) The Social Welfare Savings & Finance Ltd.
- (ii) Barl India Finance & Investment Ltd.
- (iii) Prolate Company Ltd.
- (iv) Manav Sandhan Vikash Finance & Investment Ltd.
- (v) Prestigious Finance & Investment Ltd.

RBI has further reported that on the basis of findings of inspection, the following companies, in addition to M/s. CRB Capital Markets Ltd., have also been prohibited from accepting deposits in the recent past:

- (i) M/s. Asia Pacific Investment Trust Ltd.
- (ii) M/s. Global Finance Corporation Ltd.
- (iii) M/s. Prudential Capital Markets Ltd.
- (iv) M/s. Western India Financial Services Ltd
- (v) M/s. Gadgil Western India Corporation Ltd.

According to RBI such prohibitions are also given wide publicity in the press to caution the general public from making further deposits with these companies.

#### **Export of Marine Food**

523. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :  
SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :  
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name and the number of marine food units in the country which are exporting marine food to different countries, State-wise;

(b) the annual export turn over of these marine food units;

(c) whether the European Union has prohibited the import of marine food from India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of marine firms affected due to imposition of prohibition; and

(f) the steps taken to rescue those marine food units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) There are 402 marine food units registered with marine Projects Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for exporting marine food from India. The number of units State-wise is given below—

State	Number of Units
Kerala	129
Tamil Nadu	047
Karnataka	014
Andhra Pradesh	050
Goa	006
Gujarat	053
Orissa	021
Maharashtra	048
West Bengal	034
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>

The names of the above said units are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) During the year 1996–97, the marine food units exported marine products as under—

Quantity Exported 378199 (MT)

Value Realised (Rs. Crore) 4121.36

Value Realised (US \$ Million) 1152.83

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The European Commission *Vide* Decision Dated 1st August 1997 prohibited imports of fishery products originating in India based on the findings of deficiencies with regard to the infrastructure and hygiene in some of the fishery establishments, noticed by a team of veterinary experts of European Union (EU), which visited India in the month of June. In this decision of 1st August, 1997, the European Commission have also stated that there are not enough guarantees of the efficiency of the controls carried out by the Competent Authorities.

(e) The imposition of ban on the import of Indian fishery products has adversely affected 160 marine food units who were exporting to EU.

(f) The important steps taken by the Government for safeguarding the interests of marine food units exporting to EU are as under—

- (i) A fresh set of comprehensive additional guidelines and requirements were finalised which are to be complied with by all the units wishing to export marine products to EU and the same have been made available to the concerned units and also to the Export

Inspection Agencies (EIAs) and MPEDA through Export inspection Council (EIC).

- (ii) Marine Export units who are wishing to export to EU and are willing to satisfy and conform to the standards laid down by EU were invited to apply to EIAs so that only such units who satisfy all the EU requirements, are approved and permitted to export to EU.
- (iii) On the basis of the received applications, inter Departmental Panels (IDPs) consisting of representatives of EIA, MPEDA and Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) undertook inspection visits to each of the applicant Marine Export units.
- (iv) Based on the recommendations of IDPs a Supervisory Audit Team (SAT) consisting of officials senior to the members of IDPs, super-inspected the units to satisfy itself that the units recommended by IDPs fully comply with the requirements and standards to be met for exporting to EU.
- (v) A list of units as approved by SAT alongwith a guarantee letter has been communicated to the EU requesting them to send a team for inspection well before the review deadline of 30th November, 1997.
- (vi) Once the units have been approved by the EU, the concerned EIAs will conduct regular monitoring checks. Such checks will be conducted on a fortnightly basis. SAT will also make monthly visits for supervising the inspection made by EIAs.
- (vii) The State Governments' have been addressed to immediately take up the improvements of the landing centres and fishing harbours. etc., under their control. They have also been requested to take an extension programmes to educate their fishermen in good hygienic practices and also see that the fishing vessels conform to prescribed specifications. The concerned Central Ministries have also been requested for effecting necessary improvements in the fishing harbours under their control and for initiating necessary programmes for general improvements in the fishing harbours and landing centres.
- (viii) EU, on examination of the documents submitted by Government of India, has now decided to send a team of two experts. They will be visiting India from 22.11.1997 to 28.11.1997. During stay in India they propose to inspect some of the approved units at Bombay, Cochin, Bangalore

and Pamarru and will also have discussions with the concerned officials of the Government/MPEDA/EIC. Based on the inspection report of the above EU team, European Commission is likely to review their earlier decision to ban the import of Indian fishery products.

#### **Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
<b>STATE OF KERALA</b>	
1.	Abad Fisheries
2.	Baby Marine Exports
3.	Bharath Seafood Unit I
4.	Bell Foods (Marine Division)
5.	Coromodal Fisheries
6.	Chemmeens (Regd.)
7.	Canning Industries, Cohin
8.	Elite Seafoods
9.	Baraka Overseas
10.	Geo Seafoods
11.	Prince Fisheries Pvt. Ltd.
12.	Island Seafoods Pvt. Ltd.
13.	Karthika Marine Industries
14.	K E Kesavan & Sons Unit I
15.	Kerala Food Packers
16.	Kairali Exports
17.	M K Fisheries
18.	Olttupurath Industries
19.	Paragon Seafoods
20.	Relish Foods
21.	Ruby Marine Foods Unit II
22.	Rejini Ice And Cold Storage
23.	Seastar Industries
24.	Sea Peral Industries
25.	Seasons Enterprises

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
26.	Fancy Foods
27.	Standard Food Packers
28.	Toyo Seafoods
29.	Universal Trades Cooperation
30.	X L Seafoods
31.	Kerala Foods Packers
32.	Kaminee Seafood Pvt Ltd.
33.	Blue Bay Fisheries Pvt. Ltd.
34.	Kalappurackkal Industries
35.	National Seafood Company
36.	Gallant Seafoods
37.	International Creative Foods
38.	Rubian Exports
39.	Poyilakada Fisheries Ltd.
40.	Abad Fisheries
41.	Paragon Industries
42.	Deepa Export Enterprises
43.	Premier Export International
44.	Matha Ice Industries
45.	Bharath Seafood Units II
46.	Amison Foods Ltd
47.	Choice Canning Company
48.	Sonia Exports
49.	K E Kesavan And Sons Unit II
50.	Best food Coporation
51.	Arizons Foods Exports
52.	Anand Exports
53.	Cochin Frozen Foods Export
54.	Innovative Marine Foods Ltd.
55.	Integrated Rubian Exports
56.	Silver Star Seafoods Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
57.	Geo Marine Exports P Ltd
58.	Tri Marine Foods P Ltd
59.	Tri Marine Foods P Ltd
60.	Malankars Marine Exports
61.	Baby Marine International
62.	Amalgem Foods Ltd
63.	Kay Kay Exports
64.	Elenjika Exports P Ltd
65.	Ocean Bounty Ltd
66.	Sea Pearl Enterprises
67.	Abad Exim P Ltd
68.	Uniroyal Marine Exports Ltd
69.	Ameena Enterprises
70.	International Freeze Fish
71.	G K S Business Associates
72.	Torry Herris Seafood Ltd
73.	Accelerated Freeze Drying
74.	Abad Fisheries
75.	Lansea Foods P Ltd
76.	Lakshmi Marine Products
77.	R F Exports
78.	Bhatsons Aquatic Products
79.	Paragon Seafood Unit II
80.	Samrat Middle East Exports
81.	Padinjarathalackal Plantation
82.	Baby Marine International
83.	Karthika Fisheries
84.	Upasana Exports
85.	Abad Exports P Ltd
86.	Amalgam Foods P Ltd
87.	Peavees Enterprises

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
88.	Ruby Marine Foods Unit I
89.	Master Marine Foods P Ltd
90.	Koluthara Exports Ltd
91.	Raymon Foods P Ltd
92.	International Creativefoods
93.	Indexport Ltd
94.	Integrated Rubian Exports
95.	Accelarated Freeze Drying
96.	Integrated Fisheries Project
97.	Tri Tee Seafood Co.
98.	Indian Seafood Industries
99.	Abad Fisheries
100.	Fish India Export Internation
101.	Nas Fisheries Pvt Ltd
102.	Parwan Exports
103.	V Marine Exports
104.	Gold Farm Foods
105.	Capithan Exporting Co.
106.	Esmario Export Enterprises
107.	Indian Aquatic Products
108.	Fine Sea Products
109.	King Fisheries Ltd.
110.	Kerala Seafoods
111.	Oceanic Products Exporting Co.
112.	Poyilakada Fisheries Ltd.
113.	Sea and Sand Enterprises
114.	Girli Industries
115.	Abad Enterprises
116.	Mariyalayam Seafood Exporters
117.	Euro Marine Products (P) Ltd.
118.	Kings Marine Products

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
119.	Agees Marine (P) Ltd.
120.	Coral Seafoods
121.	Nazi Marine Exports
122.	A.S.F Seafoods
123.	Coral Seafoods
124.	Sea Wealth India Exports Pvt. Ltd.
125.	Classic Foods
126.	Master Marine Foods Pvt. Ltd.
127.	Pearl Food Products
128.	Royal Overseas Pvt. Ltd.
129.	Mangla Sea Products.
STATE OF TAMIL NADU	
1.	Cochin Seafood
2.	Crystal Exports
3.	George Maijo
4.	Kerala Foods Packers
5.	New India Maritime Agencies
6.	Orient Marine Products P Ltd
7.	Pentafour Products Ltd
8.	Southern Seafoods Ltd
9.	Asian Marine Products P Ltd
10.	Tamilnadu Fisheries Develop.
11.	Devi Marinie Foods Exports Ltd
12.	Tamilnadu Fisheries Develop.
13.	Tamilnadu Fisheries Develop.
14.	Ocean Foods India Pvt Ltd
15.	Kalyanee Marine Products
16.	R B T Exports
17.	Maharaja Seafood India P
18.	Standard Marine Products
19.	Seafarer Fisheries P Ltd

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
20.	Parwaz Food Packers
21.	New India Maritime Agencies
22.	Agar & Alginate Laboratores
23.	Agri Marine Exports P Ltd
24.	Asvani Cold Storage
25.	Bala Marine Exports
26.	Balaji Seafood Exports
27.	Inter Sea Export Corporation
28.	Diamond Seafood Exports
29.	Kings Initial Aqua Marine Expo Ltd
30.	Poyllakada Fisheries Ltd
31.	Oceanic Fisheries India Ltd
32.	Century Cold Storage Ltd
33.	Amulya Seafoods P Ltd
34.	Tamilnadu Fisheries Devi. Co.
35.	Kings International Copr.
36.	Kadalkanny Frozen Foods
37.	Mac Industries Ltd
38.	Ninas Limited
39.	Nila Seafoods P Ltd
40.	Theva & Co.
41.	Tamil Nadu Fisheries Devl. Cop.
42.	George Maijo
43.	Baby Marine Estern Exports
44.	Relish Foods P Ltd
45.	Oceanic Fisher India Ltd.
46.	Kalyan Marine
47.	Royal Cold Storage (P) Ltd.
STATE OF MAHARASHTRA	
1.	Hiravati International P Ltd
2.	Castlerock Fisheries

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
3.	Central Ice And Cold Storage
4.	Gadre Marine Exports
5.	I Ahmed And Co. Cold Storage
6.	R B Chemicals And Agro
7.	Naik Ice And Cold Storage
8.	Ratna Seafoods Plant I
9.	Ravi Fisheries Ltd
10.	R W Swant And Co.
11.	Sterting Fisheries And Cold
12.	Naik Seafoods
13.	Riyaz Ice N Cold Storage
14.	Firoz And Co.
15.	Dinyer Ice And Cold Storage
16.	Ravi Frozen Foods Ltd.
17.	Castle Rock Fisheries Ltd.
18.	Ittefaq ice N Cold Storage
19.	Ha And R Enterprises
20.	Ratnaglri Jillah Machimar
21.	Md Naik Industries
22.	Zam Zam Enterprises
23.	Century Cold Storage P Ltd
24.	Hanjar Ice And Cold Storage
25.	Viceroy Foods Ltd.
26.	Ava Cold Storage N Ice
27.	Arabian Exports Ltd.
28.	Innovative Marine Foods Ltd.
29.	Forster Frozen Foods Pvt Ltd.
30.	H M G Industries Ltd.
31.	Ratna Seafood Plant II
32.	Mulika Foods

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
33.	Danda Fisheries
34.	Indian Seafod Corp.
35.	Sisons Fisheries
36.	Sonia Fisheries
37.	Shroff Processed Food And
38.	Excel Ice Services
39.	Libran Seafoods
40.	Ratina Marine Expors
41.	L.B. Time Chemicals (P) Ltd.
42.	Sawant Food Products Ltd.
43.	Aman Frozen Foods
44.	Cham Exports
45.	Pepsi Foods (P) Ltd.
46.	Viwa Frozen Foods
47.	Dalholi Fisher Foods Ltd.
48.	Fine Frozen Foods Ltd.

## STATE OF GUJARAT

1.	Amar Cold Storage
2.	B M G Fisheries
3.	Castle Rock Seafoods Ltd
4.	Cham Ice and Cold Storage
5.	Konkan Fisheries Pvt Ltd.
6.	Pithadiya Freezing And Col
7.	Rav Ratan Exporters Ltd
8.	Allana Fro Foods Pvt Ltd
9.	J R K Seafood Ltd.
10.	Cham Trading Organs. Plant I
11.	Hiravati Ice Cold Storage

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
12.	Monarch Foods Pvt Ltd.
13.	Minaxi Ice And Cold Storage
14.	H M G Industries Ltd Plant I
15.	Pronto Foods Pvt Ltd.
16.	Maklal Ice And Cold Storage
17.	R K Ice And Cold Storage
18.	Elite Shipyard
19.	Amrit Cold Storage Pvt Ltd.
20.	Allana Fro. Foods P Ltd.
21.	Sagar Foods
22.	Deepmala Marine Exports
23.	Rameswar Cold Storage
24.	Asian Marine Products
25.	Divya Marine Foods Pvt Ltd.
26.	Tirth Seafoods
27.	Kapishwar Ice And Cold Sto.
28.	Tulsi Seafoods
29.	Castlerock Seafoods Ltd.
30.	Hiravathi Exports Pvt. Ltd.
31.	Hindustan Lever Ltd.
32.	Maruti Frozen Foods
33.	Sonika Ice And Cold
34.	Sagarputra Marine Products
35.	Cham Marine Products Ltd
36.	Rintu Marine Products
37.	Vanitha Cold Storage
38.	Mamta Cold Storage Pit No.
39.	Raunaq Ice And Cold Storage
40.	Bhavani Seafoods Pit No.



Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
41.	Minaxi Frozen Foods Ltd.
42.	Salet Seafoods P Ltd. Nara
43.	Castlerock Cold Storage P
44.	Roohi Frozen Foods Jawar
45.	Cham Trading Organs Plant II
46.	H M G Industries Ltd Plant II
47.	Dev Seafood Ltd.
48.	Kirthi Cold Storage P Ltd.
49.	Veraval Marine And Chemical
50.	Kartik Cold Storage
51.	Hinny Marine Traders
52.	Hiravathy Exports P Ltd
53.	Minaxi Frozen Foods P Ltd.

## STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH

1. A P Fisheries Corp.
2. A P Fisheries Corp.
3. Kaveri Seafoods
4. East Coast Marine Products
5. Fish Products Ltd
6. George Maijo And Co.
7. Kerala Foods Packers
8. Chowhan Exports Ltd.
9. V B C Industries Ltd.
10. Vani Seafoods P Ltd.
11. Shri Vijaya Ice And Cold
12. Srinivasa Enterprises Ltd.
13. Navabharath Ferro Alloys Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
14.	Shri Vijaya Ice And Cold Storage
15.	Lalitha Seafood P Ltd.
16.	Nekkanti Seafood Ltd.
17.	G P Marine Products India
18.	Gauxthan Constructions And
19.	Universal Cold Storage Ltd.
20.	Suxsry Exports P Ltd.
21.	Indus Foods Ltd.
22.	Stork Fisheries P Ltd.
23.	Amalgam Fisheries Ltd.
24.	Oriental Food Industries
25.	S G Engineering Enterprises
26.	Aswani Fisheries Ltd.
27.	Sudarsan International
28.	Parwaz Food Packers
29.	Minota Aqua Foods Ltd.
30.	D C L Maritech Ltd
31.	Ananda Foods
32.	Choice Canning Co.
33.	Acquaint Exports P Ltd.
34.	Wellcome Fisheries P Ltd.
35.	Rank Aqua Estates Ltd.
36.	N C C Blue Water Products
37.	Coastal Trawlers Ltd.
38.	Balaji Bio-Tech Ltd.
39.	Sandhya Marine P Ltd.
40.	Usha Seafoods
41.	Vizag Ice Industries

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
42.	Patil Aqua Products P Ltd.
43.	Suvarna Aqua Farm And Expo
44.	Alsa Marine And Harvests Ltd.
45.	V B C Industries Ltd.
46.	Srinivasa Enterprises Ltd.
47.	Circar Seafoods Pvt Ltd.
48.	The Water Base Ltd.
49.	Innovative Marine Foods Ltd.
50.	Alsa Marine Harvests Ltd.

## STATE OF WEST BENGAL

1.	Calcutta Seafoods
2.	Hindustan Ice And Cold Storage
3.	Sourab
4.	Spencer And Co.
5.	V S P Expo P Ltd.
6.	V M Dhawan And Co.
7.	Central Calcutta Cold Storage
8.	Bengal Marines P Ltd.
9.	Southern Cold Storage And
10.	Brittania Industries Ltd.
11.	Associated International E
12.	N C G B Marine P Ltd
13.	Elque And Co.
14.	Alsa Marine Harvests Ltd.
15.	Hindustan Ice And Cold Storage
16.	Central Calcutta Cold Storage
17.	Veejay Impex

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
18.	Jaks Internation
19.	A N Ash And Co. P Ltd.
20.	G A Randerian Ltd.
21.	Diamond Seafoods
22.	Star Frozen Foods P Ltd.
23.	Indian Expo Aquarium P Ltd.
24.	G F Kellner And Co.
25.	Triveni Foods Products
26.	Bay Seafood P Ltd.
27.	Central Cacutta Cold Storage
28.	Quality Seafoods
29.	Monali Seafoods P Ltd.
30.	Razban Seafoods P Ltd
31.	Brittania Industries Ltd.
32.	S B Dutta Entrprises
33.	Indexport Ltd.
34.	Triveni Foods Products

## STATE OF ORISSA

1.	Orissa Marine Industries Ltd.
2.	Hindustan Marines
3.	Bijaya Marine Products
4.	Suryo Udyog Ltd.
5.	P & S Pvt Ltd
6.	Ram's Assorted Cold Storage
7.	Vijay Impex
8.	Kalinga Marines & Transport P L
9.	Georga Maijo Exports Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
10.	Subsiline Exports
11.	Utkal Exports
12.	Surya Marines Pvt. Ltd.
13.	S. Chanchla Combines
14.	Falcon Marine Exports Ltd.
15.	Kay pee Exports P Ltd.
16.	Capital Freezing Complex
17.	Falcon Marine Exports Ltd.
18.	Bijaya Marine Products Pla
19.	S Chanchala Combines
20.	Sealand Fisheries P Ltd.
21.	Subshins Packaging Industries

## STATE OF KARNATAKA

1. Binaga Ice And Cold Storage
2. Karnataka Food Packers
3. Sterling Foods
4. Mudreswar Foods & Exports
5. Baby Marine Products
6. Baraka Overseas Traders
7. Apollo Fisheries Pvt. Ltd.
8. Lewis Natural Foods Ltd.
9. Venus Fisheries Pvt. Ltd.
10. K F D C Ltd.
11. D F D C Ltd.
12. Accelerated Frze Fryg Co. Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of the Marine Food Unit
13.	Siddhi Freezers And Export
14.	Udayari Marine Products Ltd.

## STATE OF GOA

1. Rahul Foods (Goa)
2. Pioneer Export Co.
3. Cham Ocean Treasures C Ltd.
4. Corlim Marine Exports P Ltd.
5. Directorate of Fisheries
6. Rahul Exports Pvt.

**Bhutani Currency in North Bengal**

524. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have received any complaint regarding foreign exchange racket in Bhutanese currency in Siliguri, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling and entire North Bengal;

(b) if so, the Government's reactions to the contents of the said complaints; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to control this parallel currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A few letters have been received by the Reserve Bank of India stating that due to shortage of small denomination notes and coins, Bhutanese currency is being accepted by the traders in Siliguri, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling area.

(b) Circulation of currency of a foreign country inside Indian territory is not permitted under the law.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has been increasing the supply of coins and rupees 10/- notes to currency chest branches of public sector banks in the said districts as also in North Bengal. Necessary instructions have also been issued by Reserve Bank of India to its Calcutta office and the banks in the region to step up the circulation of rupees 10/- notes as well as small coins in order to prevent the circulation of Bhutanese currency. The District Collector of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar have

also been requested to take suitable measures to combat the circulation of Bhutanese currency.

#### Patent Amendment Bill

525. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :  
LT. GEN. (RETD.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fate of the controversial Patent Law (Amendment) Bill 1995 is still hanging in the balance;

(b) whether the patents are vital aspects of the global pharma industry and the patent protection is essential to spur basic research and development and make it commercially viable; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not introducing Patent (Amendment) Bill in the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) With the dissolution of the Tenth Lok Sabha, the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1995 has lapsed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is in the process of holding wide consultations on the subject to arrive at a consensus in this regard.

#### Minar Project in Delhi

526. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SCOPE raised funds from Public Sector Undertakings to fund the 'Minar Project' at Laxmi Nagar district complex in East Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project;

(d) the amount spent on the Project and progress made so far in its construction;

(e) the reasons for overrun in the cost and time;

(f) whether responsibility has been fixed in this regard;

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(h) by when the 'MINAR PROJECT' is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) : The Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) has collected Rs. 168.99 crores till date from 41 constituents to whom space has been allotted

in the 'Minar Project' at Laxmi Nagar District Complex in East Delhi.

(c) The project cost which was estimated at Rs. 74.38 crores in 1986 was revised from time to time and in February, 1996 it was estimated at Rs. 183.25 crores.

(d) An amount of Rs. 151.72 crores has been spent so far on this project. The civil and structural work of the project is almost completed except some finishing works which are dependent on the completion of works of service contractors and the physical progress of the work of these contractors is approximately 60%.

(e) The cost and time overruns in the project were due to various reasons such as delay in mobilisation of funds from constituents; delay in handing over full site, clearance of barracks and approval of building plans by the Delhi Development Authority; initially non-availability of space for dumping excavated earth; non-availability of steel reinforcement; delay in availability of construction power from Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (Now Delhi Vidyut Board); closure of Badarpur mines; various agitations, strikes, etc.; slowdown of work by contractors and invoking arbitration; abandonment of work by Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning - HVAC contractor due to order of closure by the Hon'ble High Court; raising unacceptable claims by services contractors; non-availability of working fronts to various agencies; etc.

(f) No responsibility has been fixed.

(g) The question relates to a project being executed by an organisation, namely SCOPE, registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 and, therefore, is not directly the concern of the Government.

(h) The project is likely to be completed by April, 1998 and commissioned by October, 1998.

#### Trips Expert Group in a Mess

527. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item "Trips Expert Group in a mess as key members opt out" as appeared in the Financial Express dated October 14, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the news item; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) The matter is being considered by the Government.

**Package to Exporters**

528. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) has decided to introduce comprehensive package to help the exporters in securing more overseas trade relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the opinion of the prominent exporters' organisations have been obtained before taking this decision; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BULLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) At present ECGC provides comprehensive cover (both commercial & political) against payment risk to Indian exporters after ascertaining the credit worthiness of the overseas buyers and the position of the country. The cover issued by ECGC can be divided broadly into four groups:

- (i) Standard policy issued to exporters to protect them against payment risks involved in exports on short terms credit and Small Exporter's Policy issued for the same purpose to exporters with small export;
- (ii) Specific policies designed to protect Indian firms against payment risk involved in (a) exports on deferred terms of payment (b) services rendered to foreign parties and (c) construction works and turnkey projects undertaken abroad;
- (iii) Financial Guarantees issued to banks in India to protect them from risks of loss involved while extending financial support to exporters at the pre-shipment as well as post-shipment stages; and
- (iv) Special schemes, viz, Transfer Guarantee meant to protect banks which add confirmation to letters of credit opened by foreign banks, Insurance cover for Buyer's credit, Line of Credit, Overseas Investment Insurance and Exchange Fluctuation Risk Insurance.

(c) and (d) ECGC has been obtaining the views of the exporting community through Regional Advisory Committee and Branch Coordination Committee meetings which are held at regular intervals. These meetings help the Corporation in formulating future plans and also to attend to the operational issues in respect of exporters and the concerned commercial banks. The Corporation also participates in various meetings conducted by prominent exporters' organisations and receives feedback from its customers about the schemes operated by ECGC. This is a continuous and regular process in order to provide services to the exporting community.

**Purity of Gold**

529. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hall-marking refining and other related facilities for certification and control of purity of gold and gold jewellery exports have been developed in the country with authorisation or otherwise from concerned authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government consider the said facilities adequate to ensure quality and purity of imported gold and gold jewellery exports;

(d) whether institutional and legal mechanism have been evolved and in place for the above; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**WTO Dispute Panel**

530. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need to strengthen India's mission to the WTO, to protect our trade interests at the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider keeping a team of minimum six negotiators including a trade lawyer, to represent India on issues like Quantitative Restrictions on imports and patent protection; and

(c) the other steps contemplated to ensure the India's interests are properly taken care at the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) government attaches great importance to our effective presence and participation in WTO. Effective steps have been and continue to be taken to strengthen India's Mission to WTO in Geneva and to ensure that India's interests are taken care at the Dispute Settlement Body.

