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Thursday, August 12, 1988

Sravana, 21, 1910 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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[Eighth Series, Volume XLI, Eleventh Session, 1988/1910(Saka)]

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 12, 1988 / Sravana 21,
1910 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at

Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Tax Defaulters

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

(a) whether the Union Minister of State for Revenue has stated recently in Calcutta that the reason for poverty in the country was for some people not paying their taxes; and

(b) if so, the details of such defaulters and concrete steps taken to recover the dues from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Drive against the tax evaders is continuing with undiminished vigour.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir, it is a very curious situation where the Minister has reportedly - reported through Press - made a statement that people are evading taxes and

that is why the percentage of people below the poverty line in India is more than 36 per cent, and if they pay taxes, things would not be so bad. This, for the Minister's information, is reported in the Bengali paper *Jugantar* on 3.7.1988 and this has been stated by the Minister in a conference of Income-tax Officers in Calcutta where he distributed some rewards to the officers for their good work. In connection with the Dhanbad coal mafia he said that these people have been evading taxes for a long time and that they have been able to recover about Rs. eight crores, which is only a drop in the ocean. I do not know whether the wiser Minister has been pleased to deny having made such a statement. Now the question that arises - assuming that the Minister will now remember having made this observation about coal mafias - is what is the basis on which they have proceeded against the coal mafias and why is it that only Rs. eight crores have been recovered from them, when it is a well-known fact that these people have been evading taxes for a very long time and in hundreds of crores of rupees. Have they been given the same kind of exemption from having to pay penalty and interest as in the case of Shri Lalit Sun and Shri Amitabh Bachchan?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, the political part I will deal later on.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It is factual.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, it is not correct that I have made any such statement. Having been in the Planning Commission for about more than a year, I would state that it is not correct to say that non-payment of

taxes is the only reason for the poverty. It is not that the only reason for their poverty is non-payment of taxes. What I said, Sir, was that many people were not paying taxes; that we must call upon them to pay taxes and find out a machinery so that there is a voluntary compliance so far as tax laws are concerned. That is why I mentioned that if taxes are paid, the Department of Revenue are ready to cater that money for various development programmes. More the development, more the growth will be there. That is one of the factors which really contributes for elimination of poverty, not the only factor. That is what I had stated. So far as coal mafia is concerned, on reliable information which we obtained after making scrutiny, we had in one day — I don't know why the hon. Member has taken exception for raiding coal mafias — raided them, the officers raided them and found evasion of Rs. 8 crores, Sir, they were ruling there for a long time; not a shot had to be fired. Therefore, I personally went to Calcutta, called all the officers from Bihar, Ranchi and other places and presented them with some recognition of certificate of merit.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I said why only Rs. 8 crores, not more.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Rs. 8.0 crores at that time were detected. But thereafter proceedings will go on. That is the point. So far as giving them any amnesty or other things are concerned, the proceedings are now going on. I do not know whether any such application has been made. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: So, nowadays the Minister has started answering questions outside. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.K. PANJA: That is so far as Shri Amal Datta is concerned. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Minister, will you come to the lobby for that

answer? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Why both of you do like this. It will be construed as favouritism from one Bengali to the other.

[*English*]

They are not to.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir, the Minister has said that the drive against the defaultors is continuing with undiminished vigour. Now, what are the criteria by which we can also be persuaded to admit that there is any vigour in the drive against defaulters? Are there larger number of prosecutions, larger number of people are being caught by the Income-tax Department and more taxes are being recovered from them? Has the number of defaulters gone down?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Add the word larger number, otherwise, the number will enlarge further.

[*English*]

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I would like to know what is the modus operandi of this drive being carried on with undiminished vigour? What is the outcome or the result of this? To what extent the Revenue Department has benefited? Secondly, you may know as the Minister that the Public Accounts Committee last year made certain recommendations for intensive survey of professional and small business having regard to the fact that Income-tax Department had already increased the number of assessees to a considerable extent. That was the recommendation. So, what action has been taken by the Department in this regard? Has any heed been taken of this

recommendation. May I know what action has been taken in pursuant to that?

SHRI A. K. PANJA: So far as the first part is concerned, I am taking some time because the Member has asked the question. Sir, I have got the figures here. In 1983, we have detected Central Excise cases worth Rs. 55.5 crores. In 1987, because of hard work by the officers, it has gone up to Rs. 1497 crores.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: This is the figure of what?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: This is detection of Central Excise tax evasion. So far as 1984 is concerned, detection was 5,458 Central Excise cases. The duty evasion detected was Rs. 69.18 crores, and 81 prosecutions were launched. So far as 1987 is concerned, Central Excise cases detected were 6,715; amount of tax evasion detected Rs. 1,497.67 crores; prosecutions launched - 128. And up to June 1988, Central Excise anti-evasion agencies detected 2,648 cases; Rs. 172.38 crores is the Central Excise duty evasion detected and prosecutions launched: 76.

So far as the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee is concerned, we have taken note of it, many of its recommendations we have already given effect to, but as the hon. Member was the Chairman at that time I can say this that in 1985-86 the number of cases surveyed was 1,65,911; new assessees found: 1,05,688. In 1987...

MR. SPEAKER: Put it on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA: In 1982-88 cases surveyed 6,19,032; and new assessees found - 5,23,376. Therefore, the recommendation has been given effect to.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: In spite of those figures presented, that recommendation was made. What have you done with regard to that?

SHRI A.K.PANJA: We are taking steps gradually to bring in more people within that circle.

Suggestion from the Election Commission

*245. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: SHRI SURESH KURUP:

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

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion from the Chief Election Commissioner for a suitable amendment to the election law in order to eliminate any scope for casting doubts or suspicion about the Commission's action in ordering an election at a given time; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As part of the proposals for electoral reforms the Election Commission has suggested that the election law may be suitably amended to include guidelines for fixing dates for elections.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Chief Election Commissioner has already submitted his suggestion for framing suitable guidelines. Sir, there is a tendency on the part of the Government to postpone election on some plea or other. People of Allahabad did not have an elected representative for 11 months. Elections were postponed for 3 times there and election in Tamil Nadu is being postponed although there is

no drought or flood or deterioration in the law and order situation. The by-elections in Orissa and also the by-elections in Bihar, in Sasaram constituency, are being postponed on same plea. In order to avoid this, the Chief Election Commissioner has submitted some guidelines. May I know from the Minister whether these guidelines have been examined by the Government, whether there is any proposal to have consultation with the political parties before acting upon these guidelines? What are those guidelines? And I would like to know whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation to amend the electoral laws.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I would, at the outset, refute the allegation of the hon. Member. It is not true that the Government have tried to postpone election at any time.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Yes, Tamil Nadu is a glaring example. By-election is not being held there. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Are you prepared to hear me or not?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Yes.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Then, please hear me. About the election in Sasaram, he pointed out that the case is pending in the court and the Election Commission itself has not asked for this. (*Interruptions*). I am dealing with this point by point if you want to hear it.

In Bihar, in the Sasaram constituency there is no election because the Election Commission has said that since an election petition is pending we cannot hold elections.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What about other by-elections in India? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Please listen for Heaven's sake. Then so far as the elec-

tions in Tamil Nadu are concerned, I would inform the hon. House that recently we had a debate on the Presidential proclamation and that is in the press even. The State authorities have said that elections would be held a little later. At present, it is not the conducive time.

He asked, what are the guidelines. I hope, the hon. Member may be knowing it. It was decided.... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, are we to follow the question or the answer or what? There is too much of confusion. He is going on replying and he is putting on questions. They must have patience to listen.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right. I am not allowing them. I can only appeal, Prof. Saheb.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA: I am not able to follow.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right. Same is with me. I agree with you.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I want to educate my friend, as best as I can. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you. But they go on persisting. That is their habit.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: If they have got that bad habit, let them not impose that bad habit on us.

MR. SPEAKER: They should listen to you. Once in a while, they should listen to sane advice.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: About the question of deciding when a particular by-

election should or should not be held, as far back as 1984, the Supreme Court held in a case—State of Haryana Versus another Party, Election Commission of India—and reported in 1984 SC 1406. The propositions enunciated by the Supreme Court are as follows: The first one is, ultimate decision as to whether the holding of an election should be deferred on the ground of law and order position has to be decided by the Commission itself.

Second is, the Commission is duty bound—may I repeat, duty-bound—to consider the views of the State Government as it is undoubtedly in the best position to assess the situation of law and order in areas within its jurisdiction and under its control.

I would not go into further details because the basic question is, when a State Government says that there is some difficulty with regard to law and order, it is the Election Commission which looks into it and finally decides it. It has never happened in the history of the country where the Election Commission wanted an election and the election was not held. We are proud of the Election Commission's performance and they have held elections on time.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will you make him a Governor after his term, like Mr. Trivedi? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? Why do you interrupt all the time?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We have seen how the election was rigged in Udhampur. To stop this type of rigging and to reduce the influence of money power and muscle power in the elections, the changes in the electoral laws are very much necessary. The Prime Minister in his recent Press Conference has stated that a draft Bill is being

prepared, and is almost in a final stage and the Opposition leaders were consulted. He said, they were consulted before finalisation of this draft electoral laws Bill.

May I know from the Minister when were the Opposition leaders consulted and what were the suggestions made by the Opposition leaders? When will this draft Bill be pleased before Parliament?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, the Prime Minister has rightly emphasised that the process of electoral reforms is to be expedited. He has given directions and it is correct that we are almost ready with everything. But I am grateful to the hon. Member that he talked about Udhampur election. You must have seen in the recent by-elections, what a blatant misuse of official machinery was made in the adjoining State. 161 polling booths were captured by the official machinery of Haryana. *(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What about Udhampur? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Please listen to me. Have the patience to listen to me. If they have the sincerity of purpose, they must listen to my reply. I will request Madhu Dandavateji to ask those gentlemen sitting by his side to listen to me.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am listening to you.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I want to use your good offices to educate him. You kindly look in to this. This Prime Minister, as the leader of the nation, is genuinely concerned when we found one morning that 20 KM off Delhi, the capital of India, the Haryana State Police, the State machinery, is let loose over the polling booths and captured and whatever happened in Udhampur was also taken cognisance of and the Election Commission was approached. Is it the democratic proc-

ess, if you believe in that? Therefore, the Election Commission pointed out the accusing finger wherever it was due and, after the finding of the Election Commission, remarks were given in this that the Lok Dal was responsible for the murder of democracy in Haryana. (*Interruptions*). Will you kindly listen? Please listen to me. What else to be done now? In Udhampur, he has ordered repoll and you have seen the result.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Who is responsible for murdering democracy there?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: There is no complaint with me from the Election Commission against anybody. The moment it will come, I will not hesitate to take action, if I can take. But you must listen. If you close your eyes to the realities, you are not believers in democracy. We are all concerned that this thing will not be allowed to happen in this country. Whatever crisis is involved, I must caution, whether it is our party or your Party, if you are concerned, stop it forthwith (*Interruptions*) and we will take strong action. We are finding ways and means in consultation with the Election Commission that any party or candidate found indulging in this type of malpractice of being above the law, whether it is ruling party or any party, the strongest action should be taken against the person concerned and against the officers who are involved in this type of favouring the ruling party. These are the measures which are under consideration (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He has not replied to my question. Were the Opposition leaders consulted or not, as Prime Minister said?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: So far as the consultation is concerned, these days these Opposition leaders cannot be identified (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He is right. He cannot identify Opposition leaders. We cannot identify Ministers and their portfolios because of constant reshuffles (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SURESH KURUP: The Election Commission is an independent body but whatever the Government may say, of late an impression is being created that its decisions are more and more influenced by Government. So, if this impression gains ground, it will strike at the roots of our democracy.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government would take, to make this Commission and its decisions, truly impartial so that in future this Commission will not be a silent spectator to election rigging, as it happened in Tripura. This is first part of my question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is unparliamentary laughter of Prof. N.G. Ranga!

