

being ignored. Hon. Minister should admit that Bihar is being neglected.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, there is no question of neglect by the Government. Bihar has got 2,237 kilometres of National Highways ...*(Interruptions)* The funds for development of National Highways have progressively reduced from 1.6 per cent of the total in the First Plan to 0.6 per cent in the Eighth Plan. Therefore, every year it is being reduced. In the circumstances, there is financial crisis. I will plead for Bihar also.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bihar Government has sent some proposals for roads to the Central Government. No reply has been sent by hon. Minister in this regard. I want your protection. Hon. Minister should spell out as to whether new Highways are going to be constructed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister will look into it.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Yes Sir.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the basic problem with the National Highways is the resource crunch. The demand from different States is high and the money supplied to the Ministry of Surface Transport is too low. I would like to remind one sentence of John. F. Kennedy and then I will ask a very brief question. Once he said : 'America has good roads not because it is rich; it is rich because it has good roads'.

This is the most neglected Ministry I would like to draw your attention to a unanimous Resolution passed by this Parliament on May 13, 1988. On May 13, 1988 our Parliament passed a unanimous Resolution earmarking a cess on sale of petrol and diesel at five per cent to the Central Road Fund. In the last six years we have seen five Governments and none of these Governments honoured this Resolution. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : That includes yours also.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mine was only for 13 days...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : You took decisions in lunch time. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : We took one decision in lunch time and you always remind me every day.

[Translation]

I did it empty stomach whereas you have done it with your belly full.

[English]

Sir, it is the contempt of the Indian Parliament that this Lok Sabha has passed a unanimous

Resolution eight years back asking five per cent on the sale of petrol and diesel to the Surface Transport Ministry and it is not given. Unless we give this amount, all States may quarrel here; but no Government or no Minister will be able to give even 500 kilometres per year as National Highway.

So, I am requesting the Finance Minister and the entire Government. He cannot say : 'I am Surface Transport Minister and I have nothing to do with the Finance Minister'.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : I am pleading with them.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, as a Government I am asking them to know as to when are they going to implement this Resolution of Parliament giving adequate funds to the Central Road Fund ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen. This is a very very important question.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, I quite agree with the suggestion made by my learned friend on the other side. I have also been pleading for that, but I am not getting a positive answer. I will make the Finance Minister agree to that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, this is a very important Resolution passed by Parliament. If such is the reply, then, all the questions raised would become irrelevant. You only say that you cannot help it, but somebody has to help out the situation.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, Mr. Pramod Mahajan has raised a very very important issue. I also remember the passing of this Resolution unanimously on the floor of this House which has been referred to by the hon. Member. I would also like to know what has happened to that Resolution. The Government should come out stating why action could not be taken on it. What are they going to do with the Resolution? Then, I will allow half-an-hour discussion on this question because it is very important.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You have to ask all the former Finance Ministers to get the answer.

Revival of Sick PSUs

*
'42 SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the details of the sick Public Sector Undertakings declared sick as on date, location-wise,

(b) whether the Government have started the process for revival of these units;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in regard thereto;

(d) whether any memorandum from some MPs have also been received in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

(a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that as on 30.06.1996, 60 sick Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) were registered with it. The status of these CPSUs is given in *Annexure-I*. The location of these CPSUs State-wise is shown in *Annexure-II*.

(b) and (c). The action in regard to individual CPSU is to be taken by the respective CPSU in consultation with the Administrative Ministry concerned. The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) which is serviced by the Cabinet Secretariat for finalising the stand of the Government before the BIFR on revival packages.

(d) No memorandum has been received from Members of Parliament in record to consolidated revival packages for the sick CPSUs covered by the BIFR.

(e) Does not arise

ANNEXURE-I

Status of sick Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) registered with BIFR as on 30.06.1996

	Central Public Sector Undertakings
1. References registered	60
2. Dismissed as non-maintainable	3
3. Revival Schemes sanctioned	13
4. Winding up recommended to the concerned High Courts	6
5. Draft Revival Schemes circulated	11
6. Winding up notice issued	6
7. Under inquiry	13
8. Schemes failed and reopened	1
9. Cases remanded by Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR)	1
10. Stay ordered by Courts	5
11. Declared No Longer Sick	1

ANNEXURE-II

State-wise details of sick Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) registered with BIFR as on 30.06.1996

State	No. of Central Public Sector Undertakings
Andhra Pradesh	2
Assam	1
Bihar	7
Gujarat	1
Haryana	1
Karnataka	4
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	5
National Capital Territory of Delhi	1
Nagaland	1
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	1
Tamil Nadu	1
Uttar Pradesh	11
West Bengal	20
Total	60

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Out of 60 cases registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, only in 13 cases, BIFR has sanctioned the revival scheme. Out of these 13 cases, there are a number of cases where the BIFR has approved the revival scheme, and in spite of that, the Group of Ministers, which is to finally approve the revival package to sick public sector undertakings, has rejected it. Moreover, the financial institutions have also failed to comply with the directives of BIFR.