*[Translation]*

**Printing of Currency Notes and Minting of Coins**

531. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and denominations of coins got minted and notes got printed as Indian currency in the country and abroad during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, till October, 1997;

(b) the institutions from which the above coins were got minted and currency notes got printed;

(c) whether the cost of printing, of these currency notes in the country is less than the printing in abroad; and

(d) is so, the reasons for getting these printed in abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAT PAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The number and denominations of coins got minted in the country during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98 (upto October 1997) are as under:—

#### Coins

Denomination	Total coins minted in the country (in million pieces)				
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	(upto Oct.)
Rs. 5/-	256	337	280	168	
Rs. 2/-	262	454	279	133	
Rs. 1/-	379	198	528	352	
50 p.	341	146	267	215	
25 p.	404	240	142	66	
20 p.	22	24	20	3	
10 p.	10	23	41	16	
5 p.	30	26	4	-	

Government of India has decided to import 1000 million pieces of coins (700 million pieces of Rupee 1 denomination and 300 million pieces of Rs. 2 denominations). Orders for the same have already been placed.

#### Notes

(figures in million pieces)

Denomination	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	(upto Oct. 97)
Re. 1/-	40	-	-	-	
Rs. 2/-	91	-	-	-	
Rs. 5/-	459	177	-	-	
Rs. 10/-	2575	2743	3040	2065	
Rs. 20/-	50	61	109	168	
Rs. 50/-	1041	1177	823	441	
Rs. 100/-	1274	1351	1593	1146	
Rs. 500/-	88	105	59	-	

The Reserve Bank of India has been authorised to import 3600 million pieces of printed notes from abroad (2000 million pieces of Rs. 100 denomination and 1600 million pieces of Rs. 500 denomination).

(b) The coins are minted in India Govt. Mints, Mumbai/ Calcutta/Hyderabad/Noida. The 1000 million pieces of coins are being imported from M/s Hyundai Corporation, Korea (300 million pieces of Rs. 2) and M/s Casa De Moneda De, Mexico (700 million pieces of Rs. 1). The notes are printed at the existing two Presses under Government control, viz. Bank Note Press, Dewas (MP) and Currency Notes Press, Nasik (Maharashtra), as also in the two Presses under the control of RBI, i.e. one at Salboni and the other at Mysore. The printed notes are being imported from the following firms:—

#### Name of Company

(A)

(a) *Consortium*

(i) De La Rue Currency & Security Print (formerly known as TOLR)

(ii) Debden Security Printing

(b) American Bank Note Corporation

(c) Bundesdruckerei GmbH\*

(B)

(a) *Consortium*

(i) Gissecke & Devrient GmbH

(ii) Francois Charles Oberthur Fiduciaire

(iii) British American Bank Note

(b) Canadian Bank Note Co.

\*This firm has not executed the agreement. The Bank has withdrawn its letter of offer and has decided to reallocate the 100 million pieces to the other two suppliers on a pro rate basis.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The printed notes are being imported for meeting the shortage as a one time measure.

[English]

#### Spoiled Currency Notes

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

(a) whether spoiled notes are very much in circulation in the country which is against norms and this can create a situation for circulation of fake notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome the situation?

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

(b) While it is difficult to estimate the exact quantity of soiled notes in circulation at any given point of time, during 1996-97 (July-June), the Reserve Bank of India had received around 4300 million pieces of soiled notes in all denomination back from circulation.

(c) The following steps have been taken to overcome the situation:

- (1) Coinisation of lower denomination notes of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and diversion of the capacity so released for printing notes of higher denominations.
- (2) Modernisation of the two note printing presses at Nashik and Dewas.
- (3) Setting up of two new note-printing presses under RBI, i.e. one at Mysore (Karnataka) and other in Salboni (West Bengal) with an annual capacity of 4950 million pieces each.
- (4) Import of 3,600 million pieces of printed notes from abroad, as a one time measure.

[Translation]

#### **Loan Relief Scheme**

533. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had cleared Loan Relief Scheme in 1989-90;

(b) whether as per the original scheme there was a provision in the scheme to compensate the full amount of relief to the Central Co-operative Banks/Primary Land Development Banks in advance or within the period of 15 days after receiving the claim;

(c) if so, whether the full amount of relief was compensated to the Central Cooperative Banks/Primary Land Development Banks;

(d) whether NABARD has slashed the amount of Rs. 14.69 crores at the rate of 5 per cent from the claims submitted by Central Cooperative Banks/Primary Land Development Banks of Rajasthan and if so, the justification thereof; and

(e) whether as per the scheme 'NABARD' has received claims from Rajasthan Cooperative Department to compensate the interest of Rs. 40.33 crores as the payment was not made in time and if so by when the payment of the said claim is likely to be made by the Union Government/NABARD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 which was formulated

and implemented by the Central Government during the year 1990. The Scheme envisaged providing debt relief to selected category of borrowers of public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) who complied with eligibility criteria prescribed under the scheme. The State Government also formulated their own schemes for borrowers of cooperatives. While the debt relief given by the public sector banks and RRBs were to be fully reimbursed by the Central Government, under the State scheme, the burden of providing debt relief by the cooperatives was to be shared between the Central Government and the State Governments on a 50:50 basis.

The claims lodged by the cooperative banks were settled by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in a phased manner after scrutiny of the claims and subject to availability of funds from the Central Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI). In terms of provisions of the same, NABARD was required to settle the claims within three months from the date of receipt of the claims, after appropriate scrutiny. As certain deficiencies were noticed in the implementation of the scheme by the cooperative banks, NABARD has advised the banks to ensure 100% verification of the claims to be done before the final claims were lodged. The claims lodged by banks were finally settled by NABARD on the basis of certificate as to the veracity of such claims as issued by the Chief Executives of these banks.

The final settlement of claims lodged by banks was made by NABARD after excluding the portion of penal interest/compound interest, wherever included in such claims, as stipulated under the scheme. However, where the concerned SCB/SLDB has certified that penal/compound interest had been excluded in their claims, no such exclusion was exercised. As a certificate was submitted by Rajasthan SLDB that penal and compound interest was not included in their claims, NABARD had settled their claims in full. However, as the Rajasthan SCB had not furnished such certificate, an amount of Rs. 14.68 crores was deducted from its claims in respect of penal and compound interest included by them in the said claims.

As per the guidelines, 31 March 1991 was the cut-off date prescribed by the Government for implementation of the ARDR Scheme. Although there was delay on the part of the banks in Rajasthan in the submission of the claim applications, advance payments were made by NABARD on the basis of estimated claims lodged by the banks. In the case of Rajasthan SCB, by the time the final claims were lodged with NABARD, a sum of Rs. 250.53 crores out of the total reimbursement of Rs. 278.83 crore had already been advanced. Similarly, a sum of 29.36 crore out of the total reimbursement of Rs. 32.62 crore was already made

to Rajasthan SLDB by the time the final claims were lodged with NABARD. Thus there has been no delay on the part of NABARD in reimbursing the claims lodged by Rajasthan SCB and SLDB. Further, there is no provision in the ARDR scheme to compensate banks for loss due to delay in the settlement of claims.

[English]

#### **FMs Foreign Visit**

534. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :  
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item caption "FMs Russian visit comes a cropper" appearing in 'Pioneer' dated October 9, 1997;

(b) if so, whether Russia continued to insist on payments only in hard currency for the supply of Reactors;

(c) if so, whether the Government have agreed to accept these terms;

(d) if so, the present status of the existing agreement for construction of nuclear Reactors for the Kudankulam Power Project in Tamil Nadu;

(e) the details of the other discussions held with Russian authorities; and

(f) the outcome thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Russia has indicated a preference for repayment of the Russian credit for the Kudankulam project to be in freely repatriable hard currency. The terms and conditions of the Russian credit, including the modalities of repayment thereof, are under discussion between the two Governments.

(d) Once the finance issues under discussion are settled between the two Governments, a Supplement to the inter-Governmental Agreement of 1988 is expected to be concluded, paving the way for the preparation by the Russian sides of a detailed project report (DPR) for the Kudankulam Project

(e) and (f) Finance Minister visited Russia on October 5-8, 1997 for the inter-sessional discussions between the two co-Chairmen of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission, and held wide ranging discussions with the Russian co-Chairman, First Deputy Prime Minister Mr. A. Chubais, and with Mr. M.E. Fradkov, the Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade of the Russian Federation, over issues of bilateral trade, economic, cultural and scientific

and technical cooperation. The status of implementation of the decisions of the last session of the inter-Governmental Commission, held in Moscow in February, 1997 was reviewed. A detailed calendar for the meetings of the bilateral Working Groups and Sub-Groups in the areas of Banking and Finance, Power and Non-conventional Energy sources, Environment and Natural Resources, Metallurgy, Petroleum, Information Technology, Culture, Science and Technology, Transport and Trade and Economic Cooperation, was also finalised in the run-up to the Fourth session of the inter-Governmental Commission, to be held in New Delhi from November 27-29, 1997.

#### **Import of Dispensable Medical Care Devices**

535. SHRI SUKHDEO PASWAN :  
SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the annual average of import of disposable medical care devices alongwith its value;

(b) the reasons for resorting to the imports of these medical care products;

(c) the impact of the import of such devices on the indigenous Products; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage indigenous manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The estimated value of import of disposable medical care devices such as syringes, sutures & needles, catheters, cannula during the years 1996-97 was Rs. 89 crores.

(b) considering that the best medical facilities should be available to the people, the medical care products are placed under open general licence.

(c) and (d) Under the new industrial policy announced in 1991 and further policy measures taken, indigenous manufacturers are free to take investment decisions including those relating to technology transfer and foreign equity participation to make their product globally competitive.

#### **IMF Recommendation**

536. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund has unveiled new recommendations for India including tax restructuring and reduction of expenditure, and to bring down



the public sector deficit and carry out what the world body considered essential reforms;

(b) if so, whether the key components of an adjustment strategy have been discussed by the IMF staff with the Indian authorities;

(c) if so, the outcome of these talks and whether recommendations made by International Monetary Fund have been discussed and the number of these have been accepted;

(d) whether the IMF recommended reduction in unproductive expenditure, such as, fertiliser and food subsidies; and

(e) is so, to what extent the Government has been able to accept them?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The 1997 Article IV consultations with India were concluded in Washington on April 29, 1997. The Executive Board discussed the Staff Report on July 2, 1997. Unless the member has accepted an IMF arrangement, the Article IV consultation remains only a collaborative exercise between the fund and the member and it does not set a binding agenda.

At the Executive Board of the IMF the authorities' target of lowering the central government deficit to 3% of GDP by the turn of the century was welcomed. They emphasized upon the need to expand the tax base, reduce tax exemptions and improve tax administration to complement the recent tax rate cuts, besides the need to reduce the overall public sector deficit. IMF Directors reiterated the necessity to move toward fiscal consolidation and push forward the structural reforms.

While welcoming the government's approach of promoting public discussion on the issue of subsidies, many directors felt the need for reorienting expenditure from unproductive spending such as subsidies, toward infrastructure and social sectors. On behalf of India our executive Director welcomed the balanced appraisal report and conveyed to the Board that we would benefit from their invaluable suggestions and continue in our pursuit to improve our economic performance.

### **Foreign Equity in Liquor**

537. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy of the Government for granting approval for foreign equity participation in the alcohol and liquor business in the country;

(b) the number of foreign liquor companies granted approval so far to acquire equity or establish business in India;

(c) the names of such companies and the percentage of foreign equity holding allowed to each company and the specific conditions attached in each case;

(d) the mechanism for monitoring compliance of the conditions imposed;

(e) the number and details of cases of violation/non-compliance of conditions have so far been detected or came to the Government's notice; and

(f) the action taken so far or proposed to be taken in each such case?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Government have been allowing foreign investment for manufacture of potable alcohol, including Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), within the existing licenced capacity of the Indian Joint Venture Partner so that no fresh capacity is created. All approvals are also subject to the condition that the proposed joint venture shall use the existing licenced capacity of the Indian Partner who must hold an existing valid licence.

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

### **Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme**

538. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achievements made in collection of direct taxes under Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) in the major cities of the country so far;

(b) the details of steps taken to seek cooperation of the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the details of collection made so far in Maharashtra particularly in Mumbai and share of income likely to accrue to the Income Tax professionals to clarify the provisions of the scheme and benefits likely to accrue under VDIS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No target for resource mobilisation have been fixed under the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997. As the scheme provides that complete confidentiality would be maintained in respect of the declarations, details are not being obtained centrally from the Commissioners regarding the number of declarants or the amounts disclosed, etc.

(b) State Governments have been requested to ensure that VDIS declarations should not form the basis of any enquiry under the relevant state acts.

(c) Details of collections made in Maharashtra cannot be given for the reasons given in part (a) above. Government is not aware of the incomes likely to arise to the Income tax professionals for helping assessee under the VDIS.

#### **Lalmaria Coal Mines**

539. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had earlier proposed to set up a separate coal company by amalgamating the Lalmaria Coal Mines and its adjoining coal mines but later abandoned it on some extraneous conditions;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Governments to set up a separate company for the development of the aforesaid coalfield area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Rajmahal Project of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) is situated at Lalmatia. A proposal for a new company with Rajmahal Coalfield and Deogarh Coalfield of ECL was placed before the 124th meeting of the Board of Directors of Coal India Limited held on 29.8.1992. The Board did not agree for creating a separate company because of low volume of output. However, it was suggested that Rajmahal may be put under the control of Director-in-Charge with the powers of Chairman-cum-Managing Director who could take steps for the fast development of these coalfields. The Government has a proposal for creation of a post of Director for Rajmahal group of mines.

[Translation]

#### **Smuggling of Opium, Ganja Etc.**

540. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of opium, ganja and silver which is going on in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh in connivance with local police officials; and

(b) if so, the measures taken so far by the Union Government to check it?

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

#### **Growth Rate**

541. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in the country's economy during the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to take immediate action to bring about improvement in the economy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) As per estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), total GDP growth at factor cost during 1996-97 was 6.8 per cent. With this, the Eighth Five Year plan (1992-1997) ended with an average annual growth rate of 6.5 per cent compared with 6.0 per cent during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

The government announced a number of economic reforms measures in the Budget 1997-98 to boost industrial and overall growth. These include reduction of income tax and corporate tax rates, rationalisation of excise and custom duties, removal of restrictions in agriculture, industry, trade, giving functional autonomy to PSUs, etc.

#### **Economic Reforms**

542. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interference of International monetary Fund and World Bank in Indian Economy is constantly increasing since the implementation of economic reforms;

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

(c) whether the poverty will be eliminated as a result of eight per cent growth rate of the country;

(d) if so, whether the foreign exchange reserve of India has increased due to economic reform but the balance of payment is not satisfactory; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) There is no interference of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) in the implementation of economic reforms.

(c) A durable solution for elimination of poverty is to bring about sustained growth in incomes and productive employment. This is the basic objective of economic reforms. Two main factors on which poverty reduction ultimately depends are (i) growth rate of population and (ii) growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). If the economy grows at eight per cent per annum on an average for next 10-15 years, it is possible that with appropriate policies, poverty can be eliminated within one generation.

(d) and (e) The economic stabilisation measures undertaken by the Government since 1991 have produced

favourable micro-economic outcomes, including immediate restoration of balance of payments stability. Indian foreign currency assets (Excluding gold and SDR) has improved continuously from a mere US \$ 1 billion in July, 1991 to US \$ 26.2 billion at the end of October, 1997.

[English]

#### **Dankuni Coal Complex**

543. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :  
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dankuni Coal Complex (DCC) has been suffering from severe financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DCC has huge loan outstanding with Coal India Ltd.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the bye-products of this unit are not properly marketed;

(f) so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Dankuni Coal Complex (DCC), a Low Temperature Carbonisation (LTC) plant at Dankuni, West Bengal, has incurred a loss of Rs. 20 crores (provisional) during the financial year (April 97 – October 97).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c).

(e) and (f) For proper marketing of bye-products, stockists have been appointed at Bombay and Calcutta. However, due to import liberalisation policy, tar chemicals are facing steep global competition.

(g) The following measures are being taken to improve the economic viability of DCC:—

(i) Dialogue with the Govt. of West Bengal to improve the off-take of gas to Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation (GCGSC) for improved capacity utilisation of the plant as well as to persuade the GCGSC to pay remunerative price of gas.

(ii) To produce value added chemicals like chloroxycenol, chlorophenol, etc.

#### **Indo-Dutch Project of Kanpur**

544. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 492 dated February 25, 1997 and state:

(a) whether agreement with regard to the Indo-Dutch project in Kanpur, U.P. which has already been cleared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests has been signed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which it is likely to be signed?

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

(b) to (d) A grant agreement for an amount of NLG 51.240 million for the project "Ganga Action Plan Support Project (GAPSP)" has been signed between Govt. of India and Govt. of Netherlands on 23/7/97. The objectives of the project are:

- to reduce the pollution load of the river Ganga;
- to improve the urban environment in the Indian context, thereby improving the living conditions of urban citizens, especially slum dwellers.

The duration of the project is expected to be 4 years from 1st October, 1996 to 1st October, 2000.

[Translation]

#### **Export of Granite**

545. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has prominent phase in the export of granite in the international market;

(b) whether India is facing stiff competition in this field in the International Market; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of granite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Indian granite exports have increased from Rs. 50 crores in 1985 to Rs. 1065 crore in 1995-96. India's share in the world market is 14%. India is facing stiff competition from countries like Peoples Republic of Korea, Italy, China, South Africa.

(c) In order to boost the export of processed granite, Ministry of Commerce have recently organised a Conference of State Ministers of Mines on development of granite industries and exports in which the problems of granite industry were discussed and suggestions made included grant of 80 HHC benefit to be made available to suppliers of granite blocks to EOUs; ceiling of duty free imports of capital goods be reduced and granite EOUs be permitted to import mining equipments also under the EPCG scheme among others.

*[English]***Profit/Loss of Nationalised Banks**

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

(a) the profit and loss of each nationalised bank functioning in the country during 1996–97; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to make the banks more effective and remunerative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India Balance Sheet the net profit and loss of nationalised banks for the 1996–97 functioning in the country are given below:

Name of the Bank	Net Profit/Loss (Amount in Rs. Crores)
Allahabad Bank	64.3
Andhra Bank	35.7
Bank of Baroda	276.53
Bank of India	360.02
Bank of Maharashtra	47.26
Canara Bank	147.4
Central Bank of India	150.83
Corporation Bank	125.13
Dena Bank	72.91
Indian Bank	– 389.09
Indian Overseas Bank	104.51
Oriental Bank of Commerce	180.25
Punjab & Sind Bank	20.00
Punjab National Bank	237.71
Syndicate Bank	66.96
UCO Bank	–176.23
Union Bank of India	215.68
United Bank of India	–113.64
Vijay Bank	18.96

(b) Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have been impressing upon the banks the need to strengthen their credit appraisal machinery and exercise close supervision and control over advances, take effective steps for improving recovery of non-performing assets as also reducing their overhead expenses. RBI/Government are monitoring the performance of the Nationalised banks periodically.

**Over-Charges by Banks**

547. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned “50 banks under probe for over charging customers” appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated October 11, 1997;

(b) whether the customers have been over-charged to the tune of hundreds of crores since 1991, taking advantage of the RBI circular issued in the year 1991;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they had advised all banks on 2nd September, 1991 that they should pass on the incidence of the interest tax, ‘pro rata’ to their borrowers. The banks were also advised by the RBI to follow a uniform practice in this regard in consultation with the Indian Banks’ Association (IBA). The IBA by a circular dated 9th October, 1991 advised their member banks that the rates of interest might be loaded with the interest tax of 3% and rounded off to the next higher 0.25%.

(d) RBI have reported that a number of complaints were received stating that rounding off the tax on interest rates to the next higher 0.25% was not justified since the incidence of interest goes up to much higher levels than warranted by the levy of 3%. Considering the difficulties faced by the customers and organisations and the fact that the banks are free to determine their own Prime Lending Rate on advances above Rs. 2.00 lakhs, RBI is of the view that there is no need to follow uniform practice of rounding off interest tax thereon. Accordingly, RBI have issued instructions to scheduled commercial banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) that the rate of interest with interest tax levied at 2% (since lowered from 3%) should not be rounded off.

**Investment in Coal Sector**

548. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal sector has remained starved of required level of investment due to restrictive provisions of Coal Mines Acts and Rules preventing private investment; and

(b) if so, the initiatives taken so far or proposed to be taken in the near future to encourage and facilitate massive investments needed in the coal sector and infrastructure

through appropriate changes in Coal Mines Act and Rules and grant Maharatna Status to Public Sector Enterprises to operate on commercial lines by removing the constraints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) After the nationalisation of the coal industry upto 1993 only Government companies could invest in coal mining. However, exercises undertaken by the Planning Commission indicate that the gap between demand and supply would increase by the end of the Ninth Plan and during the Tenth Plan periods even though investments by the Government companies have increased substantially.

(b) In order to enable greater investments in the coal sector, the Government are considering appropriate amendments in the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act in order to enable private investments. Discussions with the Unions have been initiated in order to address their concerns before a Bill is introduced.

#### **Investment by UTI in Private Company**

549. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the aggregate cost of Unlisted Equity shares of private companies purchased by Unit Trust of India during 1.4.92 to 31.3.96;

(b) the aggregate cost of Listed Equity shares of private companies purchased through private placement or brought-out deals by Unit Trust of India during 1.4.92 to 31.3.96;

(c) the aggregate cost of Unlisted Convertible debentures of private companies purchased by Unit Trust of India during 1.4.92 to 31.3.96;

(d) the aggregate cost of Listed Convertible debentures of private companies purchased through private placement or broughtout deals by Unit Trust of india during 1.4.92 to 31.3.96; and

(e) the aggregate Dividend received from the companies given in (a) and (b), separately, during 1.4.95 to 30.6.96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) UTI has informed that aggregate cost of unlisted equity shares purchased during the period from 1.7.92 to 30.6.96 was Rs. 75.23 crores.

(b) The aggregate cost of listed equity shares purchased through private placement brought-out deals during the period from 1.7.92 to 30.6.96 was Rs. 1258.60 crores.

(c) UTI has informed that it did not make any investments in unlisted convertible debentures of private limited companies.

(d) The aggregate cost of convertible debentures of private sector companies subscribed to by UTI through private placement brought-out deals during 1.7.92 to 31.3.96 was Rs. 462.27 crores.

(e) The aggregate amount of dividend received by UTI in respect of unlisted equity shares (referred to at (a)) was Rs. 0.10 crores and in respect of listed equity shares (referred to at (b)) was Rs. 58.99 crores.

#### **Nucleus Industrial Complex at Goindwal**

550. SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goindwal in Amritsar District of Punjab is India's first nucleus Industrial Complex:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the area of land acquired for the above complex; and

(d) the names and number of Public Sector Undertakings and multinational companies set up there?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India according to its Industrial Policy Statement of July, 1980, was to set up nucleus industrial complexes in the country for the economic development of areas identified as industrially backward. In pursuance of the above Statement, Government of Punjab in consultation with the Government of India decided to establish the first nucleus industrial complex at Goindwal Sahib in Amritsar district of Punjab and as a follow up measure, the Goindwal Industrial & Investment Corporation Ltd. was incorporated in the year 1981 to create infrastructure by way of black topped roads, piped water supply, underground sewerage, drainage, street lighting, uninterrupted power supply, educational facilities, telecommunication facilities, medical facilities and other service facilities to attract investment and setting up of industrial units. At present a spinning mill and a paper mill have started functioning. More industrial units are also likely to come up in the 9th Five year Plan. About 3,000 workers are in employment now. The State Govt. is also providing incentives for setting up of industrial units in the complex. The area has been linked with Beas by railway line.

(c) 909 acres of land have been acquired for the complex.

(d) M/s. Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd. and The Goindwal Cooperative Spinning Mills Ltd. have set up their units in the complex. No multinational company has set up any unit.

**Loan for Higher Education**

551. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some nationalised banks have provided loans to students for higher studies in India or abroad;

(b) if so, the details and conditions governing such loans; and

(c) the details of loans granted for the purpose during each of the last three years, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that nationalised banks have formulated schemes to provide educational loans to needy students for higher studies in and outside India. While banks have different norms, generally no margin money is required for such loans upto Rs. 25,000/- while for loans over Rs. 25,000/-, margin money ranging from 15–25% may be required to be paid. Further, banks generally stipulate

repayment by monthly installments commencing one year after completion of the course or one month after taking up employment by the student, whichever is earlier.

The rates of interest on loans at present are as under:—

Loan upto Rs. 25,000/-	12% per annum.
Loan above Rs. 25,000/- and Upto Rs. 2,00,000/-	not exceeding 13.5% per annum.
For Loan above Rs. 2,00,000/-	Banks are free to determine the rates of interest.

While educational loans are granted on clean basis, guarantee/collateral security is taken on the merits of each case.

A Statement indicating details of figures of outstanding of education loans for the period ended March, 1994, March, 1995 and March 1996 by nationalised banks (latest available), as provided by RBI is enclosed.