MR. SPEAKER: This is a satire.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: The second part of my question is whether they are going to bring forward the legislation on electoral reforms in this Session.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I am certainly not in agreement with the hon. Member when he alleges that the Election Commission's orders are not impartial. They are impartial. This has been a tradition in this country. Sometimes, we are also not satisfied by the decisions of the Election Commission. But, we always accept this forum as very independent and very firm and impartial. There is no question of imputing allegations against the Commission when you fail in your electoral process or you do not succeed. We should have faith in the institutions and we will do everything to strengthen this

institution this way or that way Whatever the Election Commission wants, we will certainly give that strength to the Election Commission

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA Sir, in view of the categorical statement given by the hon Minister in this House, now that the Government is aware of the atrocities that were perpetrated and the excesses that were committed in the recent by-elections held in Haryana, will the hon Minister kindly let the House know as to what concrete steps are being taken by the Government in view of the past experience to put an end to this practice which is most obnoxious?

SHRI H R BHARDWAJ I would like to put on record that it is always expected that when it is found that the official machinery is used, we expect the Chief Minister to take action against the erring officers But, unfortunately, he has not done so We are now receiving the details of the complaints officially and we will see that whatever action is needed, the action will be taken from our end We will also see how the laws can be strengthened to deal with the future situation

SHRI C MADHAV REDDI Sir, the hon Minister referred to the judgement of the Supreme Court and said that the Election Commission is duty-bound to consult the State Governments for deciding a date for a particular by-election I read the judgement I agree with the hon Minister But the point here is under the pretext of this judgement, many States including the Opposition-ruled States are taking plea under this, they are making some excuse or the other and they are interfering with the independence of the Commission But the hon Minister has said that the Election Commission is quite independent Where is the independence? Under the pretext of this particular judgement, the Election Commission has become

helpless. It is entirely depending upon the State Governments. I would like to know whether the Government is going to amend the law to see that the Election Commission has got total independence in this matter.

SHRI H.R BHARDWAJ: Sir, I have submitted at the outset that the final decision is that of the Election commission always But if a particular situation, at a particular point of time, is pointed out to the Election Commission and if the Election Commission is satisfied, then no other party is relevant in the consideration either the State Government or the Central Government or the Election Commission All the political parties are involved in the fray of election in the States That is where the judgement of the Election Commission stands The matters have gone to the Courts The Courts have laid down guidelines If the guidelines are not sufficient, we can certainly legislate on further giving guidelines Even the code of conduct which we voluntarily accepted, is not being followed That is my submission, which the House must consider The code of conduct requires that official machinery should not be used I pointed out as to what happened in the recent election Now, proposals have come If the Election Commission wants that we can lay down some guidelines for evolving how and when the dates for election should be held, then more strength will be given, firmness will be given to the Election Commission But you cannot eliminate certain things Your own states will cry later on that they are not being consulted They may cite law and order problem You better consult your Chief Ministers and come back to us

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER On this issue, I think we all have to take this thing into consideration, It is very important

[English]

It is very important things. Your own states will cry later on that on that they are not being. This issue concerns not only any party particularly but it concerns us all. Further, it concerns not only the political parties but also it concerns every working man, every man and every thinking man in this country.

[Translation]

If we ignore it, our entire system will be disturbed;

[English]

It is the very limb on which we are sitting. We will be cutting down the very roots of democratic life and procedures here in this country, if we allow such things. Democracy is the only thing which we must cherish and must safeguard on all fronts, it must be cherished and safeguarded by the people concerned. We should not let it happen. Whoever does it, he is not our friend. Whichever party does it, that is not the friend of the people, that is not the friend of the Constitution or democracy. The people should not allow this, wherever it may happen.

(Interruptions)

DR. G.S.RAJHANS: Sir, there should be a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question.

Income Tax Exemption to Thirumala Tirupati Devasthanam

*246. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY†:

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Thirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) has been exempted from the purview of the Income-tax;

(b) if not, the reasons thereto;

(c) whether a memorandum with a request for granting such exemption has been received from the (TTD) and some MPs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision of Government thereon?

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

STATEMENT

(a) Yes Sir, the Thirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) has been exempted from income tax by notifications issued from time to time under section 10(23C) (v) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for assessment years 1973-74 onwards.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). Section 10(23C) (v) under which the exemption was granted to the TTD by notifications has been deleted by the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987 with effect from 1-4-1989 and a new section 80F has been inserted laying down a uniform discipline for exemption in respect of all voluntary organisations. The Government has received representations inter alia from the Thirumala Tirupati Devasthanam and some representatives of people against the change brought about by the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987. The issues raised in the various representations have been examined by the Government and the decisions thereon will be reflected in the

proposed Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1988.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: The exemption enjoyed by the TTD stands withdrawn from 1-4-1989 in view of the recent Amendment to the Act. But as per Section 80F, the Government has introduced a certain uniformity as far as exemptions are concerned in respect of all the voluntary organisations. May I point out to the hon. Minister that the TTD is an exclusively unique organisation; it has a special status of its own and it cannot be equated with other voluntary organisations. Therefore, under these circumstances, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will re-examine the position and give an assurance to the House that the exemption which was hitherto enjoyed by the TTD will again be restored to them and it shall not be withdrawn from 1-4-1989.

SHRI A. K. PANJA: Since this law came into force after the amendment, various representations have been received from the people and also from the Members of this House and also from the Rajya Sabha. So far as the points made regarding TTD are concerned, a point has been made that the local State Act is controlling their functions and when the local State Act is controlling their functions and the charitable purposes are met, why should Section 80F come in. These are under examination, and in this Session, probably very soon, this will be reflected in the House in the Amendment which may be brought in so far as these institutions are concerned. But I want to make it very clear that there is some misapprehension about this, that is, Section 80F. What the Act has done which this House has passed is this. The specified charitable purposes are already there; those have been specified and the donors who are also giving for those specified purposes. If those are done, then no tax is to be paid. But if they do not do so, then controls are to be made that

the purpose which is charitable is maintained. That was the reason. There was another point made by some hon. Members, signed by about a hundred Members led by Shri K.S.Rao, that a Director should be appointed or a member should be appointed from the Tax Board to the institution. There we have already decided not to enforce that — so far as that point is concerned. The others will be reflected when the Finance Minister faces the Amendment in this House.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: I have not got a specific and categorical reply from the Minister whether the Government are considering a proposal to introduce an amendment with a view to restoring the exemption which was enjoyed hitherto by the TTD. In any case the point is this. It is equated with the rest of the voluntary organisations. It is not justified for the Government to equate this body with the rest of the voluntary organisation. That apart, I would like to know whether the Gurdwaras, the Mosques, the Churches and all other bodies stand to get the exemption or they are also going to be levied some income-tax as in the case of the TTD.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: All charitable institutions and philanthropic institutions, research units and study units, not on the basis of religion only, are all being considered. The hon. Member did not probably hear me: I have said that, so far as the TTD is concerned, a special point has been made that the State Act is controlling their expenditure. In that connection we have collected all the materials. It will soon be reflected in this House. I cannot assure you now what is going to happen in the House.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: My point is totally different. As far as other institutions are concerned, Churches, Mosques, Gurdwaras, etc., they are all there. Do you want to simultaneously make

this applicable and impose income-tax on them also? Or, are you only considering the question of TTD?

SHRI A.K.PANJA: It applies to all. Section 80F applies to all, not only to Tirupati. As Tirupati was enjoying the exemption, this question came.

SHRI K.S.RAO: As the hon. Minister said, it is true that, in regard to certain voluntary organisations or charitable trusts, certain individuals are misusing and in some other cases Government themselves are misusing. In any case, we all agree that the faith in God is a great check on the evil thinking of any individual. Lord Balaji was very popular and supposed to be a very powerful deity. And it is the duty of the Government, whether it is the State Government or the Central Government, to see that this faith is not taken away. This is one thing. I am putting the question. There are certain incidents where Acts of the State Government have affected this faith. Similarly, now this Act is also going to do the same thing. I request the Hon. Minister to give a categorical reply that this will not be amended in such a manner that it will not be affected by amending this Act as well as by putting certain restrictions on the State to perform in a way that is should not be affected.

MR. SPEAKER: That is all. Have you

got to say something?

SHRI A.K.PANJA: I have already answered that all these aspects are being examined. I do not want to give any assurance as it is going to come in this session.

Pending Income Tax Cases

*248. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY†:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Many go scot-free after I-T raids" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" of 18 July, 1988;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the disposal of the cases is very slow and the number of pending cases go in increasing year after year; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken for the speedy disposal of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

9303 prosecutions in respect of tax offences were pending in courts as on 31.3.1986. Details regarding prosecutions launched and decided since then are given below:-

Financial Year	No. of prosecutions.		pendency at the end of the financial year
	launched	decided	
1986-87	5258	396	14165
1987-88	7361	433	21093

With a view to securing speedy disposal of prosecution cases launched by the Income-tax Department, the Government took the initiative for persuading the State Governments to set up special courts for trying economic offences or to earmark certain courts exclusively for dealing with such cases. As a result, special courts for trying economic offences have been set up at Hyderabad, Muzaffarpur, Bangalore, Ernakulam, Indore, Cuttack, Jaipur, Madras, Madurai, Allahabad, Kanpur and Delhi. The State Government of Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal have been requested to similarly set-up special courts, or earmark certain courts, for exclusively dealing with economic offences. Continued efforts in this direction will be necessary to achieve speedy disposal of such cases.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: You will be surprised to see the column 'Number of prosecutions, launched and decided' in the Statement. Cases are increasing and pending cases are also increasing. Cases pending in 1986-87 was 14165 and in 1987-88 it is 21093. It is a good thing that since the pending cases are increasing, for securing speedy disposal of prosecution cases launched by the Income-tax Department, the Government took the initiative for persuading the State Governments to set up special courts for trying economic offences etc. etc. As a result, special courts have been set up at Hyderabad, Muzaffarpur, Bangalore, Ernakulam, Indore, Cuttack, Jaipur, Madras, Madurai, Allahabad, Kanpur and Delhi. My first question is what do you mean by cases decided? And how many cases have been prosecuted? How many cases you could not prosecute? What is the main factor? You caught hold of 5258 cases and you have decided 396 cases. What is the meaning of the cases you have decided?

Another thing is that when did you move to the State Government for which special

courts have been set up? What is the result of setting up these courts? If you have set up special courts on the advice or on the suggestion of the State Government, even then the pending cases have been increasing. What is the reason for that?

SHRI A.K.PANJA: The meaning of 'decided' is the decision given by the court in a prosecution case. So far as the number of prosecution is concerned, if the Hon. Member reads it carefully he will find that we have given the number of prosecution in the first column and out of those, cases decided by the court is 396 and then comes pendency at the end of the financial year. In 1986-87 we could find out a case for prosecution in 5258 cases. In 1987-88 we would find out good evidence, cogent evidence, for launching prosecution against the offenders in 7361 cases. The courts have decided 433 cases.

So far as setting up of the courts is concerned, the States are being asked since 1980. Some of the States have readily agreed to it and have set up the courts. Andhra Pradesh has set up on 5th June 1980. Like that, I have got the full statement. Unfortunately many cases are there in West Bengal and I hope the Hon. Member will talk to the Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal to set up these courts immediately. Otherwise cases are pending there for a long time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Sir, that is no answer. He simply read out the note

[*English*]

How many have been convicted as yet?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already told. The number is 433.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: I do not know what he has told.

[English]

SHRI A.K.PANJA: In the question that was not there. If the Hon. Member wants it is a long statement- I can give the 1987-88 figure. In 1987-88 prosecution launched, which I have already mentioned, 7361, cases decided 433, conviction 53, acquittal, 189, compounded 191. It does not depend on us, it depends on the Court.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: The Hon. Minister advised me to advise the State Government of West Bengal to set up a court. I will oblige him. But I will just request him to tell me as to who is to request the Government of Gujarat and Maharashtra in this regard who are not implementing what you have decided in 1980. It is not my agency. Our agency will try to do there. The result shows that the report as it has come in the Press is very correct. Whenever income tax officers raid, whenever some amount is found, it comes in the Press that so much has been found and so much has been done. But ultimately parvatasiy mushika prasowa;

You yourself have said that so many cases have been launched, the number of decisions are much less and the number of convictions are much more less. Naturally going scot free of people who are doing all these illegal activities is a fact.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question Mr. Choubey. You linger on the question. In fact, you are answering the question yourself.