May I know from the Finance Minister whether a mechanism would be evolved so that the revival packages approved by the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction are implemented without any delay?

I would also like to know in cases of companies, like MAMC, Cycle Corporation of India, National Textile Corporation, Raroli Burn, BPMEL etc. where show cause notices of winding up have been served by BIFR because of reluctance on the part of the Government to act as promoter, whether the Government would assure that case to case review will be done again in consultation with the trade unions and the concerned State Governments to finalise the means for revival of these companies.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, of 60 cases of Central Public Sector Undertakings where reference has been registered by BIFR, it is true that revival

schemes have been approved and sanctioned in 13 cases. But there are other cases among these 60 which have progressed to another stage under BIFR Act that is SICA.

I would not agree with the hon. Member, with great respect, when he says that we have not taken decisions about capital restructuring. In fact, I have with me a list of 27 companies for which the Government, through the Group of Ministers, has approved the capital restructuring proposals.

These 27 proposals involve a write off to the extent of Rs. 5,809.94 crore, conversion of debt into equity of Rs. 6,662.19 crore and cash infusion of Rs. 2,895.95 crore. Therefore, there are 27 capital restructuring proposals which have been approved by the Government and it is for the administrative Ministry concerned to take steps to carry through the capital restructuring.

Sir, my learned friend, hon. Member has referred to one or two companies by name. Now I can go through the list to find out whether the two names that he mentioned are among the 27 and furnish him the information, but I would urge him to address a separate question to the administrative Ministry concerned to see the progress of the capital restructuring proposals. We have approved 27 capital restructuring proposals.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, another problem which is faced by the workers and the employees of the sick public sector undertakings which have been referred to the B.I.F.R. is that they are not being paid their post-retirement benefits. Since some undertakings have been referred to the B.I.F.R. the workers and the employees have to wait for two to four years to get their statutory post-retirement dues like Provident Fund and Gratuity. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he would assure the House that the statutory post-retirement dues like Provident Fund and Gratuity would be released to the workers and the employees immediately and also allocate special funds for this purpose, if necessary.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I am aware that in one or two companies, or may be more, the post-retirement benefits of the workers have not been given. This is because the companies are sick. This is because they have not contributed to the Provident Fund when they should have contributed. In fact, the hon. Member Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee just brought to my notice the case of one such company. I sympathize with the plight of the workers and I shall try to find ways and means through the administrative Ministry through which at least the post-retirement benefits will be given to the workers. We are today giving Non-Plan support for paying current wages to the workers in some companies which are sick and I am not in a position to say now

whether this Non-Plan support includes the post-retirement benefits. But I shall verify the matter and I shall do my best to see that these workers, whose life is extremely difficult, will be taken care of, at least to some extent.

SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister's reply, on the face of it, looks very impressive. Out of 60 cases of sick units, he has already sanctioned 13 cases where revival packages have been cleared and the Minister just now informed the House that 14 more cases are in the pipeline which makes a total of 27. It is a good strike rate. But at the same time, one has to know the age of each case as on 30th June, 1996. Shri Acharia's concern and the Minister's sympathy is well taken. But if each case takes four to five years to materialise, it is as good as not taking it at all. I would like to know what is the age of each of these 13 cases that the Government has sanctioned for revival. How long has it taken for the BIFR to come to a conclusion that these units should be revived? It is equally alarming to know that winding up of 12 units have been recommended. When they are taking pride in reviving 13 units, they should also equally take the blame for not being able to revive these 12 units. What will happen to those workers who work in the companies which are being wound up when we are not able to pay even the current provident fund dues and other things? After making recommendation for winding up, nobody thinks about them and they forget them. So, age of each case needs to be known.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I can give the break up of the 60 cases. Three references were dismissed as non-maintainable, revival schemes were sanctioned in 13 cases, winding up recommended to the concerned High Courts in six cases, draft revival schemes circulated in 11 cases, winding up notices issued in six cases, enquiry in progress in 13 cases, schemes failed and reopened in one case, one case has been remanded by AAIFR, is lying with BIFR, stay orders issued by Courts in five cases, and one case has been declared no longer sick.

Sir, it will be difficult for me to give date-wise pendency of each of these cases. I would have to collect the information on that.