**Statement**

*Outstanding loans given to Education by Nationalised Banks in the period ended March 1994, March 1995 and March 1996*

S. No.	Name of Bank	March, 1994		March, 1995		March, 1996 (Provisional)	
		No. of A/cs.	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs.	Amount Outstanding	No. of A/cs.	Amount Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Allahabad Bank	117	34362	106	6495	101	7188
2.	Andhra Bank	906	63040	725	51435	887	55100
3.	Bank of Baroda	3531	117213	3157	126000	3329	83760
4.	Bank of India	3573	86057	3915	96086	8940	112862
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	641	12630	1056	26346	1077	21756
6.	Canara Bank	21692	549407	22996	651571	25498	857763
7.	Central Bank of India	2697	25232	2694	31534	3257	71911
8.	Corporation Bank	596	12885	708	17233	676	81238
9.	Dena Bank	1020	11028	1005	14382	922	15544

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Indian Bank	360	5820	531	34310	1167	71616
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	1051	16080	1221	36533	1169	30163
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	88	3108	83	3190	204	4491
13.	Punjab National Bank	769	20915	763	20273	586	25489
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	51	727	27	1710	27	1645
15.	Syndicate Bank	8186	129098	7573	125018	6313	110945
16.	United Bank of India	819	8825	734	9008	703	9526
17.	Union Bank of India	990	21960	1073	30337	1221	45848
18.	UCO. Bank	461	10950	687	9576	687	9576
19.	Vijaya Bank	835	12180	892	21608	946	33554
Total		48563	1141525	49951	1313056	52860	1586955

### **Banking Services for North-East**

552. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate financial support has been provided to the North-Eastern Development Financial Institution, established in 1995 at Guwahati for promoting banking services for the people of the North-East;

(b) whether any assessment has been made to ascertain the realistic needs of the institution;

(c) if so, whether any proposals from the Government of Assam and other States of the North-East have been submitted seeking more funds; and

(d) if so, whether any private initiatives have been encouraged to augment promotion of banking service in the region?

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

### **Trade with Burma**

553. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the assurances given by the Government to the businessmen and traders in March in Manipur while opening the border for trade with Burma in 1995;

(b) which of these have been fulfilled; and

(c) the reasons for non fulfilment of their promises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The Government had indicated during the opening of the border trade with Myanmar through Moreh—Tamu route in April, 1995 that certain facilities to traders visiting Myanmar would be extended in the form of carrying foreign exchange, infrastructure facilities would be improved and import of rice from Myanmar would be permitted. In pursuance of the same, Government have allowed to the traders visiting Myanmar carrying of foreign exchange upto US \$ 350 for 7 days. Infrastructural facilities including development of roads, banking, customs, immigration facilities etc., have also been provided. 22 tradable items have been identified for border trade with Myanmar and import of limited quantities of rice from Myanmar has also been permitted.

(c) Does not arise.

**World Bank Assistance to Maharashtra**

554. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided financial assistance to Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance and the areas/sector for which the World Bank has provided financial assistance;

(c) the details of the projects pertaining to the State pending with the Union Government for approval and since when; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, There are five World Bank aided ongoing State Sector projects in the State of Maharashtra, the details of which are as follows:—

Name of the project	Loan/credit Amount (US\$M)	Sector
1. Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation	109.09	Water Resource Mgt.
2. Bombay Sewage Disposal	192.00	Water Resource Mgt.
3. Maharashtra Power	337.33	Power
4. Second Maharashtra Power	350.00	Power
5. Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation	220.70	Urban

Besides these State Sector projects, there is one Multi-State project namely Second Technician Education project and several Central Sector projects in which the State of Maharashtra is beneficiary.

(c) and (d) No project proposal for possible World Bank assistance to the State of Maharashtra is pending with the Union Government.

**Small Paper Mills**

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

(a) the number of small paper mills set up during each of the last three years and the locations thereof;

(b) whether the Government are encouraging small paper mills to use agricultural material as raw material; and

(c) the ratio of paper provided by small paper mills vis-a-vis big paper mills in the country during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Paper Industry stands fully de-licensed. During the last three years the number of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum filed and LOIs issued for the paper industry are as under:—

Year	No. of IEMs	No. of LOIs
1995	355	13
1996	271	7
1997	128 (Upto 31.10.97)	2 (Upto 17.7.97)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Approximately 60% of the production is from small mills.

**Prices of Cardamom**

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

(a) whether cardamom is not fetching reasonable price;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations for ensuring remunerative price to the growers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The all India average price of small cardamom during the period August-July (1996-97) was Rs. 365.82 per kg. as compared to Rs. 201.58 per kg. during the period August-July (1995-96). During the last 3 months of the current year, the prices of cardamom have shown a mixed trend as can be adduced from details given below:—

1997		
August	:	Rs. 269.08/Kg.
September	:	Rs. 303.38/Kg.
October	:	Rs. 275.95/Kg.

(Source: Spices Board)

The mixed trend in prices is mainly due to the expectation of the market of increased production of small cardamom during the current year.



(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken for ensuring remunerative prices to the growers include:—

- (1) Licencing auctioneers in places near consumption centres such as Bombay.
- (2) Alerting Deptt. of Revenue and all other customs authorities and their field formations against the complaints of alleged smuggling of cardamom from Guatemala through Nepal;
- (3) Promotion of cardamom in consumer packs in North and West India; and
- (4) Reimbursement of airfreight charges at the rate of Rs. 20 per Kg. for export of small cardamom in consumer packs to Middle east destinations and exemption on payment of cess on export of cardamom.

#### **Central Assistance**

557. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tenth Finance Commission has not made recommendations for providing plan revenue deficit grant to some States;

(b) whether some States are facing difficulties for making provision of revenue expenditure under the plan, particularly;

(c) if so, whether Union government propose to provide additional Central assistance to State like Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) has not recommended plan revenue deficit grant to States.

(b) to (d) The total devolution to States under Tenth Finance Commission during 1995–2000 is estimated to be Rs. 2,26,643 crore as compared to Rs. 1,06,036 crore recommended by Ninth Finance Commission (NFC) for the period 1990–95. The total devolution to Orissa as per the recommendation of TFC for 1995–2000 is estimated to be Rs. 9706.55 crore as compared to Rs. 5523.04 crore recommended by NFC over the preceding quinquennium 1990–95. There is adequate increase in the total devolution to States including Orissa State as recommended by TFC during 1995–2000.

The recommendation of TFC have already been accepted by Government of India. Accordingly the devolution of resources from Centre to States during 1995–2000 would be as per the recommendations of TFC.

The requirement of resources for funding the Annual plans of States is assessed by Planning Commission in

consultation with States. The annual plan of Orissa for 1997–98 as finalised by Planning Commission is fully funded. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government of India to give additional Central assistance to the State in addition to what has already been allocated by Planning Commission.

#### **Financial Scams Unearthed by CBI**

558. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of financial scams in banks, Government offices etc. have been unearthed by the CBI during 1997 (upto November 1);

(b) the names of these banks/bodies and the amount involved in each case; and

(c) the action taken in this regard and the amount expected to be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ)

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

[Translation]

#### **Sick Industries in Bihar**

559. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the big sick industries in Bihar;

(b) the date from which they have been closed down and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to revive some valley Portland Cement Factory;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be revived;

(e) whether the Union government proposed to revive various sick industries in Bihar; and

(f) if so, the industry wise steps taken by the Union Government for reviving those industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f) : Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country in compiled by the Reserve bank of India. According to the latest report, at the end of March, 1996, there were 56 non-SSI sick units in Bihar. These are mainly Engineering, Electrical, Sugar, Textiles, Paper, Iron & Steel and Chemical Units.

A number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness.

The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of industrial sickness which, inter-alia, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India for Banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity fund, etc.

[English]

#### **Cable Theft in CCI**

560. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of theft of cable worth Rs. 5 lakhs has occurred in Nayagaon (Madhya Pradesh) unit of Cement Corporation of India in the first week of October, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such incidents of theft of cable and other items have occurred earlier also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) An incident of theft of cable took place at Nayagaon Cement Factory in the night of 2/3rd October, 97. Copper conductor power cable of about 50 Mtrs. length, worth around Rs. 1.05 lakhs was stolen. The insulation material of the stolen cable has since been recovered by the police.

(c) : Yes, Sir.

(d) The details for Nayagaon unit for the last few years are as follows:—

1993-94	—	Theft of items worth Rs. 56,000 took place.
1994-95	—	Theft of items worth Rs. 29,000 took place.
1995-96	—	Nil.
1996-97	—	Nil.
1997-98	—	as at (a) above.

In all cases of theft immediately FIR was lodged with police. In addition, necessary remedial measures including strengthening the security in the theft prone area, improving lighting etc. were taken to avoid occurrence of such incidents. Items worth Rs. 20,000 were recovered against the theft which took place in 1993-94.

#### **Gazitiland Disaster**

561. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry committee which was constituted to enquire into Gazitiland mines disaster has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a).

#### **Nationalisation of Pahargora Coal Mines**

562. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been received by the Government for Nationalisation of Pahargora Coal Mine at Salanpur in Burdwan District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken in the matter;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of answer given to para (a) of the question.

[Translation]

#### **Supply of Coal for Domestic Use**

563. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal is provided to the labourers working in Western Coal Fields Limited of Coal India Limited for domestic purposes;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any reports that most of the labourers sell this coal to the coal trader;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether instead of this coal L.P.G. connection are likely to be provided to the labourers; and

(f) if so, by when this facility is likely to be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the intelligence report received by Western coalfields the workers/labourers residing in company colonies/colliery premises are not in a position to sell coal illegally due to strict checks/control exercised by the security staff. However, the workers who are residing outside the colliery in private accommodation (away from the colliery area) have a

tendency to sell coal to private parties/coal traders, for their personal gains. To ensure that the issued coal reaches the destination, random surprise checks by security are carried out from time to time. Details of such cases/coal seized by the security are given in the statement.

(e) and (f) L.P.G. connections are being provided to the labourers instead of free coal in a phased manner. This facility is being provided in a phased manner and is likely to be completed by five years depending on availability of gas depots and preparedness of the workers to accept it.

### **Statement**

S.No.	Date	Area	Unit	Quantity Involved	Amount Involved	Quantity Recovered	Amount Recovered	No. of Persons Arrested	F.I.R. No.
(1)	25.5.95	Ballarpur	BOCM.	1 M.T.	600/-	1 M.T.	600/-	One	<u>459/95</u> 3/17 EC. Act.
(2)	25.5.95	Ballarpur	BOCM.	1. M.T.	600/-	1 M.T.	600/-	One	<u>460/95</u> 3/7 EC. Act.
(3)	25.5.95	Ballarpur	BOCM.	1. M.T.	600/-	1 M.T.	600/-	One	<u>461/95</u> 3/7 EC. Act.
(4)	6.1.97	Ballarpur	Sasti.	1.5 M.T.	1500/-	1.5 M.T.	1500/-	Three	<u>2/97, 3/97, 4/97</u> 41(1) D IPC.
TOTAL :				4.5 M.T.	3300/-	4.5 M.T.	3300/-	Six	

### **Fiscal Policies**

564. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern States have demanded greater autonomy in formulating fiscal policies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (a) No specific proposal demanding greater autonomy in formulating fiscal policies has been received from the States of Northern zone, in this Ministry.

(b) Question does not arise.

### **GIC**

565. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether GIC (General Insurance Corporation) and its subsidiary companies are holding periodical structured meetings with the representatives of Employees' Unions/Associations;

(b) if so, the details of structured meetings called by GIC and its subsidiary companies in the last three years alongwith the details of Employees' Union/Associations called by them;

(c) whether some of the Employees' Unions/Associations have not been called by New India Assurance Company Limited in the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Import of Consumer Goods**

566. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a part of liberalised trade policy restriction on import of consumer goods are being removed in a phased manner; and

(b) if so, the item-wise names of these consumer items?

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

(b) The items in India's plan for the removal of residual quantitative restrictions on imports, in the phased manner, in respect of which import restrictions are maintained for balance of payments purposes include raw materials, components, capital goods and consumer goods, covering agricultural, textiles and industrial goods, such as vegetables and fruits, marine products, dairy products, processed foods, yarns and fabric, made-ups, chemicals and fertilizers, cosmetics, footwear, headgear and the like, gems and jewellery, metals and metal manufactures, mechanical and electric machinery, appliances, and instruments, and automobiles.

#### **Property Right Act**

567. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to protect farmer's right in intellectual Property Right Act; and

(b) if so, please state legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Farmers' rights have been protected in the draft of the Plant Variety Protection and Farmers' Rights Bill, 1997.

[Translation]

#### **Items in Wholesale and Consumer Price Index**

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a big difference in the number of items selected for wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index in the country;

(b) if so, the number of items selected for these Indices, Index-wise;

(c) the consumer's standard on which these items were selected keeping in view of their use; and

(d) the percentage of these consumers to the total population of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) There are 447 items included in the Wholesale Price Index whereas in the CPI(IW) the number is 260 for commodities and services. The CPI is constructed based on family budget survey of industrial workers; whereas Wholesale Price Index reflects the wholesale prices of selected traded goods in the economy. The difference between WPI series and the CPI series arises on account of distinct objectives that each of the two series is required to serve.

#### **Wholesale and Consumer Price Indices**

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is vast gap between Wholesale Price Index and the Consumer Price Index;

(b) if so, the position of the above indices in the last week of September, 1997;

(c) the reason for such a vast gap between these two indices;

(d) whether the Government propose to take any steps to abridge this gap; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Wholesale Price Index monitors the wholesale prices of selected traded goods in the economy whereas Consumer Price Index (IW) reflects the retail prices of a basket of commodities and selected services consumed by the Industrial Workers. The two series reflect movements in prices of different basket of commodities. The WI is computed weekly while CPI is computed month-wise. WPI (based 1981-82) stood at 329.1 (P) in the last week of September, 97, the CPI (IW) (1982=100) was 361 in September, 1997.

(c), (d) and (e) The two price indices reflect movements in prices of different basket of commodities and therefore are not strictly comparable.

*[English]***Revival of Textile Mills of Ahmedabad**

570. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat in consultation with the Textile Labour Association has submitted a project called 'Ahmedabad Project' for rejuvenation and revival of some 14 textile mills in Ahmedabad against a provision of 150 crore for revival of Ahmedabad Textile Mill in the Central Budget;

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

(c) whether the project was accepted;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken for revival of these mills?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Exemption on Income-Tax on Interest of N.S.S.**

571. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether interest on the deposits under N.S.S. (1992) Scheme is exempted from Income-tax or is it liable to tax with facility under Section 80-L;

(b) whether the amount of deposit under N.S.S. (1992) is exempted from income-tax at the time of withdrawal on maturity; and

(c) whether on the analogy of N.S.S. (1987) Scheme, the nominee or legal heir of the Account-holder of N.S.S. (1992) is exempted from tax liability on the death of the Account-holder as in the case of N.S.S. (1987) Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Interest on deposits under National Savings Scheme contained in the National Savings Scheme Rules, 1992 is taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961. The provision of Section 80L of Income Tax act, 1961 is applicable in respect of such interest.

(b) Amount of deposit under National Savings Scheme, 1992 is exempted from Income-tax at the time of withdrawal on maturity. Only interest on the deposit is taxable income under Income Tax Act, 1961.

(c) National Savings Scheme Rules, 1992 provides that if the nominee or legal heir receives the interest on deposit on which the deceased would have been liable to pay tax had he not died, the nominee or legal heir shall be liable to pay tax on the same.

**Vysya Bank Ltd.**

572. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH 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 "It took 17 years for acquittal of four accused in bank fraud" appearing in the Times of India dated July 26, 1997;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) whether frauds committed in the Vysya Bank Ltd. could have been avoided had the senior officers in the bank been little vigilant;

(d) if so, the action taken by the bank against the officers who failed to be vigilant;

(e) whether none of the officer who issued cheque books, and cleared the bogus cheques on fake signatures/ documents have not yet been chargesheeted though more than two years have passed; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the bank propose to issue chargesheets to those officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Government have seen the news-item referred to in the Question.

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

**Impact of Fifth Pay Commission Report**

573. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial burden on the Union Government due to the acceptance of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission during 1997-98 and the next three years and the scheme formulated to meet this financial burden;

(b) whether it has been ensured that additional increase in the salary would not have adverse impact on the core sector such as Primary Education. Health and Rural Development etc;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) the details of State Governments which give pay scale to their employees at par with the Union Government employees;

(e) whether any scheme has been formulated to meet the additional financial burden on the State Governments caused by the acceptance of the recommendations of the Pay Commission and to ensure that the infrastructure of the States do not affect adversely; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) to (c) The additional annual expenditure due to the acceptance of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission is estimated at Rs. 10200 crores. In addition, arrears to the extent of Rs. 4800 crores are estimated to be paid in 1997-98 and Rs. 3500 crores in 1998-99. An amount of Rs. 11250 crores has already been provided in BE 1997-98 and a further sum of Rs. 3750 crores is being provided in RE 1997-98. Additional funds are being provided through savings by an overall cut of 5% on Plan and Non-Plan expenditure and through additional resource mobilisation.

(d) to (f) The subject of salaries of the employees of the State Governments falls under State List. Thus, it is for the respective State Governments to consider whether they intend to give pay scales to their employees at par with Union Govt. employees or not. It is also for the respective State Governments to raise additional funds on that account, if necessary.

#### **Income Tax Act, 1974**

574. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some deposits made under compulsory Deposit (Income-Tax Payers) Act, 1974 (now repealed on 1.4.96) are still lying with the deposit offices;

(b) if so, the total amount of these unclaimed deposits still lying with the Government; and

(c) the mode in which Government propose to us this amount which is not withdrawn by the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The outstanding balance held under the Compulsory Deposits (Income Tax Payers) Scheme with the various Banks as on 30.6.1997 was about Rs. 65.66 crore. Reserve Bank of India has already advised all the banks to write to the depositors individually to withdraw their outstanding deposits.

*[Translation]*

#### **Metallic Yarn Industry**

575. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of industries included in the category of small industries and the efforts made by the Government to promote them;

(b) whether the Government have received any memorandum from various organisations on the products of metallic yarn;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have provided concessions to metallic yarn industry by including it in the category of small industry;

(e) if so, the time since when the orders in this regard have been implemented and the details of concessions provided as per the orders and the time since when;

(f) whether the income tax officers are realising the outstanding amount from metallic yarn industry despite the orders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Small Scale Industry includes an industrial undertaking in which investment in fixed assets in plant & machinery whether held on ownership terms or on lease or by hire purchase does not exceed Rs. 60 lakhs and investment limit in plant & machinery for ancillary units is Rs. 75 lakhs.

821 items are presently reserved for production in small scale sector. Any other items in addition to reserved items may also be manufactured in small scale sector.

Some of the incentives provided to small scale industries are

- (i) Land, building and other infrastructure facilities in identified areas.
- (ii) Concessional rate of excise duty upto specified turnover limits.
- (iii) Preference in Central Government purchase programme.

In addition State Governments may give incentives as per their industrial policy.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) All small scale industrial units including metallic yarn units can avail the incentives as mentioned in (a) above.

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

[English]

**Accommodation to Judges/Advocates  
of High Courts**

576. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many judges/advocates of High Courts are not having proper accommodation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) Section 22A(1) of the High Court Judges (Condition of Service) Act, 1954 provides that every Judge shall be entitled without payment of rent to the use of an official residence. It is for the respective State Government to provide rent free residence to all Judges of its High Court. However, due to shortage of proper accommodation, some of the Judges of the High Courts have not been provided with residential accommodation. For the advocates of High Courts, there is no statutory requirement to provide official residence to them.

(c) The Central Government has been reiterating to the State Governments from time to time, to provide proper accommodations to all Judges of High Courts. The Central Government is also providing financial assistance on plan side to all States and Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme which includes construction of courts and residential buildings for High Court Judges.

**Loan given By N.Bs**

577. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) loan given by Nationalised Banks to large, medium and small scale industries in the country during the 8th plan State-Wise, industry-wise and year-wise;

(b) the percentage of loan given to small scale sector to the total loan disbursed during the same period; and

(c) the loans outstanding against these sectors, State-wise and sector-wise?

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

**Refinance to Kerala State Cooperative  
Bank by NABARD**

578. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action on the letter of Kerala Government regarding NABARD's refusal to refinance facilities to the Kerala State Cooperative Bank and the Kerala State Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank from March 1997 onwards; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Government/State Co-operative Bank for revamping the Co-operative credit structure on sound lines. The MoU, inter-alia, contains a covenant whereby the Chief Executive Officers of Co-operative institutions could be appointed/replaced only in consultation with NABARD. This has consequently been incorporated as one of the terms and conditions governing sanction/release of refinance by NABARD and it has been stipulated that non-compliance with this requirement will lead to stoppage of refinance.

In so far as Kerala is concerned, the State Government has passed orders for replacing the Chief Executives of both Kerala State Cooperative Bank (KSCB) and Kerala State Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (KSCARDB) without prior consultation with NABARD. NABARD has, therefore, suspended the release of refinance to both the institutions, under all lines of credit, in terms of the relevant covenant governing sanction/release of refinance facility. However, subsequent to the discussions held by Chairman, NABARD with senior officials of the State Government and assurance given by them that they would abide by the various covenants of MoU entered into with NABARD, refinance facilities were restored by the end March, 1997.

NABARD has provided refinance support to an extent of Rs. 1.15 crores to KSCB and Rs. 29.09 crores to KSCARDB during the current financial year until 31st July, 1997.

### **Full Convertibility of Rupee**

579. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have taken steps in the direction of full convertibility of rupee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main objectives thereof;

(c) whether the convertibility of rupee will help in achieving satisfactory growth rate of our economy and will be able to attract foreign investment in the long run; and

(d) if not, the reasons for restoring to this measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The rupee was made convertible on current account in August 1994. A Committee headed by Shri S.S. Trapore on capital account convertibility appointed by the Reserve Bank of India had submitted its report on May 30, 1997. Its recommendations are under examination. RBI has decided to act on some of the recommendations. These include relaxations for exchange earners, in respect of retention of exchange earnings, to Indian project exporters in respect of prior approval from RBI while executing projects abroad, to authorised dealers in respect of forfeiting of medium term export receivables. The relaxation has also been accorded to corporate entities for opening offices abroad without need for prior approval from RBI, banks for providing credit/non-credit facilities to Joint Ventures (JVs)/wholly owned subsidiaries abroad. Banks will also be allowed to provide at their discretion, buyers credit/acceptance finance for facilitating exports of goods and services from India. Indian funds managers including mutual funds registered with SEBI will be allowed to invest in the overseas market subject to SEBI guidelines. Government has already announced that loans for period with average maturity of ten years and above will be outside the ECB ceiling. Some of the recommendations which have been partly implemented relate to borrowings/investments in the overseas markets by the authorised dealers/banks, forward cover for NRIs and gold imports by banks. Full convertibility is expected to promote free flow of foreign capital supplement domestic savings and lead to higher economic growth.

(b) Does not arise.

### **Vysya Bank Limited**

580. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural/rural branches opened in the country by the Vysya Bank Ltd. as per norms laid down by RBI;

(b) whether these branches are working as per the RBI directions;

(c) number of loans given by the bank through such branches during the last three years giving the details of amount thereof; and

(d) the amount lost by the bank as bad debt during the last three years in these branches giving the reasons for the non-recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that Vysya Bank Limited has not opened any specialised agricultural financial branches. However, the bank's rural branches number is 114 as on 30.6.97.

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

### **Collaboration with Germany**

581. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects set up in the country in collaboration with Germany, sector-wise, State-wise;

(b) the total foreign investment made therein;

(c) whether some new projects proposed to be set up by the Government in collaboration with Germany during 1997-98; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of projects approved so far project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Sir, a total number of 1391 foreign direct investment proposals (Financial and Technical) envisaging foreign direct investment of Rs. 5232.97 crores from Germany have been cleared by the Government during the period from 1.8.91 to 30.9.97. The statements showing sector-wise and state-wise break-up of such proposals are given in the Statement—I and II.

The details of such proposal viz. name of the Indian company, name and country of the Foreign Collaborator, equity investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by Indian Investment centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.