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: What action do you propose to take in this matter?

The Report is very much correct that many go scot free after IT raids. What do you want to do to see that many do not go scot free in this regard?

SHRI A.K.PANJA: The guilty may escape but the innocent must not suffer. That is the law of the land. It is the court which decides. If we fail to prove it, we cannot interfere with the freedom of a citizen. We cannot dictate the court saying that we have to convict them. We have taken all steps to find out the cogent evidence, oral and documentary, and prosecution is launched. Thereafter if the court decides otherwise, I don't think we can interfere in this respect.

So far as the Hon. Member's duty towards Gujarat and Maharashtra is concerned, I think he is a Member of Indian Parliament and he has an equal duty everywhere in India.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: This should have been mentioned earlier.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: It is common knowledge that the crusade against such evasion is going on in our country vigorously for some time. Thanks to the Government of India for that. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the proceeding with cases in the competent forum against the tax evaders is getting hampered is being obstructed by frequent issue of stay orders by certain courts. I mean, West Bengal seems to be very famous in this respect. Particularly some Benches of the High Court have the distinction of having issued a large number of stay orders. That is causing obstruction in proceeding with the cases expeditiously. If so, I would like to know whether the Government have analysed the reasons for this situation and what steps the Government are contemplating to overcome this situation in the interest of speedy disposal of such cases and larger recovery of these amounts.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: In our country judiciary is absolutely independent and functioning independently. Therefore, I cannot comment on the stay orders granted by the courts of law. But we are taking steps. We are briefing panel counsels so that they go in time and if any stay is granted they make a proper application for getting it vacated. Now courts are also usually issuing notice to the Government before granting *ad interim* stay.

Recovery of Government Taxes

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

(a) whether Government propose to recover taxes from tax dodgers in the manner in which land revenues are recovered;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

STATEMENT

(a) to (c).

Central Excise and Customs

The Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 and Customs Act, 1962 already provides for recovery of arrears of duties as arrears of land revenue.

Income Tax

Provisions for recovery of taxes due under the various direct tax Acts are contained in sections 220 to 232 of the Income Tax Act read with its Second and Third

Schedule. these provisions are quite exhaustive and there is no proposal to recover taxes in any other manner.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, already lot of discussion has taken place on tax evasion. In this Section we have also seen how tax evaders and even those who fail to submit their returns before the last date have been exempted from payment of interest and other fine. Inspite of Government's assertion here I would like to say they are not sincere to bring those evaders to book. Can you tell the House out of the total amount of your direct tax what is the amount that you collect from business people, professionals, etc. What is their share in this total tax that you collect? From corporate tax you more or less make the collection and so also from the salaried people. But how much you collect from these businessmen, professionals, etc.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: Unless the hon. Member specifies share of which class and upto what amount, it is very difficult to say. But at the beginning when the hon. Member commented that the Government is not sincere, I contradict that. Government is sincere. If you take the law as it is then the amnesty granted once in a life-time is given in the law passed by this House. There are decisions also. It has been decided by several courts that three points are to be satisfied. These are: No notice has been given to him; that it has been done in good faith and whether he has made arrangement for payment. Those are the points which have to be satisfied. So you please detach yourself from political propaganda and then you will find that the officers have done correctly in deciding and giving the decision.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: The Minister has still not clarified. This largest section of the people, flourishing middlemen, businessmen and film stars they are not paying tax properly. These people are investing their blackmoney. Government is accusing

them but what is the actual recovery made from that section? What is the amount of increased collection from that section? That has not been clarified. I want to know categorically from the hon. Minister.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: Unless specific names are given... (*Interruptions*). They have got only one name. From what the hon. Member has said, I can find that he is interested in filmstars and their earnings. I have got the list. I don't want to take the time because this has already been answered in the House.

I have got the total list of persons so far as filmstars are concerned. I can show it to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sobhanadreeswara Rao.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Let it be laid on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed him.

[*Translation*]

You interrupt others, This is bad.

[*English*]

I have allowed Mr. Rao. It is his right. I have allowed him a supplementary and you are interjecting it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, it is no problem, that has already been done. That has already come in the paper. Again, it can come in the paper. It can be done. But his right must not be usurped and trampled under your feet.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: The hon. Minister has said that already, the Central Excise Act provides for recovery

of arrears of duty as arrears of land revenue.

I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken by the Government to recover more than Rs. 1,000 crores of excise arrears from India Tobacco Company and other cigarette manufacturing companies.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, the proceedings are now pending in a court of law, and one of the friends from the Opposition, Mr. A.K. Sen, is defending the Indian Tobacco Company in Calcutta High Court. (*Interruptions*) A show-cause notice has been issued.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I object to it. He cannot cast reflection on lawyers. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Objection sustained.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with you

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : They have to do their duty. It does not matter whether they are in the ruling party or in the opposition.

[*English*]

SHRI A.K.PANJA: We have won the case before the single Judge in Calcutta. It is now being argued before Division Bench. So far as Madras High Court is concerned, we have won there. It is in the show-cause stage, which has been challenged. When the stage comes for claiming and recovering it as land revenue, we shall certainly do it.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You speak on your turn.

[*English*]

SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY: Thank you, Sir. I would like to know whether the Minister will be prepared to lay on the Table of the House the income-tax arrears of various filmstars.

I would also like to know whether it is a fact that Mr. Amitabh Bachchan has recently filed a return in which he showed that his income has gone up by one crore more (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why are they defending? There is no allegation.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Your first question was pertinent.

[*English*]

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It is in the papers. How can it be avoided now?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: First you put the question; that will also be done. There is no dispute about that.

[*English*]

I don't mind about it. Different questions are to be made. That does not matter

(*Interruptions*)[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you quarrel, you put the proper question.

(*Interruptions*)[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please order.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I did not level any allegation, Sir.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He did not allege anything... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not behave like that, it makes no difference.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that Mr. Amitabh Bachchan filmstar and former Member of this House, had recently filed a return showing that he had earned one crore more than what he showed earlier.

If so, what is the action taken thereon? (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There is nothing against you.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: This question does not arise out of this question but I have ... (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish. Why do you stand up when he is speaking

[*English*]

I do not know what he is saying.

[*Translation*]

This, habit of interrupting is wrong.

[English]

I can allow a second question also. I am not against it. I will not bar you. You can put a direct question on that subject and I will allow you.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: The question does not arise out of this question. This is a general question. I have also seen the newspaper but the details are not with me. When the details come .. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is something which cannot be hidden.

[English]

SHRI A. K. PANJA: There is a system in which the country is run. I, as a Minister, cannot now immediately refer to the Income Tax Officer. It has to come up gradually. The Government has a right of appeal and he has got a right of appeal. It has to come. We have to rely on the system. I cannot be the supporter of the Opposition who is trying to break the system. I cannot do it. Sir. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He was asking whether you are prepared to put the list on the Table of the House.

SHRI A.K.PANJA : Coming to that question, I have got the names but I do not think... (*Interruptions*) ... If you order me, I will do so. But I do not feel that it arises out of this question. I can certainly show it to the hon. Member, if he wishes. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I asked for the information of Amitabh Bachchan's case. I did not ask him....

MR. SPEAKER: When he gets the information, he will give it to you. When he has not got, why should he give you wrong information ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.K.PANJA: It has been answered on the 5th August in reply to Starred Question No 159 by Shri Uttamrao Patil and Shri Jai Prakash Aggarwal. It has been answered. If the hon. Member wants to look at it, he can do so. He has asked for the names. He did not ask for the amount.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I have asked for the amount also.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: But it is not with me now.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask and I will get it for you.

[Translation]

If you ask the question, I will get it for you. He has told that.

[English]

I cannot ask him to give wring information to you and then you catch him

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You direct him to give the information to me. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You give a notice. I shall allow it.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why lay on his table? Why not lay on this Table.

[*Translation*]

Alleged Irregularities in Transaction of Janata Cloth in Bihar

*250. SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Union Government have received complaints alleging irregularities in the transaction of Janata cloth in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Union Government thereon?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

During the years 1986 and 1987, several complaints were received by the Central Government alleging irregularities in the production of Janata Cloth by the implementing agencies in Bihar. The complaints related to fake purchases of yarn and submission of false subsidy claims. As the responsibility for the implementation of Janata Cloth Scheme vests with the State Government, the complaints received were referred to the Government of Bihar for making necessary enquiries in the matter. Representatives of the Central Government were also sent to discuss the matter with the State Government authorities. Subsequently in respect of some of the implementing agencies the State Government have reported that no irregularities were found. In respect of certain other agencies, Vigilance enquiry by the State Government has been undertaken. The Central Government have streamlined the procedures for submission

of claims for Janata subsidy by the Government of Bihar. In respect of certain implementing agencies against whom enquiry is being conducted, subsidy claims have been withheld.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the reply, that has been given, I would like to know the names of agencies which have been acquitted of charges and agencies against whom enquiries are still going on in Bihar. Besides, whether the allegation of fake business were proved against Handicraft weavers Association of Madhubani area? What action the State Government has taken in this regard?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, There are seven agencies which are involved in implementation of Janata cloth scheme in Bihar. The central Government has received complaints against some of these agencies alleging misuse of the subsidy and some other irregularities. We have also sent our representative to discuss these matters with the State Government and to find out as to what action is being taken. State Government is enquiring with these cases and we are in constant touch with the State Authorities. In one or two cases, no substance could be found in the complaint. The complainants are being asked to give more information so that proper inquiry may be conducted. The State Government is competent to inquire into these cases and the inquiry is already in progress. We are in touch with the State authorities.

SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not received a proper reply to my first question. The question was which of the agencies have been acquitted and is there any agency against whom inquiry is still going on?

MR. SPEAKER: Will you not ask the second supplementary question.

SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI: My Second question is what steps are being taken to check bungling which is going on is large scale in this country ? Not only in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, I have got a proof in respect of large scale bungling in Madhya Pradesh also. Will the Government modify the Janata Cloth Scheme in order to check misuse of this amount? On the other hand, unemployment among the weavers has risen sharply due to Mafia , Therefore, will the Government provide alternative employment to the weavers engaged in these agencies?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, Janata cloth Scheme is meant to assist the weavers. As I have said that the State Government is competent to enquire into the cases of irregularities in cooperative and other agencies. We have withheld the claims of subsidy in respect of some of the agencies against whom enquiries are pending. We are directing the State Government to conduct proper inquiries against all complaints through the intelligence department or through other agencies.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Decline in Foreign Exchange Reserves

[*Translation*]

*251. SHRI RAM DHAN:
SHRI V. TULSIRAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign exchange reserves in the country have declined considerably during the first quarter of 1988-89;

(b) what what the position of the foreign exchange reserves as on 1st April, 1988 and 1st July, 1988; and

(c) the reasons for sudden decrease in the foreign exchange reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) . A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold & special Drawing Rights) which stood at Rs. 7287.14 crores on 31.3.88 declined to Rs. 5881.61 crores as on 1.7.88. The decline in reserves in the first quarter of the financial year, as per available indications, was due to the bunching of some import payments, unusually high international prices for metals, edible oils, petrochemicals and other imports, increase import of bulk commodities such as Diesel, edible oils, steel and wheat necessitated by unprecedented drought and lower net receipts of aid and higher repayments to the IMF as compared to last years. The reserves have since increased to Rs. 5739.99 crores as on 5.8.1988.

[*English*]

Code of Conduct for legal aid Lawyers

*252. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to lay down a code of conduct for legal aid lawyers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RE-

SOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Investment in Modernisation of NTC Mills

*253. DR. V. VENKATESH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received proposals from the National Textile Corporation for substantial investment on account of modernisation as a consequence of merger issues of its mills; and

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) (a) Proposals of investment on account of modernisation as a part of NTC's scheme for restructuring/ amalgamation of NTC mills are still at the preliminary stage of discussions at various levels.