Sir, as regards what shall we do about delay, my position and this Government's position is that we are not happy with the way the BIFR is structured today. That is why the U.P. Government's Common Minimum Programme declares that we will introduce a new Bill on industrial sickness and we will revamp and restructure the BIFR. But in defence of BIFR, I am duty bound to report to this House that they have brought to my notice that the total number of hearings has progressively increased from 200 in 1987 to 887 in 1991. In the year 1995, the total number of

hearings held was 1552. The average time taken for disposal of cases, according to the BIFR, has come down. The gross disposal of cases as on 30th June, 1996 was 1413. I share the hon. Member's concern about the delay in disposal of cases and I hope that the new Bill that we will introduce will address these concerns substantially.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, several sick industries have been merged into profit making industries. The Kota based Instrumentation Limited which was among the safe industries upto five years, unfortunately has fallen into the category of sick industries. I want to know whether the Government propose to merge this industry with profit making Palaghat Industries so that it could be revived. If so, whether it is true that the Chief Minister of the state has made some remarks from this point of view that the Instrumentation Limited should be merged with Palaghat Industry whereby both industries could run properly. Hon. Minister Sir please give all details in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I hope I have understood the question as there is a lot of noise on this microphone. Is the hon. Member referring to M/s. Instrumentation Limited in Rajasthan? That is being enquired by the BIFR according to the reports that I have received. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : I want to know whether the Government propose to merge the Instrumentation Limited which is a sick industry with the Palaghat Industries.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, according to the information available, this company-Instrumentation Limited - was declared sick and IDBI was appointed as the operating agency.

In August 1994, the operating agency was directed to look for a new management. They were given three months' time to firm up their stand. The operating agency was appointed to analyse the proposal and to examine the takeover by someone. I do not know whether the proposal is for merger with BHEL. It is really the Industry Ministry which will be able to address this question. But I shall find out the stage of this enquiry today and furnish the answer to the hon. Member.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Common Minimum Programme, the United Front Government defines the recipe for reviving sick public sector undertakings and combating the sickness in the public sector or dealing with

chronically sick units. It says, 'sick or potentially sick public sector companies will be rehabilitated through a menu of options that may include handing over the management to professional groups or workers' cooperatives'. In the statement of the hon. Minister, there is no mention of this menu of options. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will apply his own menu of options to revive these sick public sector units or let this menu of options remain a pious wish or a mere rhetoric?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am glad, Sir, there is support for a menu of options. The Common Minimum Programme refers to two options among the menu of options. Now, which option would be the best option for a particular industry would have to be decided by the BIFR and the PSU concerned as well as the Administrative Ministry. They will have to take a view. I strongly endorse and I know that this Government strongly endorses the approach where we will have to examine the menu of options and not get bogged down with one option or the other. We will examine the menu of options and which option. (Interruptions)

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : You have given the menu of options.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That is not correct. Only two among the menu of options have been mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : It was mentioned in your statement.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I know that; I wrote it, so I should know about it. Only two options among the menu of options have been mentioned. (Interruptions) Kindly listen to my answer. A menu of options means a range of options, a number of options can be considered. We had picked out two options and said 'hand it over to the professional groups or workers' cooperatives' in order to highlight that these two options must be examined in every case where revival is being considered.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a Public undertaking under the Textile Ministry, this is Kanpur Sugar Works. It is running five Sugar Mills, which are located in Bihar and U.P. They come under the Textile Ministry. They have been issued winding up notices. These Mills owe more than Rs. 100 crore to these farmers. The United Front Govt. is a Government of farmers. Those public undertakings which come under the Textile Ministry like Mahora Sugar Mill which comes under the Chhapra Parliamentary Constituency, have been served winding up notice. Employees of the sugar mill will be affected by it, but what will happen to the outstanding amount of Rs. 100 crore of farmers?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Chhapra is in which State?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Chhapra is not a State, it is a constituency in Bihar.

There are about 10 sugar units under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. Now, they are under closer proposals. I am asking the Government and the Minister, what is the proposal for rehabilitating these units. It is not simply concerning the factories; it is concerning the sugar industries and the cash money of the cane growers. This is a very important issue concerning the entire State of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have made your point. Mr. Minister, do you have any information on textiles?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have a number of textile mills which are among the 60 belonging to various States.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I am asking about sugar undertakings under the Ministry of Textiles.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The hon. Speaker is asking about textiles.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : No, no.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister reply about sugar mills.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The microphone has heavy static. It is extremely difficult to follow the translation when you put in the question.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I can put it in English.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If you allow me to answer the question, that will be helpful to me. The hon. Speaker said that the question is on textiles. So, I started with textiles. Now I understand your question. Under Bihar, of these 60, I have got only seven. These are Heavy Engineering Corporation, Fertiliser Corporation, Project Development India Ltd., Bharat Refractories, India Firebricks and Insulation, Mica Trading Corporation and Bharat Coking Coal. The Company which the hon. Member appears to have in mind does not figure in my list of 60. If you will kindly give the name, I will find out and furnish the information.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I challenge the position.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I do not have it in my list.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : I want to put a question to the hon. Minister. Even after an agreement has been reached between the promoters, the Central Government and others, why does it take so