**Statement—I**

*Sector wise Break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration Approved for Germany During the Period from 01/08/91 to 30/09/97*

Sr. No.	Name of Industry	TOTAL			Amount of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	% to Total Amount Approved
		Total	Tech	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	<b>METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIES</b>					
	Ferrous	43	27	16	1153.25	22.04
	Non-Ferrous	6	3	3	4.00	0.08
	Special Alloys	5	6	0	0.00	0.00
	Misc. (other Items)—Metallurgy	7	5	2	1.34	0.03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1158.59</b>	<b>22.14</b>
2	<b>FUELS</b>					
	Power	4	0	4	508.15	9.71
	Oil Refinery	6	4	2	1.25	0.02
	Others (Fuels)	7	4	3	43.38	0.83
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>552.78</b>	<b>10.56</b>
3	<b>BOILERS AND STEAM GENERATING PLANTS</b>	12	7	5	51.96	0.99
4	<b>PRIME MOVERS OTHER THAN ELECTRICAL</b>	14	8	6	28.87	0.55
5	<b>ELECTRICALS EQUIPMENT</b>					
	Electrical Equipment	158	95	63	750.30	14.34
	Computer Software Industry	28	3	25	18.55	0.35
	Electronics	22	8	14	26.41	0.50
	Others (S/W)	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>795.26</b>	<b>15.20</b>
6	<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>					
	Telecommunications	13	7	6	52.12	1.00
	Cellular Mobile/Basic Telephone Service	3	0	3	303.80	5.18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>355.92</b>	<b>6.80</b>
7	<b>TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY</b>					
	Automobile Industry	62	33	29	161.36	3.08
	Air/Sea Transport	6	1	5	5.13	0.10
	Passenger Cars	4	0	4	328.98	6.29
	Auto Ancillaries/Parts	5	3	2	23.37	0.44
	Others (Transport)	10	6	4	83.60	1.60
	<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>602.52</b>	<b>11.51</b>

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY	257	163	94	133.92	2.56
9	MACHINE TOOLS	36	22	14	14.12	0.27
10	AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY	2	2	0	0.00	0.00
11	EARTH-MOVING MACHINERY	10	6	4	11.67	0.22
12	MISCELLANEOUS MECHANICAL & ENGINEERING	103	39	64	209.01	3.99
13	COMMERCIAL, OFFICE & HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT	4	3	1	0.70	0.01
14	MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES	5	2	3	16.20	0.31
15	INDUSTRIAL INSTRUMENTS	29	14	15	12.89	0.25
16	SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS	4	2	2	11.70	0.22
17	MATHEMATICAL, SURVEYING AND DRAWING	1	0	1	0.12	0.22
18	FERTILIZERS	6	5	1	1.00	0.02
19	CHEMICALS (OTHER THAN FERTILIZERS)	153	87	66	728.16	13.19
20	PHOTOGRAPHIC RAW FILM AND PAPER	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
21	DYE-STUFFS	1	0	1	15.78	0.30
22	DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS	31	14	17	66.46	1.27
23	TEXTILES (INCLUDE DYED, PRINTED)	26	15	11	17.83	0.34
24	PAPER AND PULP INCLUDING PAPER PRODUCT	14	8	6	47.00	0.90
25	FERMENTATION INDUSTRIES	9	5	4	20.95	0.40
26	FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES					
	Food Products	38	7	31	84.21	1.61
	Marine Products	1	0	1	0.08	0.00
	Total	39	7	32	84.30	1.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27	VEGETABLE OILS AND VANASPATI	2	1	1	0.03	0.00
28	SOAPS, COSMETICS AND TOILET PREPARATIONS	4	2	2	1.35	0.03
29	RUBBER GOODS	12	10	2	0.10	0.00
30	LEATHER, LEATHER GOODS AND PICKERS	22	3	19	20.15	0.39
31	GLASS	4	1	3	10.44	0.20
32	CERAMICS	13	7	6	9.66	0.18
33	CEMENT AND GYPSUM PRODUCTS	6	4	2	91.00	1.74
34	CONSULTANCY SERVICES					
	Design & Eng. Services	19	4	15	17.79	0.34
	Management Services	10	2	8	3.67	0.07
	Marketing	4	0	4	23.32	0.45
	Total	33	6	27	44.78	0.86
35	SERVICE SECTOR					
	Financial	6	0	6	2.59	0.05
	Non-Financial Services	9	0	9	28.22	0.54
	Banking Services	1	0	1	0.21	0.00
	Hospital & Diagnostic Centres	1	0	1	18.00	0.34
	Other Services	1	0	1	1.33	0.03
	Total	18	0	18	50.34	0.96
36	HOTEL & TOURISM					
	Hotel & Restaurants	11	0	11	1.29	0.02
	Tourism	3	0	3	0.16	0.00
	Total	14	0	14	1.45	0.03
37	TRADING	23	0	23	6.59	0.13
38	MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES					
	Horticulture	3	1	2	1.30	0.02
	Agriculture	3	1	2	1.55	0.03
	Floriculture	2	0	2	1.00	0.02
	Others (Misc Industries)	84	61	23	55.54	1.06
	Total	92	63	29	59.39	1.13
	GRAND TOTAL	1391	713	678	5232.97	

**Statement II**

***State-wise break up of Foreign Collaboration & Foreign Direct Investment Proposals Approved for Germany during (August, 1991 to September, 1997)***

State	No. of Approvals			Amt. of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	% to Total
	Total	Tech	Fin		
Andhra Pradesh	36	12	24	65.20	1.25
Assam	1	1	0	0.00	1.25
Bihar	24	18	6	24.80	0.47
Gujarat	69	42	27	362.43	6.93
Haryana	58	23	35	155.13	2.96
Himachal Pradesh	5	5	0	0.00	2.96
Jammu and Kashmir	1	1	0	0.00	2.96
Karnataka	82	28	54	1032.62	19.73
Kerala	11	4	7	2.36	0.05
Madhya Pradesh	17	9	8	37.21	0.71
Maharashtra	177	92	85	597.21	11.41
Orissa	8	4	4	461.27	8.81
Punjab	6	3	3	2.15	0.04
Rajasthan	25	9	16	22.28	0.43
Tamil Nadu	98	42	56	102.59	1.96
Tripura	1	0	1	0.68	0.01
Uttar Pradesh	55	25	30	103.43	1.98
West Bengal	49	21	28	100.84	1.93
Chandigarh	1	0	1	0.06	0.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15	14	1	8.40	0.16
Delhi	40	3	37	307.45	5.88
Goa	7	6	1	0.04	0.00
Pondicherry	8	1	7	105.27	2.01
Daman & DIU	6	3	3	2.47	0.05
Other (States not Indicated)	591	347	244	1739.08	33.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>1391</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>5232.97</b>	

**Weavers Welfare Scheme**

582. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have selected 40 districts of various States throughout the country to implement welfare Schemes aimed at welfare of weavers;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh *have urged the Union Government for extension of the Scheme to East Godavari and Karimnagar Districts also;*

(c) *If so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto and the total amount provided to each district, and*

(d) the number of weavers likely to be benefited therefrom.

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

(a) The Government of India have identified 40 districts in various States/Union Territories as growth centres for their integrated development.

(b) and (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have urged for inclusion of East Godavari and Nalgonda Districts. These districts have been identified on selective basis considering the concentration of handlooms in the area. Government is not planning to expand the list to cover any other district of the Country.

(d) The number of weavers likely to be covered will be based on the proposals forwarded by the State Government.

**Monopolies Restrictive Trade Practices**

583. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General (Investigation and Registration) of the Monopolies Restrictive Trade Practices Commission enjoys the statutory powers to initiate criminal proceedings under section 49 of the Monopolies Restrictive Trade Practices Act of 1969;

(b) if so, whether prior permission of the Monopolies Restrictive Trade Practices Commission is necessary for such prosecution;

(c) if so, under which provisions of the Acts, Rules or the Regulations; and

(d) the details of the similar provisions of the Acts, and Rules in Canada, America, UK, Australia wherein such prior permission is required or not required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The

issue relating to powers of Director General (Investigation and Registration) under section 49 of the MRTP Act, 1969 is under consideration before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission in Prosecution No. 4/96 in RTPE No. 267/95 in the matter of Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company Limited. The matter is listed before the full Bench of the Commission for hearing on 20th January, 1998. The matter is subjudice.

(d) On the lines of Section 49 of the MRTP Act, 1969 there are provisions in the Fair Trading Act, 1973, UK and Australian Trade Practices Act, 1965-1966 which stipulate that any person who refuses or willfully neglects to furnish required information to the designated officer i.e., Director General of Fair Trading or Commissioner shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to fine or imprisonment.

**Most Favoured Nation Status**

584. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan has expressed its desire to improve relations with India and the Pak Commerce Minister has stressed that free trade with India is not possible for grant of "Most Favoured Nation" status to India by Pakistan unless outstanding political issues including Kashmir are resolved;

(b) if so, whether he also turned down a proposal to set up an Indo-Pakistan Chambers of Commerce, when a delegation of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) recently visited Pakistan;

(c) if so, the extent to which this controversial stand affected and reflected in the Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan recently; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Government have seen media reports on the views purported to have been expressed by the Pakistan Commerce Minister that unless political issues including Kashmir issue are settled, there can neither be free trade with India nor will Pakistan agree to accord 'Most Favoured Nation' status to this country. Government have also seen media reports to the effect that the Pakistan Government is reported to have taken exception to the step taken by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce by signing a Joint Declaration with PHDCCI for setting up a Indo-Pak Joint Study Committee. However, during the

recent Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan, India conveyed its readiness to build economic and trade relations based on mutual benefits.

[Translation]

#### **Handloom Societies**

585. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Handloom Societies being run by the Government in North Chhotanagpur and South Chhotanagpur;

(b) the amount of assistance provided to them during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(c) the number of weavers being benefited therefrom?

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

(a) No handloom societies in North and South Chhotanagpur are run by the Government. Several Cooperative Societies are however, working in the area as members of the Chhotanagpur Regional Handloom Weavers Cooperative Union Ltd., Ranchi.

(b) The amount of assistance provided to these societies during the year 1995-96 & 1996-97 is Rs. 19.84 lakhs and Rs. 16,000 respectively.

(c) Approximately 2000 weavers have benefitted during the years 1995-96 & 1996-97 with the above assistance.

#### **Economic Reforms Programme**

586. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :  
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to include poverty eradication programme in economic reforms programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Growth with social justice has always been one of the basic objectives of our planning over the years. Government has adopted a multi-thrust approach with many anti-poverty, social welfare and employment generation programmes. The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) announced by the Government in July, 1996, underpins the strong commitment of the government to the development of social sectors for achieving distributive justice. This commitment is reflected in the increase in

Central Government plan and non-plan allocations for social services as a ratio of GDP at market prices which has risen to a record high at 1.19 per cent for the last two years, i.e. 1997-98 (BE) and 1996-97 (BE). An additional amount of Rs. 3300 crores of Central assistance to States and Union Territories has also been allocated in the 1997-98 Budget for expenditure on basic minimum services.

[English]

#### **Meeting on Slow Growth Rate**

587. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :  
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister called the meeting of the Industrialists during October 1997 to discuss the slow growth rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of Industrialists attended the meeting;

(c) the main topics discussed at the meeting alongwith the decisions arrived at;

(d) whether tapping of telephone was a major issue discussed at the meeting; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister on 14.10.97 with the industrialists of manufacturing sectors to discuss issues influencing the performance and competitiveness of the Indian Industry. 57 industrialists attended the meeting.

(c) to (e) During the meeting, issues relating to various sectors including cement, automobile, capital goods, paper/newsprint, leather, steel, textiles, electronics/software were discussed and decisions taken on relevant issues such as constitution of a small group to look into the rationalisation of duty structure for import of capital goods, particularly in the context of Zero Duty Import; encouraging house construction activity not only to augment the housing stock but also to give the needed push to other core sectors of the economy; preparing a new people-friendly, eco-friendly and industry-friendly forest policy; to review the pace of public investment in key sectors like power, oil, coal, telecom, road, etc.

#### **Performance of Manufacturing Sector**

588. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state?

(a) whether the Prime Minister has assured that the pace of the public sector spending on infrastructure is likely to be reviewed and an Inter-ministerial group set up to examine problems faced by the capital goods sector owing to easier imports;

(b) if s, the details thereof;

(c) whether Prime Minister after having the meeting with the industrialists, announced a number of measures to stimulate demand and ensure a sharp upturn in the performance of the manufacturing sector during the rest of the financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) In the meeting held under Chairmanship of Prime Minister on 1.10.97 with industrialists on manufacturing sectors, it was decided to constitute a small group to examine issues of rationalisation of duty structure for import of capital goods and to review the pace of public investment in key sectors.

(c) and (d) During the meeting, issues relating to various sectors including cement, automobile, capital goods, paper/newsprint, leather, steel, textiles electronics/ software were discussed and decisions taken on relevant issues such as constitution of a small group to look into the rationalisation of duty structure for import of capital goods, particularly in the context of Zero Duty Import; encouraging house construction activity not only to augment the housing stock but also to give the needed push to other core sectors of the economy; preparing a new people-friendly, eco-friendly and industry-friendly forest policy; to review the pace of public investment in key sectors like power, oil, coal telecom, road, etc.

#### **NABARD Loan for Houses**

589. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD proposes to introduce any new housing schemes for Weaker Sections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the apex financial institution for, inter-alia, providing refinance to banks for agriculture and allied activities. Housing finance has not been taken up by NABARD so far and as such they have no proposal.

#### **Subsidy on Non-Merit Goods**

590. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :  
KUMARI UMA BHARTI :  
SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw the subsidy given on non-merit goods;

(b) if so, the details of such non-merit goods on which subsidy is likely to be withdrawn;

(c) the reasons behind taking such a decision;

(d) the impact of withdrawal of subsidy on common man; and

(e) the amount being incurred by the Government annually as subsidy and the items on which this amount is spent?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) A statement is attached.

#### **Statement**

##### *Details of Subsidies*

(In crores of rupees)

		Actuals 1988-89	Actuals 1989-90	Actuals 1990-91	Actuals 1991-92	Actuals 1992-93	Actuals 1993-94	Actuals 1994-95	Actuals 1995-96	Revised 1996-97	Budget 1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	<b>A. Major Subsidies</b>	6787	9032	9581	9793	9414	10764	11527	12128	14233	17130
1.	Food	2200	2476	2450	2850	2800	5537	5100	5377	4066	7500
2.	Indigenous (Urea) Fertiliser	3000	3771	2730	3500	4800	3800	4075	4300	4743	5240

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3.	Imported (Urea) Fertiliser	201	771	659	1300	996	782	1166	1935	1350	1950
4.	Fertiliser subsidy to small and marginal farmers	...	...	...	385	...	...	...	...	...	...
5.	Export Promotion and Market Development	1386	2014	2742	1758	818	665	658	16	400	440
6.	Sale of decontrolled fertiliser with concession to farmers	...	...	...	...	...	...	528	500	1674	2000
B.	Debt Relief to Farmers	...	...	1602	1425	1500	500	341	...	...	...
C.	Other Subsidies	945	1442	1075	1035	1081	1418	1064	1177	2461	1121
7.	Railways	207	233	283	312	353	412	420	418	466	537
8.	Mill-made Cloth	27	10	10	15	15	16	...	1	...	...
9.	Handloom Cloth	146	181	185	187	161	174	148	143	96	84
10.	Import/Export of Sugar, Edible Oils etc.	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	50	50
11.	Interest Subsidies	406	881	379	316	113	113	76	34	1257	34
12.	Assistance for fertilizer promotion	...	...	...	...	340	517	...	...	...	...
13.	Other Subsidies	119	137	218	205	99	186	420	418	590	416
Total Subsidies		7732	10474	12158	12253	11995	12682	12932	13305	16694	18251

### Budget Allocation

591. SHRI SUNDERLAL PATWA :  
 SHRI V.M SUDHEERAN :  
 SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :  
 SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :  
 SHRI VIJAY PATEL :  
 DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :  
 SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :  
 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :  
 SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Centre plan outlay of Rs. 92,000 crores, an expenditure of only Rs. 16,000 crores was spent representing 70% has been incurred in the first quarter;

(b) if so, the main reasons for not spending the amount fully;

(c) whether the Prime Minister expressed serious concern over several Ministries/Departments for not generating enough resources and not spending adequately from the amounts allocated to them in the budget;

(d) whether any report has been prepared consequent to this observation regarding performance of each Ministry/Department; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The expenditure incurred represents 17.5% of the Central Plan Outlay and not 70%. The allocation will be utilised in four quarters. The expenditure in the first quarter is normally less than 25%.

(c) to (e) After reviewing the Plan expenditure by the various Ministries, the Cabinet Committee on Economic



Affairs had directed the Administrative Departments to regularly monitor the progress of expenditure in general and generation of internal resources by the PSUs. Arrangements are also being made in the Department of Expenditure to monitor Plan expenditure on quarterly basis. Expenditure incurred for the quarter ending September, 1997 is under preparation.

[Translation]

**Achievement of Target to Open  
New Bank Branches**

592. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :  
SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bank-wise prescribed target for opening the branches of various commercial banks in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan have since been achieved;

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

(c) the details of branches of commercial Banks proposed to be opened during 1997-98, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that having broadly achieved the objective of providing adequate banking infrastructure to the national economy with a wide branch network of over 60,000 bank branches by the end of the period 1985-90, it was decided that there was no need for evolving any branch expansion programme co-terminus with Five Year Plans with specific targets like population coverage as was being done in the past. From the year 1992, it is left to the judgement of individual banks to assess the need for opening branches. As such, no bank-wise targets for opening branches of various commercial banks in the country during the 8th Five Year Plan were prescribed by RBI. However, the State-wise position of branches functioning as on 31.3.1997 i.e., at the end of VIIIth Five Year Plan, is furnished in enclosed Statement-I. A statement indicating the number of authorisations for branch opening issued from April 1, 1995 to October 31, 1997 and which are yet to be opened is at Statement II.

**Statement I**

*State and Population Group wise No. of Branches of Each Commercial Bank in India  
(As on 31st March 1997)*

State/Union Territory	Population Group				No. of Branches
	Rural	Semi-Urban	Urban	Metro-politan	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andaman & Nicobar	17	14	—	—	31
Andhra Pradesh	2470	1121	861	452	4904
Arunachal Pradesh	67	1	—	—	68
Assam	841	248	148	—	1237
Bihar	3530	869	545	—	4944
Chandigarh	10	10	123	—	143
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7	—	—	—	7
Daman & Diu	1	12	—	—	13
Delhi	56	15	—	1164	1235
Goa	154	127	—	—	281

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	1568	768	418	751	3505
Haryana	692	315	377	—	1384
Himachal Pradesh	649	115	—	—	764
Jammu & Kashmir	577	73	146	—	796
Karnataka	2252	963	643	634	4492
Kerala	243	2213	548	—	3104
Lakshadweep	9	—	—	—	9
Madhya Pradesh	2752	887	524	259	4422
Maharashtra	2326	1021	810	1802	5959
Manipur	51	14	21	—	86
Meghalaya	131	16	32	—	179
Mizoram	61	9	8	—	78
Nagaland	40	31	—	—	71
Orissa	1616	289	245	—	2150
Pondicherry	23	15	36	—	74
Punjab	1113	584	484	166	2347
Rajasthan	1930	694	415	192	3231
Sikkim	36	10	—	—	46
Tamil Nadu	1845	1196	888	684	4613
Tripura	123	27	29	—	179
Uttar Pradesh	5466	1442	1349	459	8716
West Bengal	2271	555	546	948	4320
All India	33027	13654	9196	7511	63388

**Statement II**

*State-wise Summary of Pending Positions in Respect of Authorisations/Licences Issued from 1.4.1995 to 31.10.1997 to Commercial Banks (other than Foreign Banks) for Opening Branches*

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>SBI &amp; Associates</i>	<i>Nationalised Banks</i>	<i>RRBs</i>	<i>Private Banks</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	36	22	30	98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	1	2	2	2	7
4.	Bihar	8	40	3	4	55
5.	Goa	4	6	—	15	25
6.	Gujarat	16	41	9	19	85
7.	Haryana	18	46	—	10	74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	14	—	—	15
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	3	—	9	12
10.	Karnataka	37	60	44	18	159
11.	Kerala	15	27	2	43	87
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16	24	2	6	48
13.	Maharashtra	21	126	6	109	262
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	9	26	9	4	48
19.	Punjab	34	62	—	27	123
20.	Rajasthan	22	39	4	9	74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	12	55	1	29	97
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	20	116	12	22	170
25.	West Bengal	16	34	—	26	76
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	6	17	—	1	24
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	1	—	1	2
29.	Daman & Diu	—	1	—	—	1
30.	Delhi	17	100	—	27	144
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	1	1	—	1	3
Total		248	877	116	412	1689

#### **Issue of More Autonomy to Banks**

593 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI:  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are actively considering various economic and other issues related to more autonomy to banks;

(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 STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) To enable the banks to cope up with the challenges posed by liberalisation and deregularisation of the financial sector in the new environment, the Boards of the Public Sector Banks have been given greater administrative autonomy.

Banks which fulfill the criteria of capital adequacy of more than 8%, net profits during the last three years, net NPA below 9% and minimum owned funds of rupees hundred crores, would be allowed to recruit Specialist officers and also undertake campus recruitment for partly meeting their requirement of probationary officers. The Boards of Public Sector Banks will now be able to lay down policy in a large number of administrative and personnel matters including induction of specialists and will also have authority to create posts below the level of General Manager and formulate their own policies with regard to rural postings of officers and deputation lateral movement of their officers to other banks.

[English]

#### **Import of Currency Notes**

594. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to import currency notes and coins;

(b) if so, the value thereof, details of companies from which import of currency notes proposed to be made and the reasons for importing the same;

(c) whether such a step of the Government is going to effect adversely on the economy of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these currency notes are being imported on board foreign ships;

(f) the reasons for not importing this 'sensitive' commodity on board Indian ships; and

(g) the steps taken to ensure complete security for the currency imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Government have decided to import 3600 million pieces of printed notes and 1000 million pieces of coins as a one time measure to tide over the present shortage. Value-wise details of the import of currency notes are as under:

Name of the Company	Denomination	Pcs. in million
(A)		
(a) Consortium		
(i) De La Rue Currency Security Print (formerly known as TDLR)	100	1040
(ii) Debden Security Printing	100	260
(b) American Bank Note Corp.	100	600
(c) Bundesdruckerei GmbH*	100	100
		<hr/> 2000
(B)		
(a) Consortium		
(i) Giesecke & Devrient GmbH	500	400
(ii) Francoeois Charles Oberthur	500	240
(iii) British American Bank Note	500	160
(b) Canadian Bank Note Co.	500	800
		<hr/> 1600

\*This firm has not executed the agreement. The Bank has withdrawn its letter of offer and RBI has decided to reallocate the 100 million pieces to the other two suppliers on a pro rata basis.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The contracts are on CIF basis. However, the suppliers have been advised to ship the consignments on board Indian flag vessels, as far as possible. The consignments are being received through foreign vessels as well as SCI vessels.

(f) The import contract is of CIF basis. Notwithstanding this, the suppliers have been advised to

consign the imports on Indian flag vessels to the maximum extent possible.

(g) The imports of currencies/coins are being made in container which are securely locked. These containers are placed on board the ship where access is impossible. Suppliers are also ensuring that shipments are made in conformity with the Ministry of Surface and Transport (Trans Chart), Government of India guidelines.

**Income Tax Evasion**

595. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware the top echelon of Society *i.e.* Bureaucrats, Big Businessmen, Film Industry and its Stars, Doctors, Self styled Godmen etc. are evading Income Tax with impunity and the Income Tax Department do not appear to be very serious about this;

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

(c) whether some known public figures were caught from Income Tax evasion but the dues have not been recovered in full from them; and

(d) if so, steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the Central Income Tax Department to carry out frequent raids and check Income Tax evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Government are concerned about the tax evasion by the various sections of society including bureaucrats, big businessmen, film personalities, professionals etc. Whenever specific instances of tax evasion come to the knowledge of Income Tax Department, necessary actions including detailed scrutiny, survey and search & seizure are taken against the evaders.

(c) Cases of tax evasion by some known public figures are under investigation by the Income Tax Department. Recoveries of dues are made as per the procedure laid down in the Income tax Act after assessments are completed and appeals are finalised.

(d) Government have been taking necessary administrative, fiscal and legislative measures, as deemed appropriate, from time to time to check tax evasion and strengthen the enforcement machinery of the Department.

**NTC Mills**

596. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :  
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :  
DR. M. JAGANNATH :  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :  
SHRI SYDIAH KOTA :  
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :  
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :  
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :  
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total losses suffered by NTC as on date;

(b) whether the Government have decided to handover sick National Textile Corporation Mills to the respective State Governments;

(c) if so, the details regarding financial liabilities;

(d) whether the Union Government have agreed to bear the burden of loan and interest liabilities extended by banking sector to NTC;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to ensure the interests of the textile mill workers before handing over the mills to State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The total net loss suffered by the NTC mills as on 30.6.97 is of the order of Rs. 4630 crores (Prov.).

(b) to (f) An offer to take over sick textile mills at a nominal cost or even free of cost was made to the respective State Governments provided the State Governments were willing to accept the responsibility of running the viable mills and protecting the interest of the workers. Offer was also made that the Central Government would write-off/waive the loans given by the Govt. of India/NTC (HC) to these mills and interest thereon as well as the amount of VRS paid to the workers who had accepted voluntary retirement. In addition, the Govt. of India would be willing to discharge the liabilities towards arrears of statutory dues of the workers. The Govt. is not agreed to bear the burden of loan and interest liabilities extended by banking sector. The Government of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have declined the offer. No concrete response has been received from the other State Government to whom the offer was made. Since a positive response has not been received from any of the State Governments to whom the offer was made, the financial liabilities and other details have not been worked out.

**Export/Import of Rice**

597. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :  
DR. G.R. SARODE :  
DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and varieties of rice exported to foreign countries during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether there has been a decline in the foreign exchange earning on this world;

(d) whether certain varieties of rice were also imported by the country during the above period;

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

(f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The quantity and value of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice exported during the last three years are as follows:—

Quantity: Lakh MTs.

Value: Rs. Crores.

Year	Basmati Rice		Non-Basmati Rice	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1994–95	4.42	865.32	4.48	340.47
1995–96	3.73	850.67	45.41	3717.41
1996–97	4.89	1197.75	19.85	1952.83
1997–98 (Apr.–Aug. '98)	2.19	604.86	6.97	560.24
1996–97 (Apr.–Aug. '97)	2.19	486.18	9.36	885.39

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(d) to (f) The quantity and value of rice imported during the last three years are as follows:—

Quantity: MTs.

Value: Rs. Lakhs

Year	Quantity	Value
1994–95	6990	855.31
1995–96	80	9.69
1996–97	—	—
1997–98 (April-Aug., '97)	18	2.79

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Import of common/coarse varieties of rice with 50% or more broken has been permitted freely after review of the emerging trends in supply and stock of rice by the Government with effect from 27.05.1997.

#### **Tobacco Board**

598. SHRI A.C. JOSE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to give more powers to the Tobacco Board to check the sales of tobacco outside the auctions to ensure better prices for the growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Laws, Rules and Regulations administered by this Ministry are reviewed to assess their efficacy and effectiveness in attaining the desired objectives. As and when the situation so warrants, suitable amendments are made to enhance their effectiveness.

#### **Export Performance**

599. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export performance of Export Processing Zones and Export Processing Units during the Seventh and Eighth Plan, Unit-wise;

(b) the details of the new units joined and which have withdrawn upto March, 1997; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Exports by units in Export Processing Zones during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans were of the order of Rs. 2266.02 crores and Rs. 13,563.88 crores, respectively. As on 31.3.1997, 513 units were in operation in the EPZs while 160 units had debonded/withdrawn from the scheme. The policy itself provides for debonding of unit on their inability to achieve export obligation prescribed or other requirements of the scheme, due to various factors, including obsolescence of technology, failure of marketing arrangements, withdrawal of foreign collaborators, financial and managerial problems, recession in the international market etc.