(b) Does not arise.

World Bank Assistance

*254. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has pledged continued substantial IBRD and IDA Lendings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has placed the country in the category of continental economies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons for placing the country in the specified category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). At the Aid India Consortium meeting held in June 1988 at Paris, the World Bank group have indicated a commitment level of \$ 2.7 billion for the current World Bank Fiscal Year, ending 30th June 1989. This is higher than the World Bank group commitment in the Consortium meeting for the previous Bank fiscal year, ending 30th June 1988, which was \$ 2.5 billion.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pritam Singh Committee on Anti-Erosion

*255 SHRI ANIL BASU:
SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSAIN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to implement the recommendations of the Pritam Singh Committee on anti-erosion; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). The Government of West Bengal, which constituted the Pritam Singh Committee, has framed certain proposals based on the Committee's recommendations. Work on some of the vulnerable reaches indicated by the Committee has been taken up also by the State Government.

[Translation]

Supreme Court Verdict on Swadeshi Cotton Mills

*256. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have won the case regarding nationalisation and shares of six units of Swadeshi Cotton Mills as per the Supreme Court's verdict of 12 February, 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the further action taken by Government on the basis of the said verdict of the Supreme Court;

(d) whether the assets of these factories were valued at Rs. 22 crores and one lakh as per the details filed in the court; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to recover the loan of Rs. 35 crores advanced to the company in pursuance of provisions of Section 29D of the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MRDHA) : (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). 10 Lakh shares of Swadeshi Polytex Ltd and 17,18,344 shares of Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Company Ltd. stand vested in the Central Government/ NTC as a result of the judgement dated 12.2.1988 of the Supreme Court. Nominees of the NTC are on the Board of Swadeshi Polytex Ltd. and Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Company Ltd.

(d) Value of assets of the six nationalised Textile Undertakings of the Swadeshi Group was Rs. 23.85 crores as per annual accounts as on 31.3.1978.

(e) The Government did not advance any loan to the Swadeshi Cotton Mills Company Ltd. under Section 29D of the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act.

[English]

Reorganisation of Central Excise and Customs Departments

*257. SHRI G.M.BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals for re-organisation of the Customs and Central Excise Departments; if so, the details of the proposed re-re-organisation;

(b) whether these proposals have been submitted to the Department of Personnel for clearance and if so, when; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite decision on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The proposed re-organisation envisages re-designing of the pattern of various field formations with suitable increases/decreases in the deployment of officers and staff. It is aimed at making the Departments more efficient and responsive and to improve revenue realisations.

(b) The original proposal was referred to the Department of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions in the middle of 1986. This proposal underwent a number of changes as a result of the discussions with the concerned Departments. A revised pro-

posal has been sent to the Department of Personnel on the 1st August, 1988.

(c) The matter is being followed up closely in order to expedite decision.

CBI Raids on NTC Officers

*258. SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has conducted raids on some officers of the National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or contemplated on the CBI findings?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted raids on residences, etc. of some employees of NTC Subsidiary Corporations in 10 cases registered by them during the years 1987 and 1988. Reports in respect of only 2 cases have been received so far from the CBI and action has been is being taken in these cases.

Scheme for Rehabilitation of Oustees from Command Areas

*259. SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated schemes for full rehabilitation of the oustees from the Command Areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the magnitude of the problem of rehabilitation; and

(d) what targets have been fixed for 1988-89 and 1989-90 ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) As no submergence occurs within the command areas, no rehabilitation of outees is involved.

(b) does not arise.

(c) and (d). Rehabilitation of oustees from areas submerged by reservoir projects in the responsibility of the State Governments. No annual targets as such are fixed by the Centre.

Shortage of Yarn

*260. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom sector is experiencing shortage of supply of yarn at reasonable price;

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

(c) the measures taken by Union Government to improve the position;

(d) whether Government have issued any directions to yarn manufacturing mills for providing yarn to handlooms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether these directions are being followed properly?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). There

has been an increase in the price of yarn mainly on account of the increase in the price of cotton. The hank yarn prices at present are 20.3% to 72% higher as compared to the prices at the same period last year. There has however been no shortage of supply of hank yarn.

(c) to (e). The Central Government have been making efforts to ensure regular supply of yarn to the handloom sector at reasonable prices through various measures as under:

- (i) The hank yarn obligation scheme requires every producer of yarn to pack at least 50% of the total yarn packed for civil consumption in hank form, of which not less than 85% has to be in counts of 40s and below.
- (ii) The Central Government gives loan assistance to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for setting up new weavers' cooperative spinning mills and expanding the capacity of the existing weavers cooperative spinning mills in various states in order to build up captive production for the handloom sector. The setting up of 20 new weavers' cooperative spinning mills and the expansion cases sanctioned during the 6th plan period resulted in an additional spindlegage of 5.961 lakh spindles.
- (iii) The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) has been set up primarily with the objective of arranging the supply of yarn to handloom sector at reasonable prices. NHDC has stepped up its operations and supplied 63.05 lakh kgs. of yarn valued at Rs. 26.05 crores

during 1987-88(July, 87 to June, 1988) as compared to 28.08 lakh kgs valued at Rs. 8.23 crores during last year.

In order to safeguard the interest of the decentralised handloom sector, the Government have taken the following steps to check the recent hike in prices of yarn:-

- (i) The export of staple cotton has been suspended.
- (ii) It has also been decided to permit import of cotton against export of cotton yarn/cotton fabrics and made-ups on Advance Licence basis.
- (iii) The export of hank yarn upto 60s counts has been suspended.
- (iv) Import of one lakh bales of cotton, duty free, for production of hank yarn for supply to handloom sector has been permitted.

Poor Inflow in Krishna Basin

*261. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRIMATI VAYJAYANTHI MALA BALI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing on 14 July, 1988 in the Hindustan Times wherein it has been stated that Krishna basin has touched the lowest level in the last 100 years in Andhra Pradesh and poor inflow has been causing anxiety;
- (b) if so, the causes thereof; and
- (c) the appropriate steps being contemplated by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Levels reported from Andhra Pradesh projects in the Krishna Basin during the first half of July, 1988, though on the low side, were not the lowest. With further inflows in recent weeks the position has considerably improved.

[*Translation*]

Credit Camp in Ujjain

*262. SHRI SATYANARAYAN PAWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether credit camps are still being organised in Madhya Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, the time by which credit camp is likely to be organised in Ujjain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Credit camps are organised by the public sector banks as part of their continuing effort to improve the flow of credit to weaker sections. Decisions in this regard are taken by them as appropriate from time to time.

General Managers and Deputy General Managers in new Bank of India

[*English*]

*263. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of General Managers and Deputy General Managers functioning in the New Bank of India; and

(b) the number out of them who are facing Central Vigilance Commission cases/charge-sheets of CBI and since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

At present, there are two General Managers and four Deputy General Managers functioning in New Bank of India. New Bank of India has reported that one Deputy General Manager of the Bank is involved in a case which is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation. On the recommendations of the Central Vigilance Commission, however, regular departmental action has been initiated against one Deputy General Manager on 28.1.1987 and another Deputy General Manager on 16.12.1987.

Seizure of Narcotics

2499. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the biggest haul of narcotics during the current year; and
- (b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) and (b). The details of the major seizures of narcotic drugs during the current year are furnished in the statement below.

STATEMENT**Details of the Biggest Seizures of Narcotic Drugs (Drug-Wise) Effected During 1988.**

S.No.	Name of the drug	Qty.. (Kgs)	Date of seizure	Name of the seizing agency and details
1.	Hashish (Charas)	4,050	6.1.1988	by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Bombay from export consignment. Two persons apprehended.
2.	Heroin	175	5.1.1988	by Customs, Ludhiana. Driver of a truck arrested.
3.	Opium	525	28.2.1988	by Central Bureau of Narcotics, Madhya Pradesh from a truck, 3 persons apprehended.
4.	Ganja (Dried)	1,503	1- 2nd Feb 1988	by Narcotics Control Bureau, Madras. One person arrested. 16 acres of ganja crop also destroyed.

Smuggling of Precious Stones2500 **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:**

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of gems and
precious stones is on increase in the border
area of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh and
other gems producing areas;

(b) whether a great loss is being suf-
fered due to this smuggling; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to
be taken by Union Government in this re-
gard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE**

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
A.K.PANJA) :** (a) Reports received do not
indicate smuggling of gems and precious
stones in the borderareas of Orissa and
Madhya Pradesh and other gem producing
areas. However, seizures made indicate
that rough and uncut diamonds and precious
stones are being smuggled into the country
and cut and polished gems and precious
stones are being smuggled out of the coun-
try. The value of seizures of diamonds, gems
and precious stones for the last three calen-
der years are given below:

Year	Value of seizers (Rs. in lakhs)
1986	109
1987	80
1988 (upto June)	79 * (*provisional)

(b) and (c). Smuggling of diamonds and precious stones is injurious to the economy of the country. The Government is fully alive to this problem. To meet this challenge, the anti-smuggling drive has been intensified. The anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country has been geared up. Modern equipment like X-ray machines are being increasingly used. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the agencies concerned with detection and prevention of smuggling.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Brown Sugar

*2501. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that smugglers are indulging in large scale smuggling of 'Brown Sugar' in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of smugglers arrested and the value of brown sugar seized from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) and (b). Government are aware of the fact that the country is increasingly facing the problem of transit traffic particularly in heroin.

In the current year, 704 persons have been arrested (upto June) in connection with heroin related offences (impure heroin is commonly known as 'brown sugar' and hence, no separate data in respect of 'brown sugar' is maintained).

No precise value of the drug seized can be assessed as this is dependent upon the purity, place of origin/seizure, local demand and supply, etc.

[*English*]

Fillip to Processed Food Exports

2502. DR. B.L.SHAILESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is facing stiff competition from Trans-National Companies (TNC) in international processed foods market; and

(b) if so, whether any plan is contemplated by his Ministry to meet the situation and give a fillip to processed foods export?

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

(b) The Government have set up the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority to promote export of processed foods.

Recently a new Ministry for Food Processing Industries has also been formed to give fillip to the industry as a whole.

Export of Farm and Agricultural Products

2503. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: SHRI H.G. RAMULU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of farm products being exported and the value of export made during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is a big scope to boost this trade;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to step up agricultural export;

(d) the names of the countries to whom agricultural products are being exported;

(e) the steps being taken to locate more market; and

(f) the names of the States exporting agricultural products and special incentive given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) The major agricultural items being exported from the country are Cereals including Basmati rice Tobacco, Spices, Oilmeals and Processed foods including fresh fruits and vegetables. A Statement indicating provisional figures of exports of these items during the last three years is given below.

(b) and (c). Export of agricultural items can be further increased subject to our commodities being competitive in the international market. Due to domestic considerations exports of some agricultural items have also to be restricted from time to time. To

increase exports of agricultural commodities, the Commodity Boards and Export Promotion Councils concerned with these items undertake necessary promotional measures which include conducting of market surveys, sponsoring of trade delegations etc. Several agricultural items are also provided with export incentives which include Cash Compensatory Support and REP benefits.

(d) The major markets for agricultural exports are USA, West European Countries, the Gulf Region and the USSR.

(e) Efforts are being made by the promotional organisations to diversify exports of agricultural items to non-traditional markets through participation in trade fairs and sponsoring of delegations targeted towards these new markets.

(f) Agricultural commodities exported from the country are produced in various states. The more important States Producing agricultural items for export are Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh etc. The incentives on a State wise basis and are applicable for all exports from any region of the country.