long to open the factory gate? For example, in my Constituency, there is a Metal Box Company which I visited. Everything has been done there. But I am told that it might take about eight months before the gate can be opened. Can this be accepted? You can advance this a little bit.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has already answered your question before you have put it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Are you referring to West Bengal?...*(Interruptions)* This question refers to Central Government public sector undertakings. Metal Box is a private company. It does not figure in my reply here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : BIFR is a white elephant. Non-technical people are there. Dismissal of this Organisation is essential. I request the hon. Speaker to allow a special discussion on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree to another Half-an-hour Discussion on this matter.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Half-an-Hour discussion. You can ask all this in that. Please sit down now.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will have Half-an-Hour Discussion on this.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my request is that the hon. Minister should give information regarding total sick units and not the sick units of Public Undertaking only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Half-an-Hour Discussion will be there on sickness in industry.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you gave me indication to speak but you have not given me permission.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not remember as to whom I gave permission. I do not recollect whether I had given you any such indication.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will get the opportunity in Half-an-Hour Discussion.

[English]

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday you allowed about thirty-five minutes for

the question relating to Prasar Bharati. This question is linked with the bread of millions of workers. Many MPs have come from such constituencies where these units are there. They are not getting any opportunity to put forth their viewpoint. It is very unfortunate.

MR. SPEAKER : Because we spent thirty-five minutes yesterday on Prasar Bharati, I did not think of an Half-an-Hour discussion. I realise the importance of this question. I had been the Labour Minister myself. I know how the workers are suffering in this country. I had been the Labour Minister for nine years. Nobody need tell me what is the condition of the working class in this country today. That is why I have said that there will be an Half-an-Hour discussion on this question. You will all get the opportunity to speak.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Sir, will you be kind enough to increase the time.

MR. SPEAKER : No. Sit down, please.

Financing of Private Sector Banks

*43 SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Private Sector Banks to finance the welfare schemes,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) Welfare schemes of Private Sector Banks are not financed by the Government. It is for Private Sector Banks to finance their welfare schemes out of their own resources.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from hon. Minister as to how much profit was earned by the Private Sector Banks in comparison to the Nationalised Banks? Second, how much of the total loan given by Private Sector Banks goes into primary sector like agriculture. Please give comparative figures in comparison to the nationalised banks.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : With respect, I submit that I will be very happy to answer your question and give the information. But this supplementary is not within the ambit of this question. This question is about Private Sector Banks financing their welfare

schemes. We have said that we do not finance their welfare schemes and they have to finance their schemes with their own resources... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The direction of the question is not welfare schemes concerning their employees. But the government of India has got various welfare schemes... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow your supplementary later.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, I want to know that like the Public Sector Banks which invariably give some percent of their loan to agriculture sector, whether the Government would issue guidelines to the Private Sector to make it obligatory for them to make available loans to the agriculture sector.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The Private Sector Banks are also involved in implementing a large number of Government schemes. I will give the figures on each of these schemes. Firstly on the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, the Private Sector Banks have received - I am giving the figure as on 31.3.1994 which figures are available - 2594 applications. Total number of applications sanctioned was 862. The amount sanctioned was Rs. 499.35 lakh. The total loans disbursed amount to Rs. 207.94 lakh. Then, about the Prime Minister's Yojana for Unemployed Youth (PMRY) for the year 1994-95 the Private Sector Banks received 20,705 applications. The applications sanctioned were 8398. The amount sanctioned was Rs. 1585 lakh. The amount disbursed is about 57 per cent of that.

On PMRY as on 31.3.96 the Private Sector Banks received 14887 applications. Applications sanctioned were 6796. The amount sanctioned was Rs. 3819 lakh. The amount disbursed was Rs. 2024 lakh. These are the programmes which the Private Sector Banks are participating in. And if the hon. Members want to know about any other particular programme, I will answer that.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Would you also give us the information as to how many of the foreign private sector banks are involved in implementing this scheme?

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : My next supplementary is still left. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have asked third supplementary.