#### **Upgradation of PSUs**

600. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Public Sector Undertakings have approached the Competent Authority for upgradation of their PUs as per the guidelines with necessary justification during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of Public Sector Undertakings upgraded during the last three years and proposals pending as on March 31, 1997 with the decision making authority alongwith reasons for pendency;

(d) whether the Government propose to streamline the operation with clarity, efficiency and transparency in the decision making process; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) It is the administrative Ministries concerned with the PSUs who approach the competent authority for upgradation of PSUs under their administrative control. During the last 3 years proposals relating to upgradation of 7 PSUs have been received in the Deptt. of Public Enterprises which is the nodal Department for this purpose. The details are given in the Statement.

(c) Goa Shipyard Limited was upgraded during the period. A proposal relating to upgradation of the Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. was pending with the decision making authority as on 31.3.97. This has been disposed of in July, 97.

(d) and (e) A well defined and established process already exists for this purpose.

#### **Statement**

*Names of PSUs in respect of which proposals for ungradations were received during the last three years.*

- 
1. National Fertilizers Limited
  2. Goa Shipyard Limited
  3. Mazagon Dock Limited
  4. Dredging Corporation of India Limited
  5. India Tourism Development Corporation Limited
  6. Central Cottage Industries Corpn. of India
  7. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limit
- 

#### **Foreign Visit of Chief Minister, Karnataka**

601. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries visited by Ministers of Karnataka including the Chief Minister from January, 1996 to June, 1997;

(b) the number of times each Minister had gone abroad;

(c) the details of foreign exchange released for the purpose by the Union Government during the above period;

(d) the amount released by the Union Government by way of foreign exchange for medical treatment of the Ministers of Karnataka including the Chief Minister during the above period; and

(e) the number of foreign tours conducted by the Ministers of Karnataka during the above period without the permission of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

#### **Outstanding Loans Against State Governments**

602. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount payable to various nationalised banks have been outstanding against some State Governments;



(b) if so, the details of such States against which the amount has been outstanding, as on date, the date from which outstanding and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for the recovery of the said amount;

(d) whether some nationalised banks have filed cases in courts for recovery of the said amount; and

(e) if so, the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be furnished.

#### **Primary Capital Market**

603. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the primary capital market has been sluggish for a quite long time;

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

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring buoyancy in the primary capital market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) During the current year, there has been a reduction in the number of companies accessing the primary market which, among other things is attributable to the general downtrend in the secondary market and the stricter entry norms for Companies introduced by SEBI. Stricter entry norms would ensure only good companies come into the market.

(c) Important steps taken to revive the market include:

(i) SEBI has reduced the minimum application size to Rs. 2000 from Rs. 5000 to encourage small investors to subscribe to new issues;

(ii) Listing of debt security without listing of equity has been allowed;

(iii) Exchanges has been allowed to expand their trading terminals to locations outside their place of operations; and

(iv) The first depository, National Securities Depository Limited has been set up for scripless trading in securities.

#### **World Bank Loan to Coal Sector**

604. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank propose to provide a big amount of loan for the rehabilitation schemes of the coal sector of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said loan is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) World Bank has approved a loan of US \$ 530 million for Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project of Coal India Limited.

(b) 24 mines in 5 subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited namely Central Coalfields Limited, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Northern Coalfields Limited, South Eastern Coalfields Limited and Western Coalfields Limited will be the beneficiaries under CSRP. The loan is mainly for maintaining coal production in 15 existing coal mines by replacing outlived equipment and for providing equipment for 9 new and expansion projects to augment coal production.

(c) The receipt of loan is dependent on conclusion of loan agreement with Japan Eximbank the date for which is yet to be intimated by them. The Eximbank's commitment is for US \$ 530 Million in addition to World Bank's loan for a like amount.

#### **Foreign Collaboration**

605. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure followed by the Government to ensure that exports do take place, as per commitments made by the companies while applying for foreign collaboration;

(b) if so, the names of companies which have failed in their export commitments during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by Government against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) For this purpose the exporters are required to file Legal Undertakings binding themselves to fulfil the export commitments.

(b) A list in this regard is placed on the Table of the House as a Statement.

(c) The relevant cases have been referred to the Enforcement Division for penal action.

**Statement**

*Names of companies who have Failed in their Export Commitment during the Last Three Years*

1. M/s. New Standard Engg. Co. Ltd., Bombay.
2. M/s. Sonnenflex Abrasives, Bombay.
3. M/s. Zenith Steel Pipes Ltd., Bombay.
4. M/s. Indo Nippon Foods (P) Ltd.,
5. M/s. Flair Electronics Ltd., Ludhiana.
6. M/s. Perfect Fasteners (P) Ltd., Faridabad.
7. M/s. Concast India Pvt. Ltd.
8. M/s. Greaves Cotton & Co. Ltd., Bombay.
9. M/s. Offal Wagon (I) Pvt. Ltd.,
10. M/s. Indian Furnance Co. Ltd.,
11. M/s. Shree Krishna Oil Mills Ltd., Hyderabad.
12. M/s. Exports Apparel Group (P) Ltd., New Delhi.
13. M/s. Associated Cement Co. Ltd., Bombay.
14. M/s. Bagrian Shoes Ltd., Chandigarh.
15. M/s. Kirtoskar Pneumatic Co. Ltd., Pune.
16. M/s. Srinivas Engg. Co.,
17. M/s. Indo Foreign Chem.,
18. M/s. Bican Indian Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore.
19. M/s. Marshall Sons & Co., Madras.
20. M/s. Bharat Linder (P) Ltd. Baroda.
21. M/s. Leather Crafts India Ltd.,
22. M/s. Sumal Engineerings, Lucknow.
23. M/s. Hindustan Dorr Oliver Ltd.,
24. M/s. Audio India Ltd.,
25. M/s. Microwave Products India Ltd., Kerala.
26. M/s. East Coast Pesticians Ltd., Madras.
27. M/s. Leisure Land Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta.
28. M/s. National Peroxide Ltd., Bombay.
29. M/s. I.A.E.C. (Bombay) Ltd., Bombay.
30. M/s. T.V.S. Electronics (P) Ltd., Madras.
31. M/s. Biax Packaging Ltd., West Bengal.

**Tea Cess for the Development of the Research Centre**

606. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to declare the Tocklai Experimental Station (TES) as a National Institute and also taking over it by the Tea Board considering the TES contribution to the tea industry, a major role in the national economy;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to utilise tea cess introduced by the Union Government for the development of the tea research centre at Tocklai;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Important Research and Development activities are already undertaken by the Tea Board from Plan and Non-Plan funds. This also includes part funding of Tea Research Association.

(e) Does not arise.

**WTO Disputes**

607. DR. M. JAGANNATH :  
SHRI K.S. RAYADU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of disputes, India is facing involved in World Trade Organisation;

(b) the negotiations made in this regard; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to solve the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) In respect of the disputes initiated by Members countries of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) against India, the United States of America (USA) and the European

Communities (EC) have initiated separate dispute settlement proceedings against India in the matter of the consistency or otherwise of India's patents regime with India's obligations under the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Agreement). In its report on the dispute with the USA, the panel has found that India has not complied with its obligations under Article 70.8 (a) or Article 63(1) and (2) and Article 70.9 of the TRIPs Agreement. Following India's notification to appeal on certain aspects of the report, review by the Appellate Body of the WTO is underway. In respect of the dispute with the EC, the examination by the panel is underway.

In the matter of the quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India for balance of payments purposes, Australia, Canada, the EC, New Zealand, Switzerland and USA have initiated separate dispute settlement proceedings against India. Japan has joined these disputes as an interested third party. Pursuant to formal consultations under the dispute settlement process, mutually agreed solutions have been reached with the EC and with Switzerland. Negotiations towards formalisation of mutually agreed solutions with Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Japan are expected to the concluded shortly. Since formal consultations with USA did not result in a mutually satisfactory settlement of differences, a panel has been formed on 18 November, 1997 to examine the US allegation underlying this dispute.

In respect of the disputes initiated by India against WTO Member countries, which are in varying stages of the dispute settlement process, outstanding among them are the dispute with Turkey in the matter of the quantitative restrictions imposed by Turkey on imports from India of a broad range of textiles products, and the joint dispute initiated by India along with Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand against USA on the ban on imports into USA of shrimp and products from shrimp harvested in the wild using commercial fishing technology that does not safeguard endangered species of sea turtles.

#### **Export of Marine Products**

608. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of marine products have shown an upward trend during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the country to which the export of marine products was maximum; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The exports of marine products in the year 1996-97 as compared to the year 1995-96 have been as under:

	1996-97	1995-96
Quantity : exported (MT)	378199	296277
Value (Rs. crores) :	4121.36	3501.11
Value (\$ Million) :	1152.83	1111.46

(c) and (d) In the year 1996-97, India exported maximum marine products to Japan, fetching a value of Rs. 1886.04 crores (US \$ 527.56 Million).

(Source: MPEDA)

#### **Trade with Pakistan**

609. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand trade with Pakistan by opening land routes through Wagha and Atari border;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the implications involved in the land route trade from the point of its vulnerability to smugglers and militants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Requests from Indian trade and industry for opening up of land route through Wagha-Atari border for overland trade with Pakistan are being examined, in the first place, in consultation with all concerned Government agencies.

#### **Regional Handloom Development Centres**

610 SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to setup Regional Handloom Development Centres in different parts of the Country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir, The Government does not propose to set up Regional Handloom Development Centres. However, under the scheme of Handloom Development Centres, the Government has provided central grant of Rs. 81.64 crores to various States Govts. to set up 1604 Handloom Development Centres through Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies.

**Insurance Covered Savings Banks Scheme**

611. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government is aware that Andhra Bank, a Government of India Undertaking, has introduced "Abhaya Gold", a scheme provides accident insurance cover of Rs. 1,00,000/- for nominal insurance charges in Savings Bank Scheme;

(b) if so, whether similar scheme has also been introduced in other nationalised banks; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce such schemes in other nationalised banks also?

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

(b) According to Reserve Bank of India RBI, similar Schemes have also been introduced by other nationalised banks with modifications from time to time.

(c) As per the extant guidelines of RBI, decisions to introduce such schemes vest with the Banks' boards subject to observance of RBI stipulations with regard to interest rates on deposits/withdrawal etc.

**Foreign Direct Investment**

612. MOHAMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :  
SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :  
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :  
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :  
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :  
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals received by the Government from April 1997 till date;

(b) the number of proposals approved during the said period, sector-wise;

(c) the amount of foreign investment involved therein;

(d) the number of export projections out of these proposals;

(e) the number of cases pending with Foreign Investment Promotion Board for approval; and

(f) the reasons for the tendency and the steps being taken for speedy clearance of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) : During the period from April 1997 to 13.11.97, about 610 fresh proposals for foreign direct investment were received. During the same period, 572 proposals including certain amendment cases were approved which involved foreign direct investment of Rs. 17697.14 crores. The approvals given were in various sectors like metallurgical industries, fuels, electrical equipment, telecommunications, transportation industry and other miscellaneous industries including service sector and consultancy services. 43 of these proposals contained export projections.

(e) and (f) The approval process for FIPB proposals is continuous one and proposals are considered in a compressed time schedule. At present, about 134 proposals including those which have been deferred, are awaiting consideration by FIPB. There is a continued effort to clear all such proposals as per the guidelines.

**Currency Notes and Coins**

613. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :  
SHRI RAM NAIK :  
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :  
SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR :  
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGAWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of currency notes and coins of small denominations in the country;

(b) the names of security press and mints in the country at present, the production capacity of each and their present production level; and

(c) the measures being taken to meet the shortage of coins/currency notes and to improve the capacity of presses/mints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As per the Government policy, lower denomination notes of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 have been coined. Accordingly, note-printing presses have stopped printing of these denominations from September 1994, January 1995 and November 1995, respectively. Supply of coins of these denominations has been stepped up.

(b) The names of security presses and mints in the country at present with their production capacity and present level of production are as under:

(Figures in Million pieces)

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Existing annual Capacity	Production achieved during 1996-97
1.	Currency Note Press, Nashik.	4000	3308
2.	Bank Note Press, Dewas.	1875	1795
3.	Note Presses under construction by RBI		
	(a) Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd., Mysore (Karnatak)	One line of Machine already commissioned and started production from June '96 (Mysore Press) and December '96 (Salboni Press). Till date, Mysore Press produced 790 million pieces and Salboni press produced 656 million pieces.	
	(b) Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd., Salboni (West Bengal)		
	PS: These Presses together will have a capacity of 9900 million pieces per annum when fully commissioned by end of December, 1999.		
4.	India Govt. Mint, Mumbai.	750	401
5.	India Govt. Mint, Calcutta.	750	468
6.	India Govt. Mint, Hyderabad	400	313
7.	India Govt. Mint, Noida	2000	382

(c) Following measures have been taken to meet the shortage of coins/currency notes and to improve the capacity of presses/mints:—

- (1) Coinisation of lower denomination notes of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and diversion of the capacity so released for printing notes of higher denominations.
- (2) Modernisation of the two note printing presses at Nashik and Dewas.
- (3) Setting up of two new note-printing presses under RBI, i.e. one at Mysore (Karnataka) and other in Salboni (West Bengal) with an annual capacity of 4950 million pieces each.
- (4) Import of 3,600 million pieces of printed notes and 1000 million pieces of coins from abroad, as a one time measure.

#### Service Tax

614. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a service tax has been imposed on tour operators/agents, caterers etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the imposition of service tax will reduce tourism in the country; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Vide Section 88 of the Finance Act, 1997 service tax at the rate of 5% has been imposed, inter alia, on the service rendered by a tour operator and an out door caterer. While the levy on the former has been brought into effect from 1.9.97, in the case of the latter the levy is effective

from 1.8.97. In the case of a tour operator, the person responsible for collecting the service tax is the person who holds a tourist permit granted under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 or the rules made thereunder while in the case of out door caterers, the person responsible for collecting service tax is the person undertaking the catering service. The value of taxable service has been defined as the gross amount charged by the tour operator from the client for services in relation to a tour and includes charges for any accommodation, food or any other facilities provided in relation to such tour. In the case of an out door caterer shall be the gross amount charged by such caterer from the client for services in relation to such catering including the charges for food, edible preparations, alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages or crockery and similarly articles or accouterments provided to such client for any charges or on any occasion.

(c) and (d) In addition to the nominal rate of service tax, for computing the tax an abatement of 60% of the value of the taxable services has been provided in the case of a package tour conducted by a tour operator and an abatement of 90% has been provided in cases where the tour operator renders only the services of booking or arranging accommodation. Similarly, in the case of out door caterers an abatement of 50% of the value of taxable services has been provided. Considering the above factors this service tax is not likely to have any adverse impact on the tourism in the country.

#### Corruption Cases in Ministry of Coal

615. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of the Ministry during 1995-96;

(b) the number of officers (Grade-wise) involved in such cases;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty during 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance initiate any action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt;

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the powers of the vigilance section under their control; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) No case against civil servants in Ministry of Coal has been investigated by the Vigilance Unit of the Ministry of Coal in the year 1995-96.

(c) No such complaint has been received.

(d) The Vigilance Unit can initiate action, *suo moto*, if reliable information is received.

(e) and (f) The Ministry follows the instructions of Department of Personnel and Training and Central Vigilance Commission regarding powers and functions of Vigilance Section. The question of review of the power by the Ministry does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Import of Edible Oils

616. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL :  
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oil imported during each of the last three years and the details thereof;

(b) the foreign exchange spent by the Government on this import during the said period; and

(c) the reasons for importing the edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The quantity of vegetable Oil Fixed (Edible) imported and the C.I.F. value of imports thereof during the last three financial years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:—

Year	Quantity (Thousand tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1994-95	347	624
1995-96	1062	2262
1996-97	1287	2926

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) There has been a continuous gap between the demand for edible oils and its availability from the indigenous sources, for a number of years. Import of edible oils, has therefore, been resorted to with a view to making this commodity of mass consumption easily available to the consumers at reasonable prices.

### **Export of Crop Products**

617. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government for direct participation of farmers in the export of crop products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Export of agricultural and allied products can be undertaken by an exporter including farmers/farmer organisation subject to the provisions of the Export Import Policy. All Commodity Boards/Export Promotion Councils periodically interact with the farmers/farmer organisation to encourage them to undertake exports.

[English]

### **Import Duty on Capital Goods**

618. SHRI MADAN PATIL :  
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :  
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :  
SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is facing a sharp industrial slowdown;

(b) if so, the steps taken to kick-start the economy;

(c) whether the government have set up any Expert Committee to look into the problems of Capital Goods Sector arising out of import duty structure;

(d) if so, the recommendations made and steps taken to shore up demand in the economy; and

(e) the steps taken to boost investment in areas like power, oil, coal, telecom, highways and roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The industrial growth as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) decelerated to 6.8 per cent in 1996-97 from 12.1 per cent in 1995-96. However, the industrial growth of 5.4 per cent in the first quarter (April-June) of the current year is higher than the 2.1 per cent growth witnessed in the last quarter of the previous year. Growth

rate during July-August 1997, the latest period for which such data are available, is provisionally estimated at 4.5 per cent.

(b) Several measures have been taken by Government for faster industrial growth. Policies announced in the Union Budget, 1997-98 and credit policies announced by RBI in April 1997 and October 1997 contain several incentives for encouraging investment and industrial growth. The measures include reduction in personal and corporate taxes, rationalisation of excise duty and reservation of 14 items from the list of items reserved for small scale industry. The Government have carried the delicensing exercise further it deregulate 5 more industries, appointed a High Powered Export Promotion Board for facilitating export, constituted the Tariff commission for looking into tariff related issues and granted operational autonomy to 9 "Navaratna" and other PSUs.

(c) and (d) As a follow up to the Prime Minister's meeting with industrialists on 14.10.1997, a group under Dr. Arjun Sengupta, Member, Planning Commission has been requested to examine to what extent the domestic capital goods has been placed at a disadvantage by import of capital goods at zero duty and suggest measures thereon.

(e) In order to encourage investment in the "core" sector of the economy, foreign investment norms have been further liberalised. Regulatory authorities like TRAI and Tariff Authority for Major Ports have been set up. Guidelines have been issued for facilitating private investment in highway development and ports. Measures have been taken for bridging oil pool deficit and removing obstacles for greater private investment. The Union Budget 1997-98 has further broadened the investment opportunities by offering more fiscal incentives.

### **Cheque Books to Plantation Companies**

619. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the several banks are still issuing cheque books to plantation companies;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to stop such practice; and

(c) the names of those banks with number of cheques issued to plantation companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) they have cautioned banks *vide* their circular dated 25th Sept. 1997 to take due care to ensure that any unusually large demand by any account holder for cheque books is looked into carefully to make sure that the cheque leaves are needed for genuine short term business requirements. RBI has further reported that while they have not asked banks to stop issuing cheque books to plantation companies, they have advised banks to ensure that these are meant for genuine short term business requirements only.

#### **Adhoc Appointment**

620. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recommendations have been made for the cadre of Ad hoc appointees on consolidated salary in direct higher responsible positions in various Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, whether any such recommendations have been duly examined and are also to be implemented soon; and

(c) if not whether Government propose to frame any guidelines in regard to such cadre so that their salaries may not be equal or near equal to class C & D groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Appointments on consolidated salary are made on need base and the consolidated salary is decided based on job requirements and also keeping in view the status of the candidate/officer expected to discharge the duties. Such appointments are not termed as ad hoc appointments. Further the Pay Commission or any other body has not made any recommendation in this regard. The ad hoc appointments are made only in rare and exceptional circumstances against the posts which cannot be kept vacant until regular candidates become available. Such appointments can be made by the respective Ministry/Department upto one year and beyond that the approval of the Department of Personnel & Training is mandatory.

#### **Bank Branches Opened in Rural Areas**

621. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :  
SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of bank branches opened so far in the rural areas of the country since the nationalisation of the banks;

(b) whether any appraisal of the working of the rural banks have been made to know how far these banks have been able to secure deposits and have kept pace with the changing economic scenario in giving credits to the agriculturists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that 33025 rural branches of Scheduled Commercial banks have been opened after June 30, 1969.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India have advised commercial banks that they should achieve a credit deposit ratio of 60 per cent 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/Region is avoided in order to minimise imbalances in credit deployment. However, 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 production.

#### **Dumping of Foreign Products**

622. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding dumping of products by foreign manufacturers into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Details of cases where anti-dumping investigations have been concluded or are under progress are given in the Statements I, II and III



**Statement I****A. Cases where Definitive (Final) Anti Dumping Duties imposed**

Product	Country
1. PVC Resin	Brazil, Mexico, Korea RP, USA
2. Bisphenol-A	Japan
3. Potassium Permanganate	China
4. Isobutyl Benzene	China
5. 3,4,5 Trimethoxy Benaldehyde	China
6. Theophylline and Caffeine	China
7. Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR)	Japan
8. Bisphenol-A	Brazil and Russia
9. Sodium Ferrocyanide	China
10. Dead Burnt Magnesite (DBM)	China
11. Low Carbon Ferro Chrome (LCFC)	Russia and Khazakhstan
12. 8-Hydroxyquinoline	China
13. Bisphenol-A	USA
14. Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR)	Germany and Korea RP
15. Acrylic fibres	USA, Thailand, and Korea RP

**Statement II****B. Cases recommended for provisional duties and investigation in progress**

Product	Country	Quantum of Duty Recommended
1. Catalysts	Denmark	Rs. 21.24–192.01 per litre
2. Graphite Electrode	USA, China, Spain, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Austria	Rs. 0-29625/MT
3. Newsprint	USA, Canada, Russia	Rs. 1041–6250 pmt
4. PTA	Thailand, Korea RP, Indonesia	Rs. 463–3375 pmt

**Statement III****C. Cases under investigation for provisional duties**

Product	Country
1. Iso Butyl Benzene (Review case)	China
1. Magnesium	China
2. Polystyrene	Korea RP, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia
3. Vitamin-C	China, Japan
4. Metallurgical Coke	China
5. H.R. Coils	Russia, Ukraine & Kazakistan
6. Sea Water Magnesia	China

*[Translation]***Export of Commercial Vehicles**

623. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :  
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which commercial vehicles were exported by the vehicle manufacturing companies of the country during the last three years; and

(b) the number of vehicles exported during this period and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) :  
(a) and (b) Commercial vehicles were exported from India during the last three years mainly to the following countries:—

Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, German Federal Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Malagasy Peoples' Republic, Mauritius, Malawi, Malta, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Spain, Syria, Tanzania, UAE, Uganda, UK, USA, Vietnam Socialist Republic, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The number of commercial vehicles exported and value of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the past three years is as under:

Year	Quantity	Value (Rs. Crores)
1994-95	6401	266.15
1995-96	7027	307.10
1996-97 (upto Feb-97)	6704	315.16
upto March '97	N.A.	363.68

Source : Director General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta.

**Vayu Committee**

624. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :  
SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayu Committee had made any recommendations in respect of black-money;

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

(c) whether the government had accepted those recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if no, the reasons for not accepting these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Government is not aware of any report/recommendations made by Vayu Committee in respect of Black Money.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

**Unutilised Foreign Assistance/Loan**

625. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :  
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARARAJE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various projects for which foreign assistance and loan has been obtained during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the amount of assistance/loan received and the date when the loan/assistance was received;

(c) whether a large number of projects for which foreign assistance and loan has been obtained remained unutilised;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Information is given in the annexed Statement.

(c) Foreign aid is largely project tied and utilisation of the sanctioned aid for any project is spread over the project implementation period. The unutilised balance at any point of time, therefore, represents the total amount that can be drawn for the rest of the project period. Hence, the unutilised balance does not represent the backlog.

(d) The details are given in the annexed Statement. Slower than expected utilisation of foreign aid is due to fund constraints, procurement and contracting delays, delays in land acquisition and other project specific issues.

(e) The Government has taken several steps to improve utilisation of foreign aid, such as release of 100% external assistance as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) in all sectors to the State Governments, advance release of ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining

of procurement procedures, disintermediation of aid flow to Central PSUs to overcome the delay in budgetary process, Portfolio Rationalisation, intensified monitoring of projects and setting up of Project Management Unit in Department of Economic Affairs as well as appointment of Nodal Officers.