STATEMENT

Qty : MTs

Value : Rs. Crores

Sl.No.	1985-86		1986-87		1987-88	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. CEREALS						
(a) Wheat	3,26,939	55.49	4,39,105	74.81	4,91,644	75.68
(b) Basmati Rice	2,35,213	173.23	2,37,153	206.78	3,66,111	339.98
(c) Non-Basmati Rice	—	—	62,689	1.32	67,985*	35.14
2 TOBACCO	74,941	161.29	75,019	171.84	61,418	116.30
(a) Unmanufactured	64,433	139.98	66,824	144.87	48,111	96.98
(b) Manufactured	10,508	21.31	08,195	26.97	13,307	19.32
3. SPICES	74,501	282.52	82,826	281.99	67,432	286.78
4. CASHFIL (Kernels and Shelliquid)	37,333	216.77	44,475	335.57	42,345	324.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5. OIL CAKES	11,68,307	161.21	14,76,941	236.08	10,72,412	197.43	
6. PROCESSED FOOD	—	286.00	—	298.58	—	346.97	
(a) Fruit and Veg. Products	—	58.00	—	48.93	—	39.13	
(b) Meat & Meat Products	—	76.00	—	74.88	—	193.95	
(c) Other Processed Foods	—	59.00	—	71.71	—	120.91	
(d) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	—	93.00	—	103.06	—	92.98	

*Shipments permitted for export during 1987.

(Source: Commodity Boards/EPCs)

Seizure of bales of duty free raw silk

2504. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bales of duty free raw silk seized or otherwise restrained by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (D.R.I.) or Collectors of Customs at Bangalore, Varanasi, Bombay, etc. with name and address of firms involved;

(b) the action taken against such firms; and

(c) what precaution of coordination with the C.C.I. & E. is being taken to prevent such misuse or defrauding of customs duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Reports received indicate that in the recent past in six cases, 413 bales of raw silk which had been imported duty free, have been seized by the Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Customs officers of Bombay, Bangalore and Varanasi. The names of the firms involved are as follows:—

1. M/s. Acquaris, New Delhi
2. M/s. Mani Exports, New Delhi
3. M/s. Pooja Exporters Ltd., Punjab
4. M/s. Link Export Corporation, Bombay
5. M/s. Quddus Silk Palace, Varanasi
- M/s. Universal Overseas Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore

5. M/s. Easter Silk Industries Ltd., Calcutta

M/s. Gemini Overseas Ltd., Calcutta

6. M/s. Khatre Arab Bawa, Bombay

(b) and (c). The case against M/s. Acquaris, New Delhi was adjudicated and the goods involved confiscated. The Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi has cancelled the import licence.

Show cause notice has been issued in the case against Mani Exports, New Delhi and the case is pending adjudication. The import licence held by them has been cancelled by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports & Exports, New Delhi.

In respect of the remaining four cases, show cause notices have been issued and are pending adjudication. The jurisdictional officers of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports have been informed for taking appropriate action in these four cases.

In respect of every major case of fraud committed under the D.E.E.C. Scheme, the same is brought to the notice of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports through a demi-official letter by the Director (Revenue Intelligence) for taking appropriate action by them.

Unclaimed Amount in State Bank of Indore

2505. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for proper utilisation of amount that were deposited and unclaimed

in State Bank of Indore;

(b) the total outstanding unclaimed amount with the Bank till date; and

(c) whether it is proposed to utilise the amount for national development scheme by fixing a time limit for the withdrawal of the unclaimed amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The unclaimed deposits, as defined in section 26 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949, lying with the banks, represents their liability and have to be paid when claimed by the depositors. Since these unclaimed deposits form part of the bank's overall funds, they are already deployed by the banks for various purposes.

State Bank of Indore has reported that the total unclaimed amount lying with the bank as on 31.12.1987 was of the order of Rs.39,07,651.84.

Textile Exports Promotion Fund

2506. SHRI N.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently Government have constituted a sponsoring committee to identify and formulate specific projects to be funded from the Textile Exports Promotion Fund; and

(b) if so, the details regarding its terms of reference and the time by when its report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Specific projects are submitted by the Sponsoring Committee to the Government for approval and it is an on-going process.

IDBI Assistance to Electronics Sector of West Bengal

2507. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has obtained a loan of 20 billion yen Rs. 200 crores from the Export Import Bank of Japan (EXIM) recently for financing industrial projects, automobile industry and the electronics sector in India;

(b) what part of this loan could be spared for financing the electronics industry in West Bengal; and

(c) the time by which IDBI is likely to clear its financial assistance for electronics sector of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has entered into an agreement on June 30, 1988 with Export-Import Bank of Japan (Exim-J) for an untied loan of Japanese Yen 20 billion. The proceeds of this loan are to be utilised to finance projects in the Automobile and Electronics Sector including their ancillaries and such other sectors, as may be agreed upon between IDBI and Exim-J.

(b) This line of credit would be utilised for funding eligible projects irrespective of their location. The extent of assistance to projects in Electronics Sector of West Ben-

gal, out of the above line of credit, would depend on the number of viable proposals emanating from that State.

(c) The IDBI has reported that normally disposal of a project application takes about 2-3 months after receipt of complete information by it.

Loopholes in the Excise Rules

2508. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the integrated paper mills are importing lower quality bagasse pulp, paying higher prices than superior grade soft-wood pulp, in order to take advantage of "loopholes" in the Excise Rules;

(b) if so, what are these loopholes in the Excise Rules which are being exploited by the large Paper Mills; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to plug them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Both bagasse pulp and soft wood pulp are being imported into the country at present. The price at which bagasse pulp is imported is generally lower than that for soft-wood pulp. Therefore, it would not be correct to say that the integrated paper mills are importing lower quality bagasse pulp, paying higher prices than for superior grade soft-wood pulp.

The reference to the 'loopholes in the excise rules' in the question is presumably to the applicability of 'nil' excise duty to printing

and writing paper and kraft paper, if such paper contains not less than 75% by weight of bagasse pulp, which could be either indigenous or imported. There have been representations requesting that 'nil' duty may be restricted to paper using only indigenous bagasse pulp. Government do not propose to make any change in the existing tax structure on paper made from bagasse pulp.

Production Cost of Janata Cloth and Controlled Cloth

2509. SHRI MATILAL HANSDA. Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) how much wage a handloom weaver is getting per day for the production of controlled and janata cloth;

(b) the production cost of such cloth in N.T.C. mills; and

(c) the production cost of such cloth in handloom?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Concessions to Leather Industry to Boost Export

2512. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend more concessions to leather industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how far it will help to increase the export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Government have already extended various measures and incentives to promote the export of value added leather products. As in the case of other products, appropriate policy initiatives are taken whenever the need arises to support export production in relation to competitiveness and export demand.

Cost Escalation Formula for NTC (WBABO)

2513. **SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 656 on 26th February, 1988 regarding cost escalation formula for NTC (WBABO) and state:

(a) whether the information as sought for will now be laid on the Table of the House;

(b) whether the contractors have since submitted the prices of contract items based on the formula given by the Reserve Bank of India;

(c) whether the contractors are again being asked to resubmit their prices afresh;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The requisite information was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 5th August, 1988.

(b) to (e). The concerned contractor was asked by NTC (WBABO) Ltd., Calcutta to submit rates for unfinished portion of civil work in one of its units on the basis of PWD rates as well as RBI formula with a view to having a comparative study. Since the contractor had submitted revised rates only on, RBI formula, the proposed study could not be made. The contractor has been asked to submit revised rates on PWD rates basis, which is awaited.

Writ Filed by TISCO

2515. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the writs filed by the TISCO and cigarette manufacturers involving excise duty disputes of over Rs. 800 crores mentioned at page 78 of the Ministry of Finance Annual Report 1987-88 and state:

(a) whether the cases have since been finalised;

(b) if so, amount of excise duty realised; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to persuade the courts stressing the need for expeditious finalisation in view of the tendency of business community to postpone deposits of Government dues utilising the funds in the meanwhile in their business activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, out of Rs.30 crores involved in the matter before the Delhi High Court, M/s. TISCO have since made an on account payment of Rs. 18 crores under protest, besides Rs. 5 crores paid earlier by them. As regards the writs

filed by M/s. I.T.C. and Asia Tobacco involving more than Rs. 800 crores, the position is as under:—

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

The judgement of the single judge at the Calcutta High Court was in favour of the Department and M/s. I.T.C. have now filed an appeal before the Division bench of that Court.

2. M/s. Asia Tobacco Co.:

Lost their case both before the single judge and the Division bench of the Madras High Court. They have now filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court.

(c) Steps taken include engaging eminent lawyers to defend Government's interest and moving the courts for vacation of stays and early decisions.

Cooperative Spinning Mill

2516. SHRI R.P. DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up cooperative spinning mills in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of places where it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). National Co-operative Development Corporation has programme of assisting 6 co-operative spinning mills under the World Bank aided

NCDC-III Agro-Industries Project and 1 co-operative spinning under the Central Sector Scheme, during the VII Plan.

(c) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

NAME OF THE SOCIETY/ LOCATION

i) *Projects, so far, financed under NCDC-III Programme*

1. Chilakkaluripet Cotton Growers Cooperative Spinning Mills Limited, Edlapadu, District Guntur (Andhra Pradesh).

2. Babasaheb Naik Kapas Utpadak Sahakari Soot Girni Limited, Pusad, District Yeotmal (Maharashtra).

3. Bhatinda Integrated Cooperative Cotton Ginning and Spinning Limited, Bhatinda (Punjab).

4. Sriganganagar Cooperative Cotton Complex Limited, Sriganganagar (Rajasthan).

ii) *Projects expected to be cleared under NCDC-III Programme being finalised by NCDC*

1. Sri Rajarajeshwari Cooperative Spinning Mills Limited Sircilla District Karimnagar (Andhra Pradesh).

2. Sri Venkatesh Cooperative Spinning Mills Limited, Amigere, District Dharwad (Karnataka).

iii) *Projects financed under Narai Programme.*

1. Assam Polyester Cooperative Society Limited, Tulsibari, District Kamrup, (Assam).

Separate High Court in Goa

2517 SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Goa has approached Union Government in the matter of creation of separate High Court for the State of Goa; and

(b) if so, reaction of Union Government thereon and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is engaging the attention of the Government of India. It is not possible to indicate when a decision would be taken.

Soil Erosion in Orissa

2518. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reduction of silt discharged by the Mahanadi after the construction of Hirakud Dam and dyke to protect the Paradeep Port are likely reasons for soil erosion in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

Suggestion of Delhi Exporters Association to Simpler Procedures

2519. SHRI NARSING SURYAVANSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Exporters Association has submitted a memorandum to his Ministry for streamlining export procedures;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) Government response thereto?

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

(b) The memorandum included inter alia, suggestions for simplification of export documents, modification in the eligibility criteria for small Export Houses, extension of the 100% E.O.U.s and FTZs to all registered exporters, and representations of the Small Scale units on Government panels.

(c) The Import Policy and Procedures are kept constantly under review and all suggestions received in this regard are taken into account.

Bank Deposits

2520. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the bank deposits in the nationalised banks as on 30th June, 1988;

(b) whether the annual growth rate of bank deposits has decreased in 1988 in comparison to 1983;

(c) if so, the reasons for this trend; and

(d) the credit deposit ratio in each year from 1983 to 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the aggregate deposits of Public sector banks as on the last Friday of June 1988 were Rs.112127.25* crores.

(b) and (c). The growth rate of bank deposits during the year 1988 would be known only after the close of the year.

(d) The credit: deposit ratio of all scheduled commercial banks as on the last Friday of each year from 1983 to 1987 is given below:—

Year	Credit. Deposit Ratio
1983	67.2
1984	68.8
1985	65.6
1986	63.0
1987	60.9

* Data provisional

Indo-USSR Joint Venture

2521. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any joint venture agreement has recently been signed between USSR and India in the field of engineering designs, civil construction and supply of machinery and equipments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Government is not aware of the signing of any such joint venture agreement.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade Talks During Minister of State's Visit to South Korea and Japan

2522. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State for Commerce had visited South Korea and Japan in July, 1988 to have bilateral trade talks; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof by way of trade protocols and agreements signed, if any?

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

(b) The visit was to review bilateral trade with Republic of Korea and Japan at the

political level, aimed at exploring possibilities for boosting our exports. Both the countries have expressed their interest in raising the level of their trade and economic cooperation with India. Signing of Protocols/Agreements was not envisaged.

Export-Oriented Yarn Spinning Mills

2523. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of export-oriented yarn spinning mills operating in India;
- (b) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the export-oriented yarn spinning mills during 1986-87 and 1987-88;
- (c) whether a few export-oriented spinning mills have been facing financial and raw material difficulties; and
- (d) the reaction of Union Government regarding sick export-oriented yarn spinning mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) According to available information, there is only one spinning unit operating under the 100% Export-Oriented Units Scheme at present in the country.

(b) The foreign exchange earned by this unit was (in rupees) about Rs.3.41 crores in 1986-87 and Rs.9.58 crores in 1987-88.

(c) and (d). Do not arise as there is only one such unit operating at present.

Visit of a Chinese Trade Delegation

2524. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-powered delegation from China had recently visited India and had discussions with Members of the Confederation of Engineering Industries (CEI) (Northern Region) over the possibilities of inviting Indian Investment in China; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). A Chinese delegation sponsored by China's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, and the International Finance Corporation, Washington, had visited India from 4-10th June, 1988. The purpose of the visit was to study the Indian rules and regulations relating to foreign collaboration/investment. In Delhi, the delegation also had a meeting in the Confederation of Engineering Industries. In the discussions with CEI no specific point came up on the possibility of inviting Indian Investment in China.

Unauthorised Import of Birds and Animals

2525. SHRI K. MOHANDAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unauthorised imported animals and birds confiscated since the present import and export policy came into existence till date; and

- (b) the details of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Reports received indicate one case of alleged unauthorised im-

port of five live birds at Calcutta airport since the present Import and Export policy was introduced. In this case a passenger imported three numbers Sulphur Crested Cockatoo — Cacatua, Galerita and two numbers Major Mitchell's Cockatoo — Calcutta Liadpfeateri on 14th July, 1988 as baggage. The five birds have been deposited with the Zoological Garden Alipur, Calcutta. The case is pending adjudication.

Economy in Expenditure in Defending Cases in C.A.T. and Supreme Court

2526 SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 28th July, 1987 to Unstarred Question No 248 regarding payment of fee to Government Advocates and state,

(a) whether the information has since been collected,

(b) if so, whether the details of the requisite information will be laid on the Table of the House

(c) whether Government have issued ban orders on the creation and upgradation of posts in Government departments keeping the financial stringency in view,

(d) if so, reasons for not economising on the expenditure incurred by Government in defending the cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal (C A T) and the Supreme Court especially when majority of the cases are lost by Government, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI

H R. BHARDWAJ) (a) and (b) The assurance given in respect of the Unstarred Question No 248 regarding payment of fee to Government Advocates is still pending for want of information which is still awaited from some of the concerned agencies. The information will be laid on the Table of the House when received in full.

(c) This Ministry is not concerned with the assurance of ban orders on the creation and upgradation of posts in Government Departments keeping the financial stringency in view.

(d) and (e) This Ministry has already issued circulars to all Departments/ Ministers of Government of India stressing the need for economy in the engagement of counsel in various courts, Tribunals and Commissions in view of the Prime Minister's directive to economise on the non-plan expenditure.

Export from Kandla and Madras Export Promotion Zones

2577 SHRI KAMAL NATH
DR A K PATEL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the total export turnover from the Kandla and Madras Export Promotion Zones in three years,

(b) the amount of exports made to USSR from these zones during last three years,

(c) the names of five companies which have the largest export from these zones; and

(d) the quantum of exports by these five companies in free foreign exchange and rupee payment?

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

DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). The total exports and the exports made to the USSR from the Kandla Free Trade Zone and the Madras Export Processing Zone during the last three years are as under:

Name of Zone	Exports (Rs. in crores)					
	1985-86		1986-87		1987-88	
	Total	To USSR	Total	To USSR	Total	To USSR
Kandla Free Trade Zone	236.86	220.43	236.26	212.87	185.03	152.74
Madras Export Processing Zone	0.55	0.55	10.05	9.88	16.42	11.01

(c) and (d). The five major exporters from these Zones and the quantum of their

exports during the last three years are as under:

	Exports (Rs. in crores)	
	To GCA*	To RPA**
(a). <i>Kandla Free Trade Zone</i>		
(1) M/s. Lakme Pvt. Ltd.	1.68	56.29
(2) M/s. Milton's Pvt. Ltd.	4.66	44.56
(3) M/s. Hindustan Lever Pvt. Ltd.	13.60	32.97
(4) M/s. M.J. International Pvt. Ltd.	-	25.51
(5) M/s. Indsu Pvt. Ltd.	-	15.82
(b) <i>Madras Export Processing Zone</i>		
(1) M/s. Fortune International Pvt. Ltd.	-	10.74
(2) M/s. Menon Impex Pvt. Ltd.	-	8.23
(3) M/s. Majestic Apparels	0.51	2.47
(4) M/s. P.S. Apparels	1.34	-
(5) M/s. Attar Mohd. Dawood & Bros.	1.04	-

*GCA General Currency Area

** RPA Rupee Payment Area

Deposit of Excise Duty by Small Scale Units, Bahadurgarh

2528. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Units in Bahadurgarh (Haryana) which fall under Delhi Collectorate are not allowed to deposit the money for excise duty in Delhi and have to deposit the same at Bahadurgarh only,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether keeping in view the difficulties faced by these units Government propose to allow them to deposit the money to excise duty in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A K PANJA) (a) It is not a fact that Small Scale Units in Bahadurgarh are not allowed to deposit Central Excise duty in Delhi and have to deposit the same only in Bahadurgarh

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Closure of NTC Mills in Karnataka

2529 SHRI H G. RAMULU Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to close down the nationalised NTC mills in Karnataka,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether Government propose to have a dialogue with the State Government

for running the NTC mills in the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA). (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) and (d). The dialogue with the State Government is a continuous process.

Jewellery Missing From Bank Lockers

2530 SHRI P M SAYEED

PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) Whether Government have recently received complaints regarding missing jewellery from the bank lockers in Delhi,

(b) if so the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) (a) As per available information during 1988 only one complaint has been reported from Delhi regarding missing of jewellery, valuables etc from the lockers of the Ashok Vihar (Delhi) Branch of Punjab National Bank

(b) Punjab National Bank has reported that on 16 06 88 when the lessee of the locker came to the branch to operate her lockers, she found the "patti" provided for the

customer's extra lock on the locker in a hanging position although the lock was intact, and brought this fact to the notice of the Custodian of the Safe Deposit Vault. The locker was opened after applying the Master Key by the Custodian and the Customer's key by the lessee. After opening the locker, the lessee reported that her entire jewellery etc. had been removed by someone from the locker. The police were informed of the incident and they have taken up investigation.

(c) Punjab National Bank has reported that it has reiterated its instructions in respect of operation and custody of lockers for strict compliance/ adherence.

Status of Refinery to Private Petro-chemical Complex

2531. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid down any norms or regulations for awarding the status of refinery to private petrochemical complex;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the petrochemical complex of Reliance Industries Ltd. at Patalganga in Maharashtra has acquired the necessary qualifications to get the refinery status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). The question of declaration of a Petrochemical Complex as a refinery arises *inter alia* in the context of the rate of duty leviable on Naptha and on the intermediate products used in the manufacture of final products which are dutiable.

Having regard to the processes undertaken in the petro-chemical industry in the manufacture of different products, cascading effect can be avoided only if the incidence of tax on inter-mediate products is kept low or exempted as in a refinery. Further, Naptha used for Petro-chemical industry has to be given at a price inclusive of excise duty which would make the final product price reasonable. Keeping these considerations in mind Government have from time to time granted the status of refinery to petro-chemical complexes, both in the private and public sector such as NOCIL, RCF, I.P.C.L., RAMA Petrochemicals.

(c) Reliance Industries Limited was extended refinery status under sub-rule(2) of Rule 140 of Central Excise rules keeping the above factors in mind.

Profits of Syndicate Bank

2532. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Syndicate Bank has shown a profit of about Rupees seven crores for the year 1987-88;

(b) whether this figure of profit was arrived at by change of accounting procedure;

(c) whether the bank has taken prior permission of the Comptroller and Auditor General or the Banking Department to change the accounting procedure; and

(d) if not, the action taken/ proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) As per the published accounts of Syndicate Bank, its profit for the year 1987 was Rs. 7.10 crores.

(b) to (d). The banks are required to prepare their Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts as per the formats set out in the Third Schedule of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The banks introduce changes in their accounting procedures as are considered necessary. These changes are required to be reflected in their published accounts.

Reserve Bank of India has reported that Syndicate Bank had made certain changes in its accounting procedure while finalising the annual accounts for the year 1987 which have been duly reflected in the Annual Accounts and the Auditors' notes thereon.

The bank is not statutorily required to obtain permission for introducing changes in its accounting procedures.

Manufacture of Cheap Woollen Blankets and Cloth

2533. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the woollen industry manufacturing cheap woollen blankets and cloth meant for common man is passing through a worst ever crisis providing direct-indirect employment to the lakhs of people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated to improve and save this industry from the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). The shoddy sector of woollen textile industry is in difficulties on account of recession in the demand of their products and decline in the export of shoddy blankets.

(c) The following steps have been taken:

- i) Import duty on synthetic rags has been reduced from 80% to 25%.
- ii) Shoddy blankets have been exempted completely from levy of excise duty.
- iii) Shoddy fabric upto the value of Rs. 60/- per metre has been exempted from levy of excise duty.
- iv) Import duty on certain woollen machinery has been reduced from 101% to 35%.

UNDP Assistance

2534. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI S.M. GURADDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has decided to concentrate more on giving assistance for establishing the research and development

facilities to promote small and medium industries in the country;

(b) whether the UNDP agency has indicated that it would rather assist in the pre-investment process than giving financial assistance to the small scale industries; and

(c) the projects for which the UNDP has agreed to provide assistance and the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). UNDP Provides technical assistance to the developing countries as per their requirements. The sectors that should receive UNDP assistance are normally decided by Govt. of India. UNDP also gives assistance for pre-investment projects. India utilizes UNDP assistance for projects in various sectors including small-scale industry sector.

(c) UNDP allocates funds to the developing countries on a five-year-cycle basis. India's allocation for the current cycle (1987-91) is US \$ 156.2 million. As on 1st August, 1988, there are 106 on-going projects in various sectors e.g. agriculture, industry including small-scale industry, electronics, scientific research, water resources, minerals, energy, railways, education, etc.

Closed Textile Mills

2535. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of closed textile mills in the country;

(b) the number of references made by

such mills to the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) constituted under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985; and

(c) the outcome of such references?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The number of closed cotton/man-made fibre textile units in the country as on 31.05.88 was 133.

(b) and (c). According to available information 44 closed textile units have made reference to the BIFR under Section 15 (1) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Of these 34 have been registered with the Board. The Board has heard 24 cases, all of which have been declared sick. In 15 of the cases declared sick, Operating Agencies have been appointed. In 2 cases winding up notices have been issued and final order passed in one case. Out of the 10 unregistered references, 5 have been rejected as not fit for registration and the remaining 5 are under scrutiny by the BIFR.

Seizure of Narcotics in Pushkar

2536. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the 'Times of India' dated 4th July, 1988 regarding trafficking in narcotics worth lakhs of rupees in Pushkar town in Ajmer which has become a major centre for the illegal trade; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Rajasthan, being a border State, is vulnerable of illicit traffic in drugs. Government have initiated various legal, administrative and preventive measures to meet the situation. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act, 1985, which came into force on 14.11.1985, prescribed a minimum mandatory punishment of 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1 lakh, extendable to 15 years' R.I. and a fine of Rs. 2 lakhs. In the case of repeat offence, the minimum mandatory punishment is 15 years' R.I. and a fine of 1.5 lakhs, extendable to 30 years' R.I. and a fine of Rs. 3 lakhs. Apart from this law, an Ordinance providing for preventive detention of drug traffickers was promulgated by the President on 04.07.1988.