### **Statement**

*Statement showing the Donor-wise details of New Project Agreements signed during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 (upto 31.10.1997)*

(Donor Currency in Million)

S. No.	Name of Project	Date of Agreement	Loan/Grant Amount	Unutilised Balance as on 31.10.1997
1	2	3	4	5
<b>JAPAN (JAPANESE YEN)</b>				
1.	Shrisailam Left Bank Power Proj.	28.2.95	22567.000	9071.700
2.	Srisailam Left Bank Power Transmission Project	28.2.95	9546.000	9532.800
3.	Assam Gas Based Power Proj.	28.2.95	15821.000	9223.900
4.	Purulia Pumped Storage Proj.	28.2.95	20520.000	19780.100
5.	Bakreshwar TPS Extension	28.2.95	8659.000	7632.300
6.	Kothagudam TPS	28.2.95	5092.000	2525.900
7.	Four Laning of NH-24	28.2.95	4827.000	4827.000
8.	Four Laning of NH-5	28.2.95	5836.000	5835.000
9.	Madras Sewerage	28.2.95	17098.000	16981.100
10.	Lake Bhopal Project	28.2.95	7055.000	6601.900
11.	Industrial Pollution Control	28.2.95	1525.000	1496.600
12.	Industrial Pollution Control, ICICI.	28.2.95	3000.000	1612.900
13.	Rajasthan Forestry Project	28.2.95	4219.000	29299.000
14.	Attapady Wasteland Comprehensive Environmental Conservation Proj.	25.1.96	5112.000	5094.500
15.	Gujarat Afforestation and Development Proj.	25.1.96	15760.000	12441.300

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Project	25.1.96	28452.000	28289.000
17.	Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal Modernization Project	25.1.96	16049.000	16049.000
18.	Pipavav Port Ship-breaking Project	25.1.96	7046.000	5237.500
19.	Anpara Power Transmission System Project (II)	25.1.96	12020.000	9048.000
20.	Dhauliganga Hydroelectric Power Plant Construction Project	25.1.96	5665.000	5255.900
21.	Small Scale Industries Development Programme (V)	25.1.96	30000.000	0.000
22.	Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Program	25.1.96	8670.000	7512.800
23.	Northern India Transmission System Project	25.2.97	8497.000	8497.000
24.	West Bengal Transmission System Project	25.2.97	11087.000	11087.00
25.	Umiam Hydro Power Station Renovation Project	25.2.97	1700.000	1700.000
26.	Tuirial Hydro-Electric Power Station Project	25.2.97	11695.000	11695.000
27.	Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project	25.2.97	19817.000	19817.000
28.	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project	25.2.97	14760.000	14760.000
29.	Calcutta Transport Infrastructure Development project	25.2.97	10679.000	10581.600
30.	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	25.2.97	15968.000	15905.700
31.	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Proj.	25.2.97	13324.000	13324.000
32.	Kerala Water Supply Project	25.2.97	11997.000	11997.000

1	2	3	4	5
33.	Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	25.2.97	13222.000	13222.000
34.	Construction of Nizamuddin Bridge	22.9.95	2778.000	867.600
35.	Kalawati Saran Hospital	11.1.96	1217.000	0.000
36.	Debt Relief II	11.1.96	184.000	184.000
37.	Eradication of Poliomyelitis	23.10.96	768.000	392.900
38.	Establishment of Plantation at Trichy	13.1.97	50.000	50.000
39.	Increase in Food Production	13.1.97	500.000	500.000
40.	Debt Relief 1996–97	13.1.97	150.900	150.900
41.	Project for Improvement of Equip.	13.6.97	667.000	667.000
42.	Debt Relief 1997–98	13.6.97	134.500	134.500
<b>ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (US DOLLAR)</b>				
1.	Gas Rehabilitation & Expansion	17.5.94	195.000	45.143
2.	National Highways	22.3.95	245.000	231.155
3.	Industrial Energy Efficiency	30.3.95	150.000	99.114
4.	Capital Market Program Loan	29.11.95	250.000	125.000
5.	Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Project	10.5.96	85.000	80.031
6.	HDFC Loan	13.12.96	20.000	10.000
7.	Power Transmission Sector Proj.	18.7.96	275.000	235.339
8.	Gujarat Public Sector Resource Management Programme	20.12.96	250.000	150.000
9.	Renewable Energy Development Project	July 97	100.000	100.000
10.	PSIF—ICICI	14.8.97	150.000	150.000
11.	PSIF—IFCI	14.8.97	100.000	100.000

1	2	3	4	5
<b>CANADA (CANADIAN DOLLAR)</b>				
1.	CII Env't. Mgt. Project	10.10.94	7.000	6.048
2.	Facilitation of Pvt. Sector Development	8.1.97	7.000	7.000
3.	Capacity Development of Rev. Administration	8.1.97	8.500	8.500
4.	Energy-Infrastructure Services	8.1.97	13.800	13.800
<b>NETHERLANDS (DUTCH GUILDER)</b>				
1.	Grant India 1995-02	27.5.96	3.526	0.000
2.	Grant India 1995-04	12.6.96	13.388	12.036
3.	Grant India 1996-08	14.10.96	32.654	0.000
4.	Training & Documentation Centre	26.2.97	0.155	0.155
5.	Grant India 1995-03	15.4.97	28.240	17.650
6.	Grant India 1996-07 Ganga Action Plan Support Proj.	23.7.97	51.240	51.240
7.	Grant India 1996-06 Gogha Regional Water Supply	4.8.97	19.369	19.369
8.	Grant India 1997-02 Upgrading Hydrographic Survey	14.8.97	9.275	9.275
<b>SWITZERLAND (INDIAN RUPEE)</b>				
1.	Indo-Swiss Participative Watershed Dev. Karnataka	19.6.95	91.860	42.429
2.	PAWDI Project Rajasthan	27.9.96	98.940	87.440
<b>SWEDEN (SWEDISH KRONER)</b>				
1.	ICDS Project Phase II Tamil Nadu	30.5.94	55.000	0.000
2.	ICDS Project Phase III Tamil Nadu	6.12.95	60.000	46.176

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Lok Jumbish Project Phase II, Rajasthan	26.6.95	100.000	59.465
4.	EPTRI-Phase II	8.8.97	16.000	16.000
5.	Shiksha Karmi Phase II, Rajasthan	6.12.95	60.000	26.346
NORWAY (NORWEGIAN KRONER)				
1.	Environment Programme in H.P	13.12.94	12.000	2.841
2.	National Data Buoys Programme	18.2.97	27.000	12.000
DENMARK (DANISH KRONER)				
1.	Comprehensive Watershed Dev. Pro. Tirunelveli Phase II	5.8.94	68.470	46.373
2.	TEWA Ph. II Orissa	1.7.95	23.690	19.281
3.	Pulse Polio Organisation	21.5.96	232.700	228.937
4.	Rural Water & Sanitation Phase II	1.10.96	60.000	58.540
5.	Rural Water & Sanitation Phase II	1.10.96	65.500	60.379
6.	Revised National T.B. Control Prog. Orissa Ph.I	2.12.96 52.676	54.800	
7.	Livestock Dev. proj. Bastar MP	5.12.96	28.300	26.329
8.	Health Care Project Ph. III	24.12.96	102.500	100.553
9.	Pudukottai Livestock Dev. Proj. Ph. II	31.1.97	51.480	51.480
10.	Karnataka Watershed Deve. Proj. Ph. II	2.6.97	46.700	46.700
11.	IREDA Project	7.9.95	15.000	11.016
EEC GRANTS (ECUs)				
1.	Tank Rehabilitation Proj. Pondi.	21.2.97	6.650	6.650
2.	Revine Stabilization in U.P.	17.4.97	7.900	7.900
3.	Health & Family Welfare Sector Dev.	2.9.97	200.000	200.000

1	2	3	4	5
FRANCE (FRENCH FRANC)				
1.	Water Mgt for DWSSDU & Other General Purpose	1.12.94	207.900	163.624
2.	Wave Mgt. Proj. at Jaipur & TA for Kottadih Coal Mine	1.02.95	43.000	43.000
3.	Mixed Projects	30.1.96	371.350	359.247
4.	Sterlization and Milk Packaging NDDB & APDD	19.12.96	147.700	147.700
5.	Jaipur Water Mgt. & Gen. Purpose	1.12.94	15.400	8.687
6.	Feasibility Studies	30.1.96	4.650	3.950
7.	Feasibility Study for solid waste treatment	19.12.96	3.300	3.300
GERMANY (DEUTSCHE MARK)				
1.	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply Ph. I	17.6.94	40.000	26.983
2.	Maharashtra State Elec. Board, Uran	11.12.94	29.740	11.568
3.	Fertiliser Sector Programme	20.12.96	45.000	0.013
4.	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply Ph. I	17.6.94	95.000	77.739
5.	Karnataka Watershed Deve. Prog.	17.6.94	20.000	18.910
6.	Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter Orissa	10.5.96	5.000	2.683
7.	Rural Water Supply West Bengal	5.7.96	50.000	44.462
8.	Health Care Maharashtra	23.7.96	20.000	20.000
9.	Karnataka Sec. Level Hosp. Dev. Pr.	16.1.97	23.000	23.000
10.	PFC Energy Investment Prog.	19.6.95	46.500	27.598
11.	NSIC DM 17.850 M XII	2.11.95	17.850	8.000
12.	NLC Life Ext. of Lignite Mine & Power	26.4.96	32.500	18.960
13.	National Renewal Fund	23.5.96	54.040	54.040
14.	NSIC National Renewal Fund	23.5.96	50.000	50.000



1	2	3	4	5
15.	Social Marketing by PSS&PSI	20.12.96	15.000	15.000
16.	Expansion of Lignite Mine & Power Station	13.3.97	375.200	360.772
17.	NABARD V Adivasi Prog. Gujarat	23.12.94	26.000	23.018
18.	HUDCO V	29.11.95	35.000	11.101
<b>IBRD (US Dollars)</b>				
1.	Financial Sector	24.3.95	350.00	200.000
2.	Ilnd Madras Water Supply	20.11.95	86.500	75.786
3.	Bombay Sewerage Disposals	28.12.95	167.000	147.878
4.	Orissa Power Sector Restructuring	10.7.96	350.000	334.574
5.	U.P. Rural Water Supply & Envi. San. Project	22.7.96	59.600	56.740
6.	Road Infrastructure Dev. Tech. Asstt. Project	15.1.97	51.500	47.051
7.	A.P State Highway Project	30.7.97	350.000	350.000
8.	CONCOR Container Corp. of Inda	29.8.94	94.000	82.465
9.	IDBI Industrial Pollution Prev.	21.11.94	93.000	85.927
10.	ICICI Industrial Pollution Prev.	21.11.94	50.000	45.226
11.	IDBI Financial Sector Development	24.3.95	150.00	140.819
12.	IL&FS Private Infrastructure	10.7.96	200.000	175.000
13.	Punjab Water Resources Mgm. Proj.	19.6.96	2.225	1.804
14.	Grants for Infrastructure Financing Project	22.4.97	1.500	1.355
<b>IBRD JAPANESE GRANT (JAPANESE YEN)</b>				
1.	PHRD Private Power Develop. (IBRD)	2.12.94	214.000	135.300
2.	Bombay Urban Transport II.	19.5.95	286.000	162.000

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Sustainable Rainfed Agri. Divi.	16.11.95	81.300	64.000
4.	Bombay Resettlement & Rehabilitation Project	1.9.96	67.000	45.300
IDA (US DOLLAR)				
1.	Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake	6.4.94	250.669	66.715
2.	Water Resources Consolidation	6.4.94	262.148	179.369
3.	Cataract Blindness Control	19.5.94	118.871	100.551
4.	Family Welfare	24.6.94	87.102	72.187
5.	Industrial Pollution Prevention	21.11.94	24.482	24.246
6.	Distt. Primary Education	22.12.94	251.291	176.478
7.	A.P. Referral Health System	22.12.94	125.679	111.272
8.	Agriculture & Human Resources	11.4.95	56.220	48.404
9.	Madhya Pradesh Forestry	11.4.95	54.919	43.150
10.	Assam Rural Infrastructure	6.6.95	112.185	107.773
11.	T.N. Water Resources Consol.	22.9.95	252.303	237.673
12.	Hydrology in India	22.9.95	124.829	118.131
13.	Bombay Sewerage Disposals	28.12.95	22.884	0.000
14.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation	5.1.96	270.578	218.817
15.	Ind State Health Systems Develop.	18.4.96	326.299	312.210
16.	Coal Sector Env. & Social	5.6.96	60.019	56.938
17.	Industrial Project	10.7.96	4.703	4.703
18.	Ind Distt. Primary Education Proj.	15.7.96	403.820	394.302
19.	Eco-Development Project	30.9.96	26.968	25.375
20.	Environmental Mgm. Capacity Build.	14.3.97	48.000	45.000

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1	2	3	4	5
21.	T.B. Control	14.3.97	136.105	132.600
22.	AP Irrigation—III	3.6.97	150.000	100.332
23.	AP Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Cyclone	9.7.97	100.000	92.000
IDF GRANT (US DOLLARS)				
1.	Stren. Inst. Capacity for Foreign Direct Investment	24.1.95	0.120	0.016
2.	External Portfolio Management System	2.5.95	0.192	0.000
3.	Audit Skills Upgradation & Dev. Programme	2.12.95	0.199	0.067
4.	Strengthening of Procurement Capacity	15.7.96	0.445	0.327
5.	Eco Development Proj. Global Envi. Facility	30.9.96	20.000	18.493
6.	Disinvestment Technical Assistance	7.5.97	0.495	0.364
IFAD (US DOLLARS)				
1.	A.P. Participatory Tribal Dev. Proj.	13.5.94	26.710	22.256
2.	Mewat Area Developmen Proj.	29.5.95	15.080	13.464
P.P.F (US DOLLARS)				
1.	M.P. Forestry (IDA)	7.7.94	0.275	0.187
2.	A.P. State Highway (IBRD)	30.9.94	2.400	0.272
3.	Second Bombay Urban Tpt. (IBRD)	15.11.94	3.000	0.833
4.	Tuberculosis Control (IDA)	30.11.94	1.200	0.979
5.	Preparation of Economic Develop. (IDA)	30.1.95	2.000	1.950
6.	Preparation of Bombay Urban Tpt. (IDA)	13.2.95	2.000	2.000
7.	Kerala & Uttar Pradesh Forestry (IDA)	24.7.96	0.970	0.614
USA (US DOLLARS)				
1.	Greenhouse Gas Pollution Prevention Proj.	10.4.95	19.000	17.429

1	2	3	4	5
<b>UNITED KINGDOM (UK POUND STERLING)</b>				
1.	Cuttack Slum Improvement Project	30.6.94	0.244	0.015
2.	Himachal Pradesh Forestry Project	8.9.94	3.094	2.200
3.	Maharashtra Earthquake Rehabilitation	1.2.95	10.000	1.246
4.	UK/India Conchin Urban Poverty Reduction Ph. II	10.3.95	0.400	0.030
5.	UK/Kribhco Eastern India Rainfed Farming Grant 95	1.4.95	6.631	6.185
6.	Gomti River Polli. Control Proj. Ph. I	29.8.95	4.020	3.787
7.	UK/India Orissa Power Sector Reforms	29.8.96	42.000	34.858
8.	UK/India AP Dist. Primary Edu. Proj.	29.8.96	42.500	41.853
9.	UK/India Polio Eradiction Programme LCG-1996	22.10.96	47.500	24.879
10.	UK/India Jhangra Project Grant 96	28.10.96	3.184	0.161
11.	UK/India Cochin Urban Poverty Reduction Project	1.5.97	11.469	11.469
12.	UK India West Bengal Primary Education Project	16.5.97	37.706	37.706
13.	UK/India Karnataka Watershed Dev. Project.	23.5.97	4.488	4.488
14.	UK/India Cuttack Urban Services Improvement Project	20.10.97	11.490	11.490
<b>OPEC FUND (US DOLLAR)</b>				
1.	Shimla Sewerage Project	21.8.97	10.000	10.000

*[English]***Setting up of Spinning Mills**

626. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide funds to set up spinning mills in the States; and

(b) if so, the number of spinning mills set up in the country alongwith Central assistance during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):  
(a) No, Sir. However, entrepreneurs are free to mobilise funds from Financial Institutions/Banks in the normal course.

(b) Does not arise.

**Banks in "Essential Services"**

627. SHRI RAM NAIK :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a general demand to declare the banking industry as "essential service" to check the increasing threats of strike;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to declare the banking industry as "essential service"; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The banking industry is notified as a "Public Utility Service" under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 from time to time.

**Vacant Post in KVIC, Ahmedabad**

628. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Deputy Director of Khadi and Village Industries Commission at Ahmedabad has been vacant since last five years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the said post?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Smuggling of Cardamom and Clove**

629. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :  
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cardamom and cloves are being smuggled to India in large scale;

(b) whether the Government has booked any such case during the last one year;

(c) if so, the details of cases booked, persons or companies involved, quantity and items seized;

(d) the action taken in each case;

(e) whether the Government are aware that Nepal is importing more than ten times of their domestic need of Cardamom;

(f) if so, the quantity of import and through which port this import takes place; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check smuggling of cardamom and cloves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Available reports indicate that cardamom and cloves are being smuggled into India.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected.

(e) Available reports suggest that Nepal is importing cardamom in excess of its domestic needs. However, it is difficult to estimate whether the imports of cardamom made by Nepal are ten times more than their domestic need.

(f) Imports of cardamom by Nepal from third countries through the port of Calcutta is furnished below;

Year	Qty (in tonnes)
1995-96	33.975
1996-97	3609.986
1997-98 (Upto July 97)	809.240

(g) Anti Smuggling agencies are alert to detect & prevent smuggling including smuggling of cardamom and cloves. Specific measures taken include intensified surveillance and targetting of intelligence on the areas sensitive to smuggling especially on the Indo-Nepal border. Matter is also being taken up under the existing provision of the Indo-nepal treaty with HMG Nepal to put an end to the abuse of privileges by the unscrupulous Nepalese importers indulging in smuggling of these third country goods into India.

**NABARD Help for Orissa**

630. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD has taken any step to help the farmers in the drought hit areas of Orissa during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the regional rural banks and the co-operative banks in the rural as well as urban areas in the State are also helping the farmers of the drought hit areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has provided necessary

financial support to the credit agencies operating in the drought hit districts of Orissa during 1996-97 to enable them to provide conversion facilities to the affected farmers. Based on the "annewari" declared by the State Government. Orissa State Co-operative Bank (OSCB) had processed applications for conversion of short term agricultural loans availed by about 1.45 lakh farmers for sums aggregating Rs. 46.88 crore. NABARD has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 28.10 crores to the OSCB on behalf of 16 District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs), being 60% of the total conversion effected at the ground level.

NABARD had also increased the refinance allocation from Rs. 116 crore to Rs. 136 crore in favour of OSCB for financing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) during the year 1996-97 to meet the additional demand for fresh finance on account of drought in the State. This allocation was fully availed by OSCB. For the year 1997-98 also, an allocation of Rs. 165 crore has been made to facilitate the bank to maintain the growth in agricultural advances.

(c) and (d) As per the instructions issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/NABARD, the co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are required to provide relief to the borrowers affected by natural calamities by way of conversion of crop loan dues of the affected borrowers into medium term loans repayable over a period of three years. Such borrowers are also provided fresh finance to carry on the agricultural operations. As reported by NABARD co-operatives in Orissa have already converted crop loans aggregating Rs. 46.88 crores into medium term loans and provided fresh finance of Rs. 46.38 crores during Rabi 1996-97. RRBs have also taken steps to convert the loans of borrowers affected by natural calamity to enable them to avail fresh finance from the banks for their agricultural activity.

#### **Establishment of Steel Plants by MMTC**

631. SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) has diversified its activities;

(b) if so, whether the establishment of Steel Plants in some parts of the country is a part of its diversification programme;

(c) if so, the States where Steel Plants are proposed to be set up by MMTC;

(d) the locations identified for the establishment of those steel plants;

(e) whether any such site has been selected in Orissa; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. As a part of its diversification programme, MMTC is setting up joint ventures in the State of Orissa for manufacture of iron and steel products and metallurgical grade coke.

(c) to (f) The steel plant is being set up by MMTC in the State of Orissa. The steel plant is located at Kalinga Nagar, in Duburi, Distt. Jaipur, State of Orissa.

#### **Legal Reforms**

632. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of various legal reforms measures undertaken so far, expenditure incurred thereon, practical utility thereof and future course of action to be taken in this regard;

(b) whether the Government have decided to set up an Expert Committee on legal reforms;

(c) if so, the composition, terms and conditions of this Committee;

(d) the issues that have been referred to this Committee; and

(e) the time by which the Committee has been asked to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (e) Legal Reform measures are undertaken by different Ministries/Departments which are administratively concerned with different laws. However, Government has recently reconstituted the Law Commission of India with a specific mandate regarding review/repeal of obsolete laws. The terms of reference of the reconstituted Law Commission in this regard include, among other things:—

(i) To identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed;

(ii) To identify laws which are in harmony with the existing climate of economic liberalization which need no change;

(iii) To identify laws which require changes or amendments and to make suggestions for their amendment;

- (iv) To consider in a wider perspective the suggestions for revision/amendment given by Expert Groups in various Ministries/Departments with a view to coordinating and harmonising them;
- (v) To consider references made to it by Ministries/Departments in respect of legislation having bearing on the working of more than one Ministry/Department; and
- (vi) To suggest suitable measures for quick redressal of citizens grievances, in the field of law.

#### Stock Option Scheme

633. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India currently has permitted remittance of only US\$ 750 to Indian employees of subsidiaries of multinational companies to exercise stock options in such multinational companies;

(b) if not, the current amount permitted for this purpose;

(c) the total annual outflow of foreign exchange in connection with investments to be made by Indian companies in foreign ventures/offices; and

(d) the total annual outflow of foreign exchange in case Reserve Bank of India had permitted Indian employees of subsidiaries of multinational companies remittance facilities to exercise their stock options in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Employees in India of branches/offices/wholly owned subsidiaries of foreign companies are allowed remittance of US\$ 750 in a block of five years for acquiring the shares of foreign companies.

RBI have decided to enhance the ceiling of US\$ 750/- to US\$ 10,000/- in a block of five years and extend the above remittance facility to the employees of Joint Venture Companies with majority foreign share holding, i.e. 51% and above.

(c) The total annual outflow of foreign exchange for investment made by Indian companies in joint ventures abroad is as under:—

(Amount in US\$ in million)

	Cash	Exports	Loan	Total
April 1996 to March, 1997	197.583	16.472	0.420	214.475

(d) RBI has allowed about 1500 employees of subsidiaries of multinational companies to exercise stock

option (share purchase) in such multinational companies. However, the exact amount of outflow of foreign exchange in this regard is not available as the remittance is made through various authorised dealers and options decided by the concerned employees.

#### Textile Mills in U.P.

634. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several textile mills in Uttar Pradesh have been sick and are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details about performance of these sick mills and the steps taken during the last three years to stabilise the functioning of these mills and to improve their standard by modernisation and the details of funds allocated for this purpose;

(c) the details of the action plan prepared for the revival of these sick units; and

(d) the number of such units which are likely to be closed down in the near future and the details of action plan formulated for the rehabilitation of workers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALLAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has set up the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to inquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of mills. 35 cases stand referred to the BIFR from Uttar Pradesh as on 30.9.97.

(d) The BIFR has recommended winding up order in respect of 17 cases.

The Government has established Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme to provide interim relief to workers rendered jobless due to permanent/ partial closure of mill.

#### Concessions for Sports

635. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to grant tax concessions for sports infrastructure and sponsorships; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) At present deductions are available to the sports associations and sports personnel u/s. 10(23), 35AC, 80RR, 88 and

115BBA of the Income-tax Act. Various sports bodies have however approached the Government for further tax concessions to augment sports infrastructure and sponsorships.

#### Ratio of Advancing of Loans and Deposits

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

(a) whether the banks are not providing loans in the ratio of deposits;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the action proposed by the Government to ensure the ratio between providing the loans and the deposits by the banks are maintained;

(d) the details of ratio between the advancing of loans and receipt of deposits during the last three years, year-wise, till date; and

(e) the effect of the above on the developmental activities of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised commercial banks that they should achieve a credit deposit ratio (CDR) of 60 per cent in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches separately on an all India basis. Bank 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 while disparity in ratios between different States/Regions is avoided in order to minimise imbalances in credit deployment. The CDR of scheduled commercial banks during the last three years in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, NCT of Delhi and also the All India average are given below:

Name of State	CDR (Percent) as on the last Friday of		
	March 1995	March 1996	March 1997
Uttar Pradesh	35.0	34.2	31.6
Haryana	46.7	46.0	42.7
Delhi	74.6	74.7	66.9
All India	59.2	61.9	57.3

The CDR in a particular State or Region, however, 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 production. The RBI had set up Task Forces to ascertain the reasons for low CDR in certain States. In respect of States/Union Territories where CDR was low and at the same time, specific Task Forces were not constituted the convenor banks of State Level Bankers' Committee were advised to convene special meetings to discuss and take appropriate steps to improve the position.

#### Export of Hosiery Goods

637. DR. ARVIND SHARMA :  
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there exists wide scope for promotion of export of hosiery goods;

(b) if so, the details of hosiery goods exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost the export of hosiery goods during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of hosiery goods (knitted garments) exported during the last three years have been as follows:—

Year	Quantity (In Million Pieces)	Value (In Million US Dollar)
1994	426.0	1122.6
1995	436.7	1155.1
1996	540.2	1469.7

(c) In order to boost the exports of garments, including hosiery goods, Government have been taking a number of steps, 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.



[Translation]

#### **Overdraft by States**

638. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have been requesting the Union Government for extending the period of repayment of the amount of overdraft; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) As per available records, there is no request pending from State Governments in the Ministry of Finance for extending the time limit to clear the overdraft of States in their accounts with RBI. The overdraft regulation policy was last reviewed by RBI in 1993 and the time limit for clearance of overdraft was extended from 7 days to 10 days w.e.f. 15th October, 1993. The scheme is working satisfactorily at present and further modification of the scheme does not appear necessary.

[English]

#### **Tax on Indian Ships**

639. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian ships have to bear a much heavier burden to taxes than their foreign counterparts;

(b) if so, whether the shipping industry has requested the Government for tax concessions to gain a level playing field with international maritime operators; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Some representations have been received from the Indian shipping industry demanding fiscal incentives. However, there is no Central excise duty on ships manufactured in India, nor is there any Customs duty on ships imported into India. Also, the existing income tax rates are comparable to the lowest rates prevailing in other countries.

#### **Infrastructure Investment by LIC**

640. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have widened the scope of 'Socially Oriented Sectors' especially for infrastructure investment by the Life Insurance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prior to July, 1997 the socially oriented sector investments of the LIC consisted of loans for Housing Schemes, Electricity Boards, Water Supply and Sewerage Boards, State Road Transport Corporations, Co-operative Industrial Estates and Sugar Co-operatives. From 30th July, 1997 onwards the scope of socially oriented sector investments has been enlarged to include investments in projects relating to Ports, Roads and Highways, Railways (i.e. BOLT projects) and Airports. LIC has also been allowed to invest in private sector projects also subject to availability of suitable schemes which satisfy their prudential norms.