The administrative steps taken include the vesting of investigative powers to various Central and State agencies so that effective preventive action is taken against drug traffickers in every part of the country. Narcotics cells have been set up in the Customs and Central Excise Collectorates all over the country and in the State Police organisations. A liberalised reward scheme for informers and officers has been introduced. This has resulted in significant seizures and arrest of drug traffickers in 1986, 1987 and in the first half of 1988.

Further, the Government of Rajasthan has been specifically advised to take necessary enforcement action against possible diversion of opium from licit cultivation and attempted clandestine manufacture of drugs.

Sick Textile Mills in Tamil Nadu

2537. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the sick textile mills closed in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the number of employees affected by the closure of these mills; and
- (c) the steps taken by Union Government to take over the sick textile mills and to rehabilitate the affected employees of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). A statement is given below:

(c) The June 1985 Textile Policy statement specifically says that takeover by the Govt. or nationalisation of sick textile units does not provide a solution to the problems of sickness and Govt. would not, as a rule, intervene in such cases. A Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund has been set up to provide interim relief to the workers of these closed mills which are covered by the guidelines to the Scheme.

STATEMENT

As on 30.06.1988 there were a total of 39 cotton/ man-made fibre textile mills lying closed in Tamil Nadu. Of these Vasantha Mills and Bhavani Mills have been registered by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act. The names of these mills and the workers on their rolls is as follows:

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Mill</i>	<i>Workers on Roll</i>
1	2	3
1.	Vasantha mills	1327
2.	Radhakrishna mills	1187
3.	Mettur mills	2514
4.	Tamil Nadu Spinning Mills	92
5.	Shree Padma Mills	118
6.	Janardhana Mills	746
7.	Jallaram Spinning Mills	128
8.	Akshaya Textiles	535
9.	K.G.S. Spinners	88
10.	Bhavani Mills	573
11.	Rams Textiles	170
12.	Theivasing Mani Spinners	19
13.	Vasudeva Textiles	48
14.	Tirupur Cotton Spg. & Wvg. (Unit No.1)	575
15.	P.S.G.V. Textiles	48
16.	K. Shiva Subramanya Spinners	107
17.	Coimbatore Amarjyoti Mills	147
18.	Balaji Spinners	16
19.	Vyas Textiles	85
20.	Madhu Spg. & Wvg.	454
21.	Coimbatore Popular Spinning Mills	235

1	2	3
22.	Laxmi Durga Mills	127
23.	Shree Kothandram Spg. Mills	260
24.	Shree Krishna Swami Mills	33
25.	Ideal Spinning Mills	179
26.	Prabha Spinning Mills	40
27	Amravathi Dyeing	87
28	Shivamani Spinning Mills	275
29.	Balaji Cotton Mills	207
30	Kaveri Spinning and Weaving	735
31.	Shree Amman Textiles	15
32	Mahalaxmi Textiles	1200
33	Govindaraju Mills	60
34.	M. Kamalam Dyeing	60
35.	Thirvalar Spinning Mills	47
36.	Sethuram Spinning Mills	27
37	Laxmi Shanmugh Mills	354
38.	Radha Spinning Mills	33
39.	Sundaram Spinning Mills	400

13307

**Nationalisation of Scindia Steam
Navigation Company**

2538. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTER-
JEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any scheme for the revival of Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited now under the control of receiver;

(b) if not, the steps being taken to run the

vessels of the Company, especially when there is now a favourable freight market; and

(c) whether Government are considering nationalisation of the Company to save valuable national assets and provide security of service to the workers and employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The matter relating to Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. has been considered and it has been decided to run the company through its board of directors.

(c) There is no proposal for nationalisation of the Company.

Raids by Income Tax and Central Excise Departments

2539. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by the Income Tax and the Central Excise Departments on officials, businessmen and business organisations during the period from 1st January, 1988 till 1st July, 1988; and

(b) the outcome of such raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The number of raids conducted by Income Tax and Central Excise Departments during 01.01.1988 to 30.06.1988 are as under:

Income Tax *Central Excise*

3545 810

(b) The Income Tax Department seized assets worth about Rs.85.27 crores. Concealment of income to the tune of Rs. 119.50 crores was also admitted by the persons searched.

Central Excise Department seized goods worth Rs. 22 crores in these searches along with some incriminating documents.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Water Through Dhansa and Surakhpur Minor

2540. SHRI BHARAT SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of canal water for irrigation through Dhansa and Surakhpur Minors has since been stopped as a result of which drinking water for cattle is also not available; and

(b) if so, whether Government will resume supply of water through Dhansa and Surakhpur Minors for irrigation and drinking water for cattle by digging them deep?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHIL): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export Duty on Spices**[English]**

2541. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI K. MOHANDAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of spices which attract export duty at present together with the rate thereof;
- (b) whether any representations have been received for reducing this duty;
- (c) if so, the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Indian spices are slowly being priced out of the international market; and
- (e) if so, the main factors responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI). (a) At present export duty is levied on black pepper at the rate of Rs. 5/- per kg.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) It is being studied.
- (d) The prices of different spices vary from time to time. Prices of some of the Indian Spices have been comparatively higher and uncompetitive in the International market.
- (e) The main reasons interalia are low productivity and higher domestic demand.

Raids on Cigarette Companies

2542. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some cigarette companies are running five star hotels and big newspapers;
- (b) whether during the course of raids, cases of excise and customs duty evasion and FERA violations are noticed by Government; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

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

Task Force for Powerlooms

2543. DR.DATTA SAMANT:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
PROF. RAMAKRISHNA MORE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Union government have appointed a Task Force for studying the credit requirement for powerlooms in 1987;
- (b) the details of the recommendations made by the Task Force to improve the powerloom industry particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) whether the recommendations of the Task Force have been implemented; if so, when and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c). Government of India had constituted a Task Force in May, 1987 under the chairmanship of the Textile Commissioner, to assess the existing flow of credit to the decentralised power-loom sector and to make recommendations regarding measures to be taken to augment the flow of credit. The Task Force has suggested credit outlay of Rs. 500 crores for working capital, Rs. 150 crores for modernisation of weaving operations and Rs. 50 crores for modernisation of pre-weaving operations in the first year.

The Report is under consideration.

Seizure of Smuggled Goods etc.

2544. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of raids conducted by various Government agencies during the last six months in the country;

(b) the details of cash, gold, smuggled goods, narcotics etc. seized during the raids;

(c) whether the smugglers in these cases were apprehended and prosecuted; and

(d) the steps being taken to arrest the activities of smuggling of goods from across the borders of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Raids conducted during 1.1.1988 to 30.6.1988 by the various agencies are as under:

	<i>No. of Raids</i>	<i>Details of Seizure</i>
Income Tax	3545	Rs. 85.27 crores
Central Excise	810	Rs. 22 crores
Narcotics	647	31364 Kg. (Opium Morphine, Heroin, Hashish, Ganja, Cocaine)
Anti-smuggling	286	17.50 crores worth cash and goods.

(c) The Smugglers involved in the above cases were proceeded against under the relevant laws.

(d) The Government is fully alive to the challenge of smuggling and determined to curb this menace. The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified. Close co-ordination among concerned agencies is maintained

and modern equipments have been provided.

Syndicate Bank Programme for Providing Self Employment Avenues

2545. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Syndicate Bank has launched a massive programme for providing self-employment avenues particularly in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Syndicate Bank has reported that it has recently introduced its own self-employment scheme for the unemployed youth in the age group 20-35 years to enable them to take up self-employment ventures. Under the scheme maximum loan upto Rs. 25,000/- can be sanctioned with rate of interest, security and payment as per norms. No service charges are levied for loans upto Rs. 5,000/- Candidates for loan are to be sponsored by the voluntary agencies and the banks' own branches and are screened by the banks' own Task Force. Selected candidates are trained in the vocations elected by them and are guided by the bank for availing loan assistance under the scheme.

National Law School, Bangalore

2546 SHRI E AYYAPU REDDY
SHRI V.S KRISHNA IYER

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

(a) whether the National Law School of India University in Bangalore is sponsored by the Bar Council of India;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has promised to grant Rupees fifty lakhs for the said institution;

(c) whether Union Government have also given any grant to the said institution, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) when the above institution is likely to become fufledged and viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir

(d) The Institution has started functioning

Implementation of JHA Committee Report

2547. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes has opposed the changes in the Income-tax Act suggested by the Jha Committee,

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to shelve the implementation of the Jha Committee report; and

(c) if not, what changes are being considered in the Act to make tax laws promote income generation and savings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b) A Study Group on Direct Taxes under the convenership of late Shri L. K. Jha was set up pursuant to the

decision taken at a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance. The suggestions contained in the Report of the Study Group have been examined and also discussed in detail in the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance. Some of the recommendations have been implemented through the Finance Act, 1988.

(c) Consideration of measures for encouraging savings and investment (which lead to further income generation) is a continuous, on going process and the position in this regard is reviewed from time to time.

Price Fixed for Janata Cloth

2548. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the price of cotton yarn of standard counts as on 1st April, 1987 and 1st April, 1988 with the maximum and minimum recorded during 1987-88;

(b) the total production of handloom cloth during 1986-87 and 1987-88 and the target for 1988-89;

(c) the production of Janata Cloth during these years; and

(d) whether the price fixed by Government for the Janata Cloth was revised during 1987-88 with the date of revision and of the last fixation, with corresponding prices?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The prices of cotton yarn of standard counts as on 3.4.87 and 2.4.88 alongwith the minimum and

maximum prices recorded during 1987-88 are given in statement I & II below.

(b) The estimated production of handloom cloth during 1986-87, 1987-88 and target for 1988-89 is as under:—

Year	Production in million metres
1986-87	3884
1987-88	3948
1988-89	4250 (Target)

(c) The production of Janata Cloth during 1986-87 and 1987-88 and target for the year 1988-89 is as under:—

1986-87	482 Million Square Metres
1987-88	500 Million Square Metres (estimated)
1988-89	550 Million Square Metres (Provisional Target)

(d) The different States produce a large variety of Janata cloth. The prices fixed for Janata cloth produced in different States are therefore not uniform. There is no fixed time schedule for revision of prices of Janata cloth. However, the Central Government provides the subsidy at a uniform rate on Janata cloth produced in all States. The Government has increased the rate of subsidy from Rs. 2/- per square metre being paid w.e.f. 1.10.84 to Rs. 2.75 per square metre w.e.f. 1.3.1988.

STATEMENT-I*Average Prices of Cotton Hank Yarn*

(Rs. per 4.54 kgs.)

Counts	2.4.88	3.4.87
2s	91.00	56.00
6s	116.50	76.00
10s	117.50	81.50
20s	172.50	108.50
26s	171.00	120.00
30s	186.00	134.50
40s	206.50	151.50
60s Carded	289.00	197.50
60s Combed	310.00	218.00
80s Carded	313.50	235.00
80s Combed	392.50	312.50
100s Carded	400.00	302.50
100s Combed	482.50	392.50

STATEMENT-II*Prices of Cotton Hank Yarn*

(Rs. per 4.54 kgs.)