#### **Utilisation of Budget Allocation**

641. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of State Governments have failed to utilise funds allotted for agricultural and rural development;

(b) if so, whether these States have diverted these funds for other purposes; and

(c) if so, the number of States diverted the funds and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) As per the policy approved by the NDC, Central Assistance is given to the States for their plans in the shape of block loans and grants without relating it to any individual scheme, group of schemes or head of development. At the same time, in order to ensure that the priorities of the Plan are generally maintained in the course of development, outlays under certain heads and sub-heads of development and for some specified schemes are to be earmarked. The procedure of reduction in Central Assistance for non-adherence by the States to the outlays of earmarked schemes/programmes has also been laid down whereby the State Govts. are not expected to divert the earmarked outlays to any other programme/scheme. However, the States enjoy freedom to re-arrange/change outlays within the non earmarked areas including diversion to earmarked schemes/sectors/projects so long as the total Plan outlays remains unchanged. The earmarking of sectors/schemes/sub-sectors vary from State to State according to the priority of those States. The States in respect of which cuts on Central Assistance were affected during 1995-96 on account of shortfall on the expenditure in the earmarked sub sectors/schemes under the sectors of agriculture and rural development as also the amounts of shortfall and cut are shown below:—

(Rs. in lakh)

		Agriculture & Allied Activities		Rural Development	
		Shortfall	Cut	Short fall	Cut
1.	Andhra Pradesh	102.51	31.75	13.57	4.20
2.	Assam	1665.13	1315.49	398.10	314.50
3.	Goa	—	—	9.00	2.70
4.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	3796.73	984.19
5.	Maharashtra	991.00	88.18	2848.59	253.46
6.	Meghalaya	375.17	267.55	134.87	96.18
7.	Mizoram	10.68	9.07	9.01	7.65
8.	Punjab	—	—	38.22	5.55
9.	Orissa	688.71	197.71	—	—
10.	Rajasthan	530.42	79.82	2454.71	369.39
11.	West Bengal	1000.00	297.21	—	—

In respect of Bihar, shortfall or otherwise could not be determined for want of expenditure figures. Anticipated or Actual for 1995-96.

Besides the schemes under State Plan sector for which Central Assistance is released by Ministry of Finance, there are Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Agricultural and Rural Development administered by the Ministries of Agriculture, and Rural Areas and Employment. The Central Ministries release funds to States depending upon actual utilisation, taking care to leave adequate maintenances with State Govts. for smooth implementation of the names.

#### Water Logging in Coal Mines

642. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have released any assistance to combat the problem of Water logging in the coal mines during monsoon and for the protection of workers, working in the coal mines;

(b) if so, the details of funds released during each of the last three years;

(c) whether due to water logging in Coal Mines of Central Coal Fields Limited and B.C.C.L. several workers have been killed and the Government suffered loss of revenue during the last three years and current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have taken measures to check such incidents; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) : In terms of the provisions contained in Coal Mines (Conservation & Development) Act, 1974, Government have released funds towards water management plan in the coalfield areas of Bharat Coking Coal Limitec (BCCL), Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) only in financial year 1996-97 out of excise duty collected on coal raised

and despatched from the collieries in India under the Act as per details given below:

Company		Funds released (Rs. in Lakhs)
(a)	ECL	44.80
(b)	BCCL	481.97
(c)	TISCO	18.97

(c) and (d) During the period 1994 to 1997, there had been 77 fatalities due to water inrush at Gaslitant and other mines of BCCL resulting in loss of revenue on account of total stoppage of production from affected mines.

(e) and (f) Measures for prevention of disasters on account of inundation comprise detailed safety audit for each mine; construction of dams/embankment clearing and widening of water courses; filling up low lying and subsided areas; augmentation of pumping capacity; ensuring uninterrupted power supply for pumping installations; monitoring of rainfall and weather conditions and effective emergency evacuation systems etc.

[Translation]

#### Privatisation of LIC

643. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a massive agitation has been launched in Madhya Pradesh against privatisation of Life Insurance Corporation, and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the privatisation of L.I.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some representations have been received by the Government against privatisation in the insurance sector.

(b) Under the existing insurance laws, the life insurance business is an exclusive privilege of Life Insurance Corporation of India (L.I.C). The LIC cannot be privatised without amending the existing insurance laws.

#### Hindi Advisory Committee

644. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindi Advisory Committee has been reconstituted in his Ministry;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay;

(c) the time limit fixed for reconstitution of the Committee and holding of its meetings; and

(d) the other steps taken/being taken to encourage the use of Hindi Language in his Ministry on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Year of Independence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The Hindi Salahakar Samiti in this Ministry is at the final stage of re-constitution.

(d) In accordance with the Annual Programme, 1997-98, of the Department of Official Language, on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Year of Independence all the constructive programmes to encourage the official use of Hindi are being organised. Hindi fortnight was also organised in which several competitions were held for Hindi speaking & non-Hindi speaking employees. One typing/Stenography Centre is being run under the Department of Revenue in which a number of employees of the Offices located in North Block/South Block are receiving training in Hindi typing & Hindi Shorthand.

[English]

#### National Rural Bank

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

(a) whether any final decision has been taken by the Government to start National Rural Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the bank is likely to be started; and

(c) the number of Regional Rural Banks running at profit giving details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) After considering a number of alternative models for restructuring of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), including setting up of a National Rural Bank, it was decided to revamp the RRBs by cleansing of their balance sheets on a "Stand alone" basis. Accordingly, 136 out of 196 RRBs have been taken up, during the period 1994-97, for comprehensive restructuring including cleansing up of their balance sheets and infusion of fresh capital. An amount of Rs. 573 crores has been provided by the Central Government for this purpose as budgetary support. The objective of this exercise has been to transform the presently weak and ailing RRBs into financially viable and effective instruments of decentralised rural banking.

(c) As per the available data (latest) with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) 44 out of 196 RRBs made profits during the year 1995-96.

**Photo Identity Cards**

646. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of photo identity cards for voters has been completed in every State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where the work has not been completed;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that these cards are issued in those States at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) :  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the percentage of electors supplied with defect free Photo Identity Cards in various

States and Union territories as on 31.10.1997 is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The scheme is at different stages of implementation in all the States except the State of Jammu and Kashmir where it has not been introduced.

(d) The main reasons for slow progress of implementation of the scheme of Photo Identity Cards in some areas are movement of electors from one place to another, reorganization of polling stations, change in details of the electors in the electoral rolls, lack of adequate response from the electors, printing of data in the Identity Cards in two languages, etc. The scheme has been recently started in the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(e) The Election Commission is constantly reviewing the progress made by the State Governments in implementation of the scheme and, for that purpose, Chief Electoral Officers sent regular fortnightly reports to the Commission.

**Statement**

*The Position of Number of Electors supplied with Defect Free I-Cards and Percentage of the Total voters of the Country who have been Issued Photo I-Cards*

S. No.	Name of State/U.T.	Total electors as per Lok Sabha Election, 1996	Electors supplied with defect free I-cards	%
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49501274	31731657	64.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	544440	358325	65.82
3.	Assam	12575854	67479	0.54
4.	Bihar	58438317	22495057	38.49
5.	Goa	869093	523189	60.20
6.	Gujarat	28529094	23133904	81.09
7.	Haryana	11152856	9324551	83.61
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3536517	2557616	72.32
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	Scheme not Implemented	—

1	2	3	4	5
10.	<i>Karnataka</i>	31810069	22811216	71.71
11.	Kerala	20673867	3043481	14.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	43927252	26958281	61.37
13.	Maharashtra	55254414	43927750	79.50
14.	Manipur	1290990	984823	76.28
15.	Meghalaya	1092753	839778	76.85
16.	Mizoram	408094	0	0.00
17.	Nagaland	874518	0	0.00
18.	Orissa	22419118	18215355	81.25
19.	Punjab	14489825	10728438	74.04
20.	Rajasthan	30388357	18123259	59.64
21.	Sikkim	229160	200077	87.31
*22.	Tamil Nadu	42488022	*0	0.00
23.	Tripura	1647908	1150698	69.83
24.	Uttar Pradesh	100826305	51573000	51.15
25.	West Bengal	45583054	33255937	72.96
26.	Andaman & N. Islands	211226	172000	81.43
27.	Chandigarh	450599	293975	65.24
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	94909	57933	61.04
29.	Daman & Diu	70202	42305	60.26
30.	NCT-Delhi	8058941	5518000	68.47
31.	Lakshadweep	34111	29612	86.81
32.	Pondicherry	633635	554286	87.48
All India		592580483	328671982	55.47

\*In Tamil Nadu, although cards have not yet been issued, photography of 89.94% electors have been done.

**Wind up Schemes**

647. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Government to kill 216 schemes, save Rs. 1000" published in the 'Economic Times'. Delhi, dated September 9, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to wind up schemes in the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Industrial Development, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Tourism;

(c) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;

(d) whether such schemes have already had some investment and losses incurred thereby; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) Weeding out of schemes which had become redundant or were found to be non-essential including those schemes in the Ministries mentioned were identified in a detailed exercise where the representative of the Ministries were also present. Only those schemes which had become non-essential or redundant were identified for weeding out. As this exercise involved the identification of schemes to be weeded out to prevent wasteful expenditure as they were redundant and non-essential the question of incurring losses does not arise. Wherever a Department required time to reduce the infructuous payment of wages or change the use of assets, these cases have also been considered, as the weeding out exercise is an on-going review.

**Public Investment**

648. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether public and private investment in various projects has declined during the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to encourage private and Government investment in projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) During the second quarter (July-September), 78 numbers of LOIS

were issued and 1012 numbers of IEMs filed during the first quarter (April-June), of the current year. The amount of the proposed investment in respect of LOIs issued increased to Rs. 3761 crores in the second quarter, the amount of investment in the first quarter was lower at Rs. 1321 crores. However, proposed investment in respect of IEMs filed declined to Rs. 10528 crores in the second quarter from Rs. 14489 crores in the first quarter of the current year.

(c) and (d) measures contained in the Union Budget and credit policy announced by RBI in April, 1997 and October, 1997 have created policy mix to improve investor's confidence. Government has granted greater functional and operational autonomy to public sector undertakings, including 9 Navaratna PSUs, liberalised the policy and procedures governing foreign investment and foreign technology transfer. These measures are aimed to facilitate greater flow of investment to private and public sectors.

**Outstanding Excise Duty**

649. SHRI ANNASHAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the top 25 corporate companies against whom excise and customs duty is pending realisation alongwith the amount so pending;

(b) whether the government have formulated a special crash programme for realisation of the above outstanding dues;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount realised so far and proposed to be realised during the current year as one time settlement to augment revenue collection;

(d) whether the Government have taken special measures to strengthen the special cells for clearance/settlement of disputed claims/cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Investment by IFCI in Private Companies**

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

(a) the aggregate cost of Unlisted Equity Shares of private companies purchased by Industrial Finance Corporation of India during April, 1992 to March 31, 1996;

(b) the aggregate cost of Listed Equity Shares of private companies purchased through private placement of Bought-out deals by IFCI during April 1, 1992 to March 31, 1996;

(c) the aggregate cost of Unlisted convertible debentures of private companies purchased by IFCI during April 1, 1992 to March 31, 1996;

(d) the aggregate cost of Listed Convertible debentures of private companies purchased through private placement of Bought-out deals by IFCI during April, 1992 to March 31, 1996; and

(e) the aggregate Dividend received from the companies given at (a) and (b), separately, during April 1, 1992 to June 31, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd., (IFCI) has reported that it does not purchase shares from the open market. However, IFCI acquires shares through underwriting/direct subscription assistance under project finance operations and by way of exercise of conversion option wherever stipulated. The aggregate cost of equity share of unlisted private sector companies subscribed by IFCI during April 1, 1992 to March 31, 1996 was Rs. 1887.77 lakhs.

(b) and (d) IFCI has reported that no such transactions had taken place during the period.

(c) The aggregated cost of convertible debentures of unlisted private sector companies subscribed by IFCI during April, 1992 to March, 1996 was Rs. 1807.15 lakhs.

(e) IFCI has reported that the amount of dividend received by it during the period April 1992 to June, 1996 was Rs. 20.30 lakhs in respect of companies referred to in part (a) of the Question.

#### **Bank Branch at Morch, Manipur**

651. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is only one public sector bank functioning at Morch in Manipur;

(b) whether the traders and others at Morch have been demanding for opening of one more State Bank of India branch in the town;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to concede to their demand; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that there is one branch of United Bank of India functioning at Morch in Manipur.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has not received any representation/proposal from the traders and others for opening a branch of State Bank of India at Morch. As per the extant branch licensing policy of RBI, the choice of the centres is left to the judgement of the banks themselves, who take into account inter-alia viability aspect and availability of infrastructural facilities while taking decisions for opening of new branches.

[Translation]

#### **Different Interest Rates**

652. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are different interest rates of fixed deposits in post offices and nationalised commercial banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of this differences on banks and customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the interest rate on deposits in nationalised banks are different from those in post offices, as the operations of post Offices are not comparable with those of commercial banks. Banks are commercial organisations and deploy their deposit funds in investments, loans and advances. Banks determine the interest rates on deposits based on several factors such as overall cost of funds, yield on funds, cost of servicing deposits, maturity pattern and so on.

Unlike Post Offices, fixed deposits of banks are more liquid as depositors can prematurely withdraw deposits or take loan against deposits with penalty. Further, banks offer various services and products to depositors like Cheque Book facility, remittance facility, demand drafts, clearing facility and so on. In view of a variety of products and services offered by commercial banks there is unlikely to be large scale shift of deposits from commercial banks to Post Offices.

[English]

#### **Pension to Retired LIC Employees Prior to January 1, 1986**

653. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the grievances of L.I.C. employees who retired prior to January 1, 1986, about Pension Benefits;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to redress the same;

(c) whether retired Class I Officers were given different treatment within the class by introducing a new phenomena of cut-off dates while releasing the arrears of salary/gratuity/pension on account of revision of scales with effect from August 1, 1992; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to remove the following anomalies;

(i) the denial of arrears of salary and revised pension to pensioners retired between August 1, 1992 to March 31, 1993;

(ii) denial of difference in gratuity to those retired between August 1, 1992 to July 31, 1994;

(iii) treating the officers promoted before April 1, 1973 differently from those promoted after April 1, 1993 as Class I Officers by completely denying the former the benefit of gratuity on account of revision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The pension scheme which was introduced in the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) w.e.f. 1.11.1993 is applicable to those who retired w.e.f. 1.1.1986 or later. The pension scheme was introduced in lieu of erstwhile Contributory Provident Fund scheme. Representations were received to include pre-1.1.1986 retirees also under the pension scheme. On account of financial and administrative constraints, it was not possible to extend the pension scheme to pre-1986 retirees.

(c) and (d) Even though the revision of pay scales of Class I Officers was w.e.f. 1.8.1992, taking into account the cost constraints the effective dates for drawal of benefits such as arrears of pay, enhanced gratuity and other allowances was staggered and is uniformly applicable to all Class-I Officers of the LIC.

#### **Tax Dues Against Airlines**

654. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreign airlines have become defaulters in regard to payment of tax on income;

(b) if so, whether the Delta Airlines and the United Airlines have not paid tax on income collectively amounting to Rs. 800 crores which they earned in India during the last few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Delta Airlines have not paid tax since 1991;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the US Airlines have also not paid tax since 1995; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken by the Government against these airlines for non-payment of tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Only three foreign airlines are reported to have become defaulters in regard to payment of tax on income.

(b) to (g) As per Article 8 of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and USA, the income of airlines based in USA are subject to tax in USA only.

However, notice have been issued to M/s Delta Airlines for assessment year 1992-93 to 1996-97 to bring to tax its income other than the income from business operations of airlines. The returns have been filed by M/s Delta Airlines in response to these notices.

Similarly, enquiries have also been made in respect of M/s United Airlines to bring to tax its income other than the income arising from its airlines operations.

#### **Additional Central Financial Assistance to States**

655. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total additional central financial assistance sought by the various States particularly Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years.

(b) the details of funds allocated by the Union Government during the above period,—projectwise;

(c) whether any additional assistance has been sought during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The Annual Plans of States are finalised by the Planning Commission to be funded by States' own resources and Centrally allocated resources like market borrowings negotiated loans and Central Assistance. The Annual Plans are fully funded. This Central Plan Assistance consists of Normal Central Assistance, Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects. Central Assistance for Centrally Sponsored Schemes transferred



to States and Special Central Assistance for Area Programmes. The States are given funds under the above items as per their entitlement/allocation. The States do approach the Central Government for additional assistance due to special circumstances. The Central Government, keeping in view its resource constraints and financial implications, provides Additional Assistance in very special cases. Based on

the information available in the Ministry of Finance, a Statement, showing details of the requests received from the State Governments during the last three financial years i.e. 1994–1997 and the current financial year is enclosed. The requests seeking preponed releases of future entitlements, assistance in the wake of natural calamities, and deferment of repayment obligations are not included in this category of requests.

**Statement**

*Addition Central Financial Assistance sought by States and amount Provided by the Ministry of Finance During 1994–95 to 1997–98 (Upto 18.11.97)*

Sl. No.	State	Amount (Rs. in crore)	Purpose	Remarks/Amount provided (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
<b>1994–95</b>				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	250.00	For implementing the balance component of AP Irrigation-II Project.	Not agreed to.
2.	Assam			
	(i)		Moratorium on the repayment of all outstanding loans including interest for five years.	-do-
	(ii)	220.00	Additional market borrowing	30.00
	(iii)	300.00	Advance plan assistance for covering the closing deficit of 1993–94.	Not agreed to.
3.	Himachal Pradesh			
	(i)	550.00	Against outstanding loans of Rs. 1100 crore due from neighbouring States on account of share of energy from Bhakra and Beas Management Board (BBMB) system and supply of power to these States.	-do-
	(ii)	100.00	To give effect to the Supreme Court's order to enhance wages to all the daily wages employees in Government Sectors in the State.	-do-
	(iii)	268.74	To convert the advance plan assistance of Rs. 288.74 crore provided during 1993–94, as outright grant or a long term loan.	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
4.	J & K			
	(i)	555.00	Advance Plan Assistance to cover budgetary deficit.	Rs. 973.00 as special plan assistance given.
	(ii)	185.00	For Security related expenditure.	
	(iii)	733.00	Rescheduling of Rs. 733.00 crores payable during the year 1994-95 without effecting recoveries.	
5.	Kerala	100.00	Additional market borrowing	50.00
6.	Manipur			
	(i)	35.00	To liquidate the outstanding liabilities	Not agreed to.
	(ii)	119.00	Special package for economic development of Manipur	-do-
	(iii)	10.00	Request for various schemes drawn up by the State Government for combating militancy.	-do-
7.	Meghalaya	50.00	Ways & Means Advance/short term loan to clear the overdraft	-do-
8.	Nagaland			
	(i)	152.75	To cover opening deficit, D.A. on Central Government pattern etc.	12.00 (plan-loan)
	(ii)	80.00	Advance Plan Assistance/Ways & Means Advance to tide over acute financial crisis.	Not agreed to.
9.	Orissa	250.00	Medium term loan to bridge gap in resources for funding the State's Annual Plan 1994-95	-do-
10.	Punjab	310.00	To bridge the gap in resources for the Annual Plan 1994-95 and completion of major Power Projects.	No additional Central assistance was given. However, the State Government was allowed to raise additional market borrowings Rs. 100 crore.
11.	Tripura	—	State Govt. requested for Rs. 50 crore grant, Rs. 100 crore interest free loan and 10% additional Central assistance.	Not agreed to.
12.	Uttar Pradesh			
	(i)	51.50	For providing 50% of the expenditure of the local cost of Anpara 'B' Thermal Power Project.	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
	(ii)	24.00	Additional Central Assistance against Advance Plan Assistance given in 1993-94 for debt relief to weavers.	Not agreed to.
<b>B. 1995-96</b>				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.20	For construction of Capital Project	Addl. Central Assistance of Rs. 2 cr. released as approved by Ping. Comm.
2.	Andhra Pradesh			
	(i)	636	Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 636 crores as additional Plan support for Annual Plan 1995-96.	Not agreed to.
	(ii)	150	Request for ways and means advance.	-do-
	(iii)	—	ACA to compensate the State for revenue losses due to the implementation of Prohibition Policy and also due to implementation of Rs. 2 per Kg. Rice Subsidy Scheme.	-do-
3.	Assam			
	(i)	50.00	One time grant for Bodoland Autonomous Council	-do-
	(ii)	136.00	To convert Ways & Means advance given in April, 1996 medium term loan.	-do-
4.	Himachal Pradesh	516.00	To meet State's financial requirements on account of closing deficit of Rs. 416.00 crores for 1994-95 and Rs. 100 crores on account of liability due to Supreme Court Judgement on enhancement of wages of daily-wage employees in the Government Sectors in the State.	-do-
5.	J & K	71.00	For meeting the requirement of the State Government for interim relief to their employees on Central pattern.	Rs. 42.34 crore as add. assistance provided.
		67.00	Addl. Grant for import of Power.	Not agreed to.
		155.21	Reimbursement of balance amount out of Rs. 251.21 crore related to security items.	Rs. 143.16 crore
6.	Manipur	18.50	To strengthen State Police force.	Rs. 1.75 crore released by MHA.

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Mizoram	11.44	Spl. grant in aid to the extent of Rs. 11.44 crore equal to the shortfall in budget estimates 1995-96 as against the estimates of TFC for share in Central Taxes.	Not agreed to.
8.	Orissa	2100.00	To write of loans	-do-
9.	Punjab	259.00	To expedite major Power Projects including Ranjit Sagar Dam.	-do-
10.	Tripura	18.95	To meet gap between the TFC award and estimated devolution from the Government of India for 1995-96.	-do-
11.	Uttar Pradesh			
	(i)	31.00	For waiver of loans of weavers of the non-rural areas.	-do-
	(ii)	772.54	For clearing the dues of UPSEB to REC upto March, 1995 on account of Rural Electrification Programme in the State.	-do-
<b>1996-97</b>				
1.	Andhra Pradesh			
	(i)	636	Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 636 crores as Additional Plan support for Annual Plan 1995-96.	-do-
	(ii)	150	Conversion of W&M advance into term loan	-do-
	(iii)	—	ACA to compensate revenue losses due to implementation of Prohibition Policy.	-do-
2.	Assam			
	(i)	326	To cover the excess expenditure incurred on internal security measures during 1990-95.	Rs. 131.91 crore agreed to.
	(ii)	30	For relief & rehabilitation measures for the arson victim families in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts.	Rs. 25 crore agreed to.
	(iii)	500	To improve budgetary resources.	Not agreed to.
	(iv)	1000	Construction of the permanent capital. }	
3.	Bihar	—	Special Central assistance for completion of 4 irrigation projects.	-do-

			4	5
4	Haryana	300	To convert medium term loan of Rs. 300 crores released during 1995-96 as 50% loan and 50 grant	Not agreed to.
5.	Himachal Pradesh			
	(i)	500	Request for long term soft loan of Rs. 500 crs.	-do-
	(ii)	800	For outright grant for long term loan to meet recurring liabilities due to Supreme Court's judgement as well as Punjab Pay Scale revision.	-do-
6.	J & K			
	(i)	378.50	To release the funds on account of special plan assistance and spl. plan loan at the level of 1995-96.	-do-
	(ii)	351.94	To provide special financial assistance of Rs. 351.94 crs. to bridge the uncovered gap in the BE 1996-97.	-do-
	(iii)	67.94	To defer recovery of power dues through the mechanism of Central appropriation during 1996-97.	-do-
7.	Karnataka	400	Additional Central assistance for Govt. Owned factory NGEF to solve financial difficulties.	-do-
8.	Manipur	40	For release of one time financial assistance as special allocation for National Games 1997 instead of releasing the amount in 1996-97 & 1997-98.	Min. of Human Resource Development have sanctioned a State level Training complex with Central assistance of Rs. 131 lakh. Rs. 87.50 lakh released.
		120	For State Capital Project.	Not agreed to.
9.	Mizoram			
	(i)	45.00	Request for long term loan of Rs. 45 crores to cover the State's opening deficit of the year 1996-97	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Nagaland			
	(i)	1.25	For carrying out the land slides studies of Kohima town for Geo-Environmental studies.	Not agreed to.
	(ii)	55.07	To clear the pending bills of work done but payment not yet made by State Govt. due to financial crunch.	Released Rs. 7.11 crs.
	(iii)	19.54	To make good the short fall of Rs. 19.54 cr. due to difference in estimates of share in Central Taxes as made by TFC and share of Central taxes as provided in the Central budget.	Not agreed to.
	(iv)	18.00	Revalidation of the Spl. Plan loan of Rs. 18 crore (out of the Spl. plan loan of Rs. 30 crore) which was adjusted against the addl. central assistance of an equal amount.	-do-
	(v)	225.98	Write off of Central loans.	-do-
11.	Punjab	250	For completion of Ranjit Sagar hydro electric proj.	-do-
12.	Uttar Pradesh	200	Additional funds and W & M advance for clearance of pending bills of Sugarcane growers.	-do-
<b>1997-98</b>				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	393.00	Medium term loan.	Not agreed to. However, the State Govt. was helped by way of advance Additional Central assistance of Rs. 263 crore for Externally aided projects and W & M advance of Rs. 72 crore.
2.	Assam	500.00	1. Spl. Central assistance to meet the gap in resources.	Not agreed to.
3.	Gujarat	—	Addl. Central assistance to meet expenditure on revised pay scales.	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Haryana	2650	Additional Central Assistance, special grant for expenditure incurred on Police Force for maintenance of Law & Order during 1983–84 to 1994–95 due to terrorism in Punjab and loss of Revenue collection in Sales Tax and low income in Roadways.	Not agreed to.
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	550.00	To meet addl. burden to implement Vth Pay Commission report.	-do-
6.	Karnataka	200.00	Additional Central Assistance for Govt. Owned factory NGEF to solve financial difficulties.	-do-
7.	Kerala	30	Additional Central Assistance for KELTEC.	-do-
8.	Madhya Pradesh	100.00	To compensate the loss resulting from the recommendation of TFC.	-do-
9.	Maharashtra	—	Addl. Central Assistance to meet expenditure on revised pay scales.	-do-
10.	Manipur	41.00	APA or W & M advance to cover opening deficit.	W&M advance of Rs. 20 crore and Rs. 5 crore.
		35.00	W & M advance.	W&M advance of Rs. 38 crore given
11.	Mizoram	117.34	Medium term loan.	Not agreed to.
12.	Nagaland	90	Advance Plan Assistance	-do-
13.	Rajasthan	372	Medium term loan to bridge the gap in resources or W & M advance of Rs. 381 crore.	Rs. 385 crore as W&M advance given.
			Additional central support to implement Pay Commission report.	Not agreed to.
		300	W&M advance.	Not agreed but Dec., 1997 instalment of Normal Central assistance released.
14.	Tamilnadu	2000	To implement Central Pay Commission's Report.	Not agreed.

**Rights of Muslim Women**

656. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI  
CHIKHALIA :  
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the Supreme Court's judgment given in July 1997 on the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act that a divorcee Muslim father was liable to pay maintenance to his children living with their mother;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to bring a legislation before the House to amend the relevant Act/laws for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No legislation for the purpose is considered necessary for the present.

[*Translation*]

**Transportation of Coal**

657. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints of irregularities in the functioning of Ex-servicemen Transport Companies being run as a joint venture of the Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether the Government have initiated or completed and probe in view of these complaints;

(c) if so, the irregularities came to force in the probe and the action taken against the erring companies;

(d) whether the Govt are contemplating to wind up this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The irregularities being alleged were that these companies do not engage ex-servicemen personnel to the extent stipulated in the existing MOU and the rates being paid to them are higher than the market rates. Looking into the above alleged irregularities, the CIL Board in its 163rd meeting held on 2.1.97 appointed a Committee to review the engagement of Ex-servicemen and the terms and conditions of the existing MOU. The Committee felt that there is need for continuing the ex-servicemen transport companies which provide reliable captive transport to the coal subsidiaries as well as provide resettlement to ex-servicemen. The Committee after interaction with the Directorate General of Resettlement has suggested suitable modifications to reduce & eliminate the above irregularities. This has been approved by the CIL Board on 19.9.97. There is no joint venture company with Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Defence and Transport Company.

(d) No sir. There is no plan for winding up the Scheme.

(e) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

**Green Channel Assessment Scheme**

658. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme called 'The Green Channel Assessment Scheme' in which importers with unblemished records are allowed clearance without detailed examination;

(b) if so, the name of those 'unblemished' importers and their service period in import; and

(c) the details of items imported by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has notified the scheme for expeditious assessment and clearance of goods by importers having proven identity and unblemished record of past conduct. The type of goods covered are bulk raw materials and components imported by major manufacturers which are being repeatedly imported. A representative list of companies with goods imported by them is given in statement enclosed herewith.



**Statement***List of Importers who have availed Green Channel Facility*

S.No.	Name of Importers	Items	Date from which facility availed, where available
1	2	3	4
1.	Dr. Reddy's Laboratories	Drug intermediates and bulk drugs	1992
2.	MRF Ltd.	Tyres, plasticizers adhesive, plastic & rubber chemicals	1992
3.	Lucas TVS Ltd.	O rings seals, accessories of various machineries, adhesives, plastics, rubber materials & electronic goods.	1992
4.	L & T McNeil Ltd.	Components & raw materials	
5.	TVS Suzuki Ltd.	Motor vehicle components	
6.	The Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited	Metals	
7.	State Trading Corporation	Foodgrains etc.	
8.	SPIC	Machinery & equipments	
9.	ICI India Ltd., Madras	-do-	
10.	Larsen and Tourbo	-do-	
11.	Cadila Labs Ltd., Ankarewar	Bulk drugs	
12.	Hindustan Motors	Machinery & parts	
13.	Malaya Manorama Ltd.	Newsprint, spares	
14.	Ashok Leyland Ltd., Chennai	Machinery parts & parts of automobile equipments	
15.	Dunlop (India) Ltd.	Natural & synthetic rubber and rubber chemicals	
16.	Gokuldas Exports, Bangalore	Garment accessories & textiles	
17.	Pearl Global Ltd., New Delhi	-do-	
18.	Wipro Infotech Ltd., Bangalore	Computer parts	
19.	Delhi Bras & Metalwares Co., New Delhi	Garment accessories & textiles	

[Translation]

**G.D.P.**

659. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of G.D.P. growth of India, during 1996-97 and the G.D.P growth rate expected this year;

(b) whether the economic condition of India, particularly in industry, trade, export-import etc. has been deteriorating day by day inspite of the fact that there has not been any substantial decrease in the percentage of the G.D.P. growth;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the rate of savings last year and likely to be in the current year;

(e) the amount of foreign capital investment to be made this year, keeping in view that 42 billion dollar foreign capital investment was being made in China;

(f) whether agricultural production has been decreasing continuously; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As per revised estimates released by CSO in July 1997 the GDP growth during 1996-97 was 6.8%. Estimate of GDP growth rate for 1997-98 is not yet available.

(b) and (c) Overall growth of industrial production during April to July, 1997 is 6.4% compared to 10% in April-July, 1996. As per DGC&S data, exports in terms of U.S. dollars registered a growth rate of 4.2 per cent in April-September 1997 compared to 9.9 per cent in April-September, 1996, and imports recorded an increase of 7.6 per cent in April-September 1997 compared to 5.2 per cent in April-September 1996.

The deceleration in the industrial and exports growth was largely due to poor performance of some infrastructural sectors and lack of external demand caused by global recession.

(d) Estimates of savings rates for 1996-97 and current year are not yet available. However, rate of gross domestic savings as per cent of GDP at market price during 1995-96 was 25.6%.

(e) Inflows of foreign capital through foreign direct investment (FDI) and global depository receipts (GDR) had been \$ 2159 million in April-August, 1997, and through foreign institutional investment (FII) had been \$ 1307 million in April-September, 1997.

(f) and (g) The average annual growth rate in agriculture during the Eight Five Year Plan (1992-97) was

4.13 per cent which except for the Sixth plan period (1980-1985) growth rate of 6.2 per cent, exceeded the average growth rate achieved in all the preceding plan periods.

[English]

**External Loans/Grants**

660. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of external loans/grants received by the Government during the Seventh and Eighth Plan;

(b) the break-up of those loans/grants received by the State during the Seventh and Eighth plan; and

(c) the procedures adopted by the Centre to approve those loans/grants to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The amount of external loans/grants received by the Government during the Seventh and Eighth Plan is as under :

	(Rs. crore)		
	Loans	Grants	Total
Seventh Plan (1985-86 to 1989-90)	18998.88	2572.74	21571.62
Eighth Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97)	43451.84	4830.00	48281.84

(b) External loans and grants received by the Government of India are passed on to the States in the form of Additional Central Assistance (ACA). During the Seventh and Eighth Plan, the break-up of ACA released to the States is as under:

	(Rs. crore)		
	Loans	Grants	Total
Seventh Plan	2185.30	973.52	3158.82
Eighth Plan	13210.76	5941.03	19151.79

(c) The State Governments formulate the project proposals for foreign loans/grants and sent them to the Central Administrative Ministry for evaluation from technical and feasibility angle. The proposal is also examined by Planning Commission for resource availability within the plan outlay. After approval of the Central Administrative Ministry and the Planning commission, the proposal is sent to the department of Economic Affairs (DEA), which

is the nodal agency for posing these projects to the external donor agencies. DEA views the proposal for its viability and matches the project with donors' spectral preferences, and approaches the appropriate donor for funding the project.

#### **Smuggling of Arecanut**

661. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of arecanut through Nepal and also import of arecanut in the name of dry fruits which affect adversely the Indian growers mainly from Kerala, Karnataka and Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check smuggling of arecanut and to protect the interest of the growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Available reports indicate some incidence of smuggling of arecanut (Betelnut) from Nepal to India. The details of seizure of arecanut attempted to be smuggled are furnished below:

Year	Value of seizure (Rs. in lac)
1994-95	16.14
1995-96	54.74
1996-97	41.69

There are however no reports to indicate import of arecanut in the guise of dry fruits.

(c) Anti Smuggling agencies are on high alert to prevent and detect any smuggling including smuggling of arecanut. Specific measures taken include greater surveillance & targetting of intelligence on the areas vulnerable to smuggling such as the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh border.

#### **All India Judicial Service**

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

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has strongly opposed the proposal of the Union Government for the constitution of an All-India Judicial Service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the other States so far opposed this move and the States which have approved the proposal; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) :

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has opposed the creation of All India Judicial Service which may not serve interests of an efficient administration of justice due to regional and language variations in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, J & K, Karnataka, Manipur and Nagaland have also not favoured the setting up of an All India Judicial Service. The State Governments of Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, Punjab, Kerala, Tripura, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have concurred to the setting up of an AIJS. The Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam and Rajasthan have given conditional endorsement to the proposal.

(d) In pursuance of a direction of Supreme Court of India in the All India Judges Association Case (Writ Petition No. 1022/89), the Government is already seized of the matter relating to creation of an All India Judicial Service. Secondly, comments from two States are awaited.

#### **Agricultural Export**

663. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :  
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have removed export curbs on groundnut and Sesamum besides realising the export quota of 5000 tonnes for milk powder;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these two items have been declared freely exportable during 1997-98; and

(d) if so, the guidelines issued by the Government to restrict the misuse of these two items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Vide Policy Circular No. 9/97-98 dated 14th July, 1997 and the Policy Circular No. 14/97-98 dated 30th July, 1997, the Government has permitted free export of HPS groundnut and sesamum (sesame seeds) without any quantitative restrictions during the current licensing year, 1997-98. Similarly vide Policy

Circular No. 16/97-98, the Government has permitted export of 5000 MTs of powder milk.

The export of HPS-Groundnut and sesame seeds have been permitted freely during the current licensing year 1997-98, keeping in view their availability and the exports made during the preceeding years.

Further as per the Policy Circular No. 14/97-98 dated 30th July, 1997, exporters are also required to furnish a statement regarding the quantity of sesame seed exported alongwith the copy of shipping bills within 30 days from the date of export.

#### Presumptive Tax Scheme

664. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH  
GAEKWARD :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme for presumptive tax involving payment of Rs. 1400 per annum as tax from small entrepreneurs and professionals was an utter failure;

(b) if so, the actual collections made during the respective years, as compared to the estimated expected figure; and

(c) whether the main reasons for failure of the scheme was lack of will on the part of collection of taxes and collusion between tax payers and collector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The statistics of number of persons opting for the Presumptive Tax Scheme suggest that the scheme did not yield the desired results.

(b) The statistics relating to the number of forms received and tax collections under the Presumptive Tax Scheme during the period 1992-93 to 1996-97 are as under:

Financial Year	No. of Forms under PTS	Collection under PTS
(Rupees in crores)		
1992-93	1,16,644	16.47
1993-94	1,95,600	27.53
1994-95	3,56,322	49.96
1995-96	2,51,824	35.39
1996-97	1,58,733	22.73

No separate targets were fixed for tax collection under the scheme.

(c) No Sir.

[Translation]

#### Export/Import Growth of STC/MMTC

665. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export/import growth of STC/MMTC during the Seventh and Eighth Plan period; and

(b) the new proposals to make STC/MMTC more competitive as a Trading House of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Year-wise export/import turnover of STC/MMTC during the 7th and 8th Plan period are as follows:—

(Rupees in crores)

Year	STC		MMTC	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
<b>7th Plan</b>				
1985-86	378	2158	622.6	2367.1
1986-87	542	2179	711.7	2037.4
1987-88	581	3037	728.4	2118.7
1988-89	530	2045	872.6	2971.4
1989-90	752	1070	1148.3	3914.5
<b>8th Plan</b>				
1992-93	551	324	1674.9	3368.4
1993-94	798	239	1371.3	1699.3
1994-95	806	965	1368.3	3662.1
1995-96	749	858	1375.6	4450.8
1996-97	513	1896	1336.6	3406.9

(b) consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of items earlier canalised through STC and MMTC, both the Corporations have made an endeavour to reorient its trading activities in a manner consistent with the

liberalised economy and competitive environment in the fields of :—

- Emphasis on direct buying and selling operations in commodities like Coffee, tea, jute goods, oilseeds extractions;
- Development of captive supply base through joint ventures in the steel sector with Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) for setting up of an iron and steel plant and Konark Met Coke Ltd. (KMCL) for producing coke and then supply to NINL for consumption in the blast furnace;
- Diversification of trading activities in new areas like gold and silver and export of jewellery and consolidation of the existing ones;
- Strengthening overseas market network and ware-housing by way of setting up of wholly owned subsidiaries;
- Infrastructural development for ensuring smooth and efficient handling of bulk items of export/import;
- Diversification of trading activities by MMTC in the non-traditional area of agro-products etc.

#### **Legal Aid to Poor People**

666. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Maharashtra under the Legal Aid Scheme for poor people during 1995–96, 1996–97 and 1997–98, till date; and

(b) the steps taken to streamline the above system and to ensure assistance to the needy people in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) :

(a) The allocation of Central Funds is not done on "State Basis". The expenses of the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards etc. are met out of the State Funds provided by the respective State Governments. The grants-in-aid released to the Maharashtra State Legal Aid & Advice Board etc. during the financial years 1995–96, 1996–97 and 1997–98, till date, are as under:—

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Amount of the grant-in-aid released (in Rupees)
(1)	1995–96	—
(2)	1996–97	2,05,000
(3)	1997–98 (upto 18.11.1997)	3,00,000

(b) The proposal is afoot to convene a meeting of the Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authorities constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to further streamline and review the system to ensure that financial assistance provided to the State Legal Services Authorities could be more effectively utilised for implementation of various Legal Aid Programmes envisaged under the said Act.

[English]

#### **Taxes Pending Against Big Corporate Sector Companies**

667. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the big corporate sector companies who borrowed more than Rs. 500 crore as on April 1, 1997 from the Indian banks and financial institutions, etc.;

(b) the Government liabilities pending against the above mentioned corporate sector companies like excise, customs and income tax etc.; and

(c) the total amount of borrowings as well as the total amount of liabilities against each such company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available and permissible under the rules.

[Translation]

#### **Wholesale Price Index**

668. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include some more services under the Wholesale Price Index;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to include telephone and transport service under the Wholesale Price Index;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The government have set up a Working Group to revise the current series of the Wholesale Price Index so as to reflect the structural changes that have occurred in the economy since 1981–82 - the base year of the current series. The Working Group would review the composition of the existing index and suggest items that would merit inclusion or exclusion in the new series, together with the new base year. The analysis undertaken by the Working Group is at an advanced stage.

[English]

### Export of Cotton

669. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared export of 7 lakh bales of raw cotton;

(b) if so, whether the production of cotton has fallen considerably this year and the prices of cotton in the domestic market has increased due to the steps of the Government to export more cotton;

(c) if so, whether the government propose to reconsider its decision to export cotton in view of indigenous demand;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps being taken by the Government to check the prices of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALLAPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is too early to make any correct assessment of cotton production for the cotton season October, 1997 September, 1998. As regards prices of cotton, these vary on account of various factors e.g quality, quantity of arrivals, rains, export of cotton, etc.

(c) to (e) Cotton exports quota will be released by the government to various State Federations, CCI, NAFED, trade etc., from time to time every year, after taking into account all relevant factors, including estimated production, availability, domestic demand and likely surplus of cotton, as well as price trends etc.

### Evasion of Excise Duty

670. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Excise revenue is being evaded by the manufacturer with impunity in large number of cases and the Central Excise authorities do not seems to be serious about that;

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

(c) the number of Central Excise revenue evasion cases detected during the last three years, year-wise along with amount involved therein; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to strengthen the Central (Revenue) Excise Department to check such evasion by frequent/periodical checks of manufacturing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Evasion, through a clandestine activity, the Central Excise Department is serious about prevention as well as detection of cases of evasion.

(c) The details are as under:—

Year	No. of cases	Amount of duty involved (Rs. in crores)
1994-95	7606	1386.03
1995-96	6662	1236.27
1996-97	7053	1421.42

(d) The Directorate General of Anti-Evasion and the officers of Central Excise Commissionerates have been asked to collect intelligence, organise search operations, transit checks, surveillance, surprise checks and stock-takings in the manufacturing units, to detect any evasion of Central Excise duties. Deterrent penalties and interests duty evaded has been provided recently in the Central Excise law.

### Introduction of Gold-Denominated Financial Instruments

671. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is proposing the introduction of new gold-denominated financial instruments like gold bonds, gold deposits and gold-schemes;

(b) the genesis behind this move and how far it will be favourable in integration in the domestic financial markets viz. money, securities, forex and capital markets—with that of gold; and

(c) the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India is considering the feasibility of introducing gold-related financial products like gold-denominated deposits, gold-denominated loans, gold accumulation plans etc. in line with the recommendations made by the Committee on Capital Account Convertibility (1997).

(b) and (c) The rationale behind introduction of gold-denominated financial products is to provide an alternative to physical gold as a means of saving/investment for the Indian population without the attendant risks of security, handling costs etc. and develop gold linked securities/

instruments as a financial asset, which would facilitate integration in the domestic financial market.

### **Coir Industry**

672. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be please to state:

(a) the total production of coir in the country during the last three years, till date; and

(b) the names of countries to which India is exporting coir?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total estimated production of coir during the last 3 years and the provisional estimated production for the year 97-98 are given below:—

(Qty. in Metric Tonnes)

Year	White Fibre	Brown Fibre
1994-95	127000	123000
1995-96	127000	136000
1996-97	127000	149000
1997-98	127000	169000

(b) During 1996-97 India exported coir products to 62 countries all over the world. The names of these countries are furnished below: —

USA, UK, Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy, Australia, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Russia, Denmark, Greece, Irish Republic, New Zealand, Canada, Israel, Brazil, Turkey, Japan, South Africa, UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Norway, Morocco, Maldives Islands, Argentina, Finland, Egypt, Yugoslavia, Mexico, Uruguay, Pakistan, Lebanon, Poland, Qatar, Chile, Kenya, Taiwan, Nigeria, Switzerland, Singapore, South Korea, Peru, Mauritius, Hungary, Ghana, Austria, Honkong, Cyprus, Oman, Baharain, Thailand, Ivory Coast, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Cuba, Cameroon, Jordan, and Seychelles.

### **P.P.F**

673. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interest earned on P.P.F. is exempted from Income Tax;

(b) if so, whether a subscriber can withdraw interest any time of his option from the P.P.F. Account;

(c) whether it is mandatory for the Account holder of P.P.F. to show annual interest in his I.T. Return and claim rebate under Section 10(11) of I.T. without withdrawing the interest;

(d) if so, whether the subscription made to P.P.F. is liable to I.T., or T.D.S. on maturity; and

(e) if so, whether the nominee or legal heir of P.P.F. Account holder is liable to pay tax at the time of withdrawal of deposits on the death of the Account holder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Any payment from a provident fund set up by the Central Government and notified by it in the Official Gazette is exempt from Income Tax under section 10(11) of Income-tax act, 1961.

(b) The extent of withdrawal and terms and conditions under which withdrawal can be made by a subscriber are provided in Public Provident Fund Scheme. However, as per proviso to Section 6 of the PPF Act, 1968, any withdrawal shall be allowed only after the expiry of a period of 5 years from the end of the year in which the initial subscription to the fund is made.

(c) The return of income contains a separate part in which an assessee is required to furnish details of income claimed to be exempt.

(d) Subscription made to a PPF Account is eligible for tax rebate under section 88 of the Income-tax Act, subject to the conditions mentioned therein.

(e) No sir.

### **Vysya Bank Limited, New Delhi**

674. SHRI JUNG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had asked the Reserve Bank of India to ascertain if the officers of the Vysya Bank Limited, New Delhi had committed any violations of regulations of RBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the officers for violating the RBI regulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Government have forwarded copies of the communications received from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament about

the functioning of private sector banks including Vysya Bank Ltd., to RBI. Since Vysya Bank is a private sector bank and it is neither feasible nor desirable for the Government to interfere in the internal matter of the private sector banks. RBI was requested to examine these with a view to ascertain whether any violation of RBI regulations has been committed by any of the private sector banks referred to by the Hon'ble Members and if so, to take action for such violation. RBI have reported that during the last three years (1995-97), the Vysya Bank Limited was inspected twice with reference to its position as on 29th December, 1995 and 31st March, 1997.

Inspection of branches are taken up on selective basis and not all branches are inspected. The focus of RBI inspection *enter-alia*, is to assess compliance by banks with instructions/guidelines issued by RBI as well as the policies and procedures laid down internally by the management of the bank themselves.

RBI has levied a penalty of Rs. 20 lakhs on Vysya Bank Ltd. for violations of its instructions with regard to bills, bridge loans and advance against shares.

RBI being the regulatory and supervisory authority for private sector banks is seized of the matter.

#### **Rubber Training Institute**

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Rubber Training Institute in Kottayam, Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Under the ongoing Rubber Development Project assisted by the World Bank there is proposal to set up a Training Centre at Kottayam to meet training needs of rubber growers, rubber processors, rubber product manufacturers and the staff of the Rubber Board. The Centre is estimated to cost Rs. 1.85 crore and civil construction is expected to be completed by September, 1998.

[*Translation*]

#### **Indo-Russian Trade**

676. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value and volume of Indo-Russian Trade has plummet during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken to augment trade volumes and strengthen bilateral economic cooperation during the last one year and the results achieved thereunder; and

(d) the details of major agreements signed recently with the Russia and economic implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No Sir. The Indo-Russian trade increased in rupee terms by 44.6 per cent and 54.3 per cent during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively over the previous year. However, there has been a decline of 21.5 per cent in rupee terms in the Indo-Russian trade during the period 1996-97 as compared to the previous year. However, during April-August, 1997, this trend has been arrested with a marginal increase in trade turnover during April-August, 1997 over April-August, 1996. Moreover, the total trade turnover with Russia during 1996-97 at Rs. 4995 crores was higher by 21.4 per cent compared to 4113 crores for 1994-95.

(b) The decline has taken place mainly because of fall in exports of cashew and tea from India and fall in the imports of fertilizers, iron and steel and machinery from Russia. The fall in the export of cashew from India to Russia from Rs. 262.6 crores during 1995-96 to Rs. 7.6 crores during 1996-97 has taken place because of effective measures taken by the Government to prevent switch trade of cashew which was earlier reported to have been largely diverted to third country destinations. The fall in tea exports from Rs. 476.6 crores during 1995-96 to Rs. 224.7 crores during 1996-97 can largely be attributed to the lower off-take of tea by the Russian importers under the debt repayment mechanism caused by undue delay in rupee allocation for import of tea into Russia. However, this position of fall in tea exports during 1996-97 has been successfully reversed during April-August, 1997 when tea exports to Russia at Rs. 188.7 crores exhibited an increase of 143.2 per cent over that of Rs. 77.6 crores of April-August, 1996.

(c) The Government has initiated effective measures for boosting Indo-Russian trade. These measures include encouraging consignment sales and opening of warehouses, broad-basing the basket of tradable goods, signing of Agreement on co-operation and Mutual assistance in Customs Matters, impressing upon the Russian side for early allocation of rupee funds, opening of Indian Banks, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, enhancing the trade in the area of pharmaceuticals, reduction of value addition norms from 100 per cent to



75 per cent in respect of certain hi-tech items including personal computers for exports to Russia under the debt repayment etc. It is expected that these measures would help in further expanding Indo-Russian trade in the coming years.

(d) The agreements signed recently include Agreement on Cooperation and mutual Assistance in Customs Matters, Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation, Plant Protection and Quarantine Agreement and Agreement for certification of information technology products. These agreements will help in creating better business environment in the two markets for exporters and importers and facilitate trade growth.

[English]

#### **Supply of Coal to Badarpur Power Station**

677. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regular supply of coal is not being made to the Thermal Power Station at Badarpur in Delhi as per its requirement for the last some time and as a result of which the acute shortage of power has arisen in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of units of Badarpur Thermal Power Stations which have been closed during the last three years, till date;

(d) the quantum of coal supplied to the above Station during the last three years till date and the sanction of short supplied of its requirement; and

(e) the effective steps being taken by the Union Government to ensure regular supply of coal to this station as per its requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS) gets its coal supplies regularly. During the current year i.e. from April to October, 97 against a linkage of 2.53 million tonnes, 2.27 million tonnes has been supplied. With this supply the coal stock at Badarpur TPS has increased to 29 days consumption on 31.10.97 from 2 days consumption on 1.4.97.

(c) On occasion coal supplies have been restricted to the payment received.

(d) the details of despatches made during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and for the period April, 97 to October, 97 are given below:

(In '000 tonnes)

Year	Linkage	Actual Supplies
1995-96	3480	2376
1996-97	3530	3214
1997-98	2530	2270

(e) Coal India is being geared up to supply adequate quantity of coal as per linkage to Badarpur TPS. However, the power stations should ensure full and timely payment against coal bills for regular movement of coal. Coal companies also remain in constant touch with the power station and railways for smooth movement of coal to the power station.

#### **Dumping of HR Steel Products**

678. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :  
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :  
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :  
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding dumping of HR Steel products in India by Russia and CIS countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard; and

(c) the outcome of the enquiry and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tariff Act and the Rules made thereunder has initiated Anti-Dumping investigations on 6.10.97 for alleged dumping of Hot Rolled Coils/Sheets/Plates from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Under the Anti-Dumping laws, investigations are required to be completed within one year from the date of initiation, i.e., by 5.10.98 in this case. The findings are issued by way of an appellable order and are published in the official gazette.

11.08 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, November 24, 1997/  
Agrahayan 3, 1919 (Saka)*