Counts	Min./Max. Price		As on
	1	2	
2s	Min. Max.	40.00 105.00	(3.4.87) (29.2.88)

<i>1</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
6s	Min.	75.00	(3.4.87)
	Max.	131.00	(29.1.88)
10s	Min.	75.00	(3.4.87)
	Max.	140.00	(29.1.87, 6.2.88)
20s	Min.	101.00	(29.4.87)
	Max.	180.00	(6.2.88)
26s	Min.	110.00	(24.4.87)
	Max.	192.00	(19.2.88)
30s	Min.	128.00	(10.4.87)
	Max.	209.00	(6.2.88)
40s	Min.	135.00	(2.4.87)
	Max.	248.00	(6.2.88)
60s	Min.	175.00	(24.4.87, 29.4.87)
Carded	Max.	335.00	(12.2.88)
60s	Min.	195.00	(24.4.87, 29.4.87)
Combed	Max.	355.00	(6.2.88, 12.2.88, 19.2.88)
80s	Min.	220.00	(2.4.87, 12.4.87, 18.4.87)
Carded	Max.	375.00	(12.2.88)
80s	Min.	260.00	(3.7.87)
Combed	Max.	450.00	(6.2.88, 12.2.88, 19.2.88,
		26.2.88)	
100s	Min.	285.00	(28.5.87)
Carded	Max.	450.00	(6.2.88)
100s	Min.	350.00	(24.4.87, 29.4.87)
Combed	Max.	560.00	(12.2.88, 19.2.88)

Soil erosion in Northern Coastal Areas of Orissa

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

2549. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

(a) whether Government are aware of

the fact that the soil erosion has posed a serious problem in the coastal areas of Orissa more particularly in the northern coastal areas and is posing a grave threat to Paradip Port of the State,

(b) if so, the steps taken to check soil erosion,

(c) whether any centrally sponsored scheme has been introduced for that purpose, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) (a) to (d) It is for the State Government to identify the vulnerable reaches and take measures to protect sea coast against erosion Paradip Port Authorities have been executing necessary coast protection works and there is no threat to the port

Plan to Export Tea to France

2550 SHRI V S VIJAYARAGHAVAN
SHRI G S BASAVARAJU

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Tea Board prepared any plan to export Indian tea produced at different production centres to France and other European countries,

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether any comprehensive programme to reorient the marketing policy towards exporting more especially devel-

oped tea products has been prepared in this regard, and

(d) if so, the details thereof and their impact on export of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P R DASMUNSI) (a) and (b) Tea Board conducts various activities to promote export of Indian tea to overseas markets It has not prepared any specific plan to export Indian tea produced at specific production centres to France and other countries

(c) To promote export of value added tea, Tea Board is carrying out special campaign in different countries including UK, France, Netherlands, West Germany and other West European countries, West Asian and North African countries, Australia & Japan

(d) These campaigns were initiated during 1987-88 and are being continued during 1988-89 Basically, these campaigns aim to promote Indian tea brands carrying marketing symbol and Darjeeling logo Generally, the campaign has generated good response from trade as well as consumer interests

Appointment of SCs and STs as Directors in Boards of Nationalised Banks

2551 SHRI ANANTAPRASAD SETHI
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had recommended to Government for appointment of persons of

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities as Directors in the Boards of different nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the number of boards reconstituted since then till date and how many persons of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities have been appointed as Directors, bank-wise; and

(c) the particulars of these persons?

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

(b) and (c). At present there are no non-official directors on the boards of any of the nationalised banks. The process of identifying suitable persons for nomination as non-official directors on the boards of all the nationalised banks is already in hand.

Writing off of loans by IFCI

2552. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) for writing off loans; and

(b) the total amount of loans advanced by the IFCI outstanding as on 30 June, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The possibility of certain advances going bad is inherent in the operations of Banks/Financial Institutions. The Industrial Finance Corporation of India

(IFCI) has reported that loans are written off in the books of its accounts after exhausting all possible ways of recovery including rehabilitation proposals, recourse to legal action etc. Such loans are written off with due approval of its Board of Directors. Further, write off of this nature is agreed upon generally in consortium with the other all-India financial institutions involved. The accounts of IFCI are audited by two Statutory Auditors and loans written off are verified by them.

(b) The total amount of loans advanced by IFCI and outstanding (i.e. the principal amount) as on the 30th June, 1988 was Rs. 2731.66 crores.

Modifications in Advance Licensing Scheme

2553. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH:
DR. G.S. RAJHANS:
SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI:
SHRI SWAMI PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to bring modifications in the advance licensing scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the modifications likely to be made;

(c) whether the intermediate manufacturers and exporters will get any benefit due to modifications; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The Import-Export Policy is kept under constant review and necessary modifications are made as and when required. These modifications are announced in the form of Public Notice, copies of which are also sent to Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) The Intermediate Advance Licensing Scheme was substantially modified vide Public Notice No. 25-ITC (PN)/88-91 dated 11th July, 1988. This was done to make the scheme operationally simpler for the intermediate manufacturers and the final exporters

Extension of Duty Drawback Scheme

2554. SHRI S M. GURADDI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Duty Drawback

Scheme has been extended to some more items;

(b) if so, the items included under the Scheme, the new rates thereon and the date from which they will be effective; and

(c) the extent to which this scheme will give boost to exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A K. PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. For a number of new items, All Industry Rates of Duty Drawback have been announced w.e.f. 1.6.88. The details of these items and the rates fixed are given in the Statement below.

(c) The extent to which the availability of Drawback rates would give boost to exports of the related items cannot be quantified. It is however expected that their exports would be encouraged

STATEMENT

New items for which all Industry Rates of Drawback fixed with effect from 1.6.88

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Item Description</i>	<i>Rate of Drawback</i>
1	2	3
1.	Natural Mango/Guava Juice/pulps/ & their concentrate-packed in OTS Cans.	8% of f.o.b. value
2.	Natural fruit pulps/fruit juices other than those at S. No. 1 above, packed in OTS Cans.	12% of f.o.b. value
3.	Vegetables packed in OTS Cans:	
	(a) Mushrooms	6% of f.o.b. value
	(b) Others	8% of f.o.b. value

1	2	3
4.	Pickles all sorts packed in OTS Cans	5% of f.o.b. value
5.	Woollen worsted yarn of above 18 BWS count	
	(i) Weaving Quality	Rs. 23.50 per kg.
	(ii) Hosiery/Hand knitting quality	Rs. 21.00 per kg.
6.	Readymade garments made wholly or mainly of silk	3% of f.o.b. value
7.	Implements/Appliances of a kind used in agriculture/ horticulture mainly made of steel, the following namely Spades, Shovels, mattocks, picks, hoes, forks and rakes hewing bill hocks and similar tools, scythes, sickles, kayknives, hedge shears, wedges, harrows, ploughs, cultivators, ridgers, threshers and puddlers.	Rs. 400 per M.T.
8.	Sub-assemblies and specially designed component parts of deepwell hand pumps	4% of f.o.b. value
9.	Trucks/load bodies (including half load bodies)	5% of f.o.b. value subject to a maximum of Rs. 15,000 per vehicle.
10.	Water tankers/bowsers	3% of f.o.b. value
11.	<i>Textile Machinery</i>	
	(a) Ribbon lapping machine/Sliver lapping machine	3% of f.o.b. value
	(b) Open end spinning machinery	5% of f.o.b. value
12.	Metal Film Resistors	Rs. 7/- per 1000 pieces
13.	Printed Circuit Boards:—	
	(i) Single sided	20% of f.o.b. value
	(ii) Double sided	10% of f.o.b. value
	(iii) Multi layer	15% of f.o.b. value

1	2	3
14.	Plastic film capacitors (i) Metalised polypropylene capacitors (ii) Metalised Polyester capacitors (iii) Polystyrene capacitors	18% of f.o.b. value 15% of f.o.b. value 10% of f.o.b. value
15.	B/W T.V. Sets (51 cms).	Rs. 150/- per set.
16.	Badminton, Tennis and Squash Rackets with or without Nylon gut.	3% of f.o.b. value
17.	Reclaimed rubber	Rs. 70/- per M.T.
18.	Cycle rickshaws-assembled or unassembled with or without accessories	Rs. 45/- per cycle rickshaw

Limited Foreign Exchange Market Scheme to boost Export

2556. SHRI G.S. BASAVAPAJU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the limited foreign exchange market scheme is among the measures being examined by Government to boost exports,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the strategy has been prepared only after the Planning Commission had given its report in this regard, and

(d) if so, the points mentioned by the Planning Commission and the extent to which they have been incorporated in the strategy to boost exports?

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise

Adoption of Villages by Nationalised Banks in Kerala

2557. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is a scheme approved by the Reserve Bank of India for the adoption of villages by the nationalised and scheduled banks; if so, the details thereof,

(b) the number of villages/panchayats/wards of municipalities and corporations so adopted in Kerala,

(c) the reasons for the delay in implementing the above scheme throughout the country; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue strict instructions to the lead banks to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO):** (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the public sector banks adopt certain villages under the Village Adoption Scheme (VAS) which aims at deriving the advantages accruing from concerted and coordinated efforts of various area specific schemes. As at the end of June 1987, the Public Sector Banks have adopted 1401 villages under Village Adoption Scheme in Kerala State and the amount outstanding there against was Rs. 143 crores in respect of 3,89,722 direct agricultural accounts.

Reserve Bank of India have, in March, 1988, issued comprehensive guidelines to all the commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on the implementation of the Service area approach which involves assigning specific areas to banks located in rural and semi urban centres. Under this all the villages in the country will be allotted to one branch or other of the commercial banks including RRBs. It will be the responsibility of the designated branch to meet the genuine credit requirements of all the eligible borrowers living in a group of villages allotted to it.

Import of Cotton for Spinning Mills

2558. **SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI:**

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to import cotton to be supplied to the cooperative spinning mills in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and

West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it will hit the interest of the cotton growers in the above States?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Government have decided to permit the export of one lakh bales of medium/long staple cotton duty free during the current cotton year for supply to Co-operative Spinning Mills/State Textile Corporation Mills in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh for the production of Hank yarn for supply to Handloom sector at reasonable prices.

(c) No, Sir.

Hungarian Credit offer for Neyveli Lignite Project

2559. **DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO:** Will Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hungarian Government's offer to help the Neyveli Lignite Project with a Credit of \$ 200 million for development and expansion of the project has been accepted by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to make similar efforts with other countries to complete the long pending major projects in the country?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Government is continuously making efforts to get soft term loans/credits for major projects in India.

Public Funding of Election

2560. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has drawn Government's attention towards rising cost of elections;

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

(c) whether suggestions for public funding, partial and fully of elections have also been made by the Commission to Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. As part of the proposals for electoral reforms, the Election Commission has suggested that a scheme under which all legitimate election expenses could be borne by the Government, may be studied in depth.

Vacant posts of Judges and pendency of cases

2561. Bhai SHAMINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts in the country;

(b) year-wise number of cases (both Civil and Criminal) pending in the Supreme Court and various High Courts as on 30 June, 1988;

(c) the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the conference of Chief Justices that a rational co-relation be effected between the number of pending cases and number of Judges in each High Court so as to clear the arrears and raise the working days to at least 240 days in a year; and

(d) whether there is any difference in the average disposal of cases in various High Courts; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The requisite information as on 1.8.88 in respect of the Supreme Court and the High Courts is given in the Statement-I. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT. 6448/88]

(b) The information regarding year-wise pendency of regular hearing matters in the Supreme Court as on 1.1.88 is given in the Statement-II. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT. 6448/88] Pendency of cases as on 1.1.87 in the High Courts in terms of period of pendency is given in the Statement-III. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT. 6448/88]

(c) the concerned Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of certain High Courts were addressed in June 1985, requesting them to consider augmentation of Judge-strength of the High Courts so as to achieve a stage

where no civil case remains pending for more than 2 years and no criminal case remains pending for more than one year, and to send proposals in this regard. On the basis of proposals received, it was decided to create new posts of Judges. As on 1.8.88, the creation of 88 new posts over and above the total sanctioned strength of 444 Judges has been agreed to in different High Courts. There is no proposal at present to increase the number of working days in the High Courts to 240 days.

(d) Yes, Sir. Information regarding average rate of disposal per Judge in various High Courts is given in the Statement-IV. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT. 6448/88]

Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in State Bank of Indore

[Translation]

2562. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Clerks</u>	<u>Sub-staff</u>	<u>Total</u>
1288	2375	1607	6270

(b) The representation of SCs and STs in all cadres in the State Bank of Indore as on 1-1-88 is as under:

<u>Cadre</u>	<u>SCs</u>	<u>STs</u>
Officers	93	27
Clerical	514	136
Sub-staff (including sweepers)	335	146

(a) the number of the employees, category-wise, working in the State Bank of Indore;

(b) the number of employees belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities;

(c) whether quota prescribed for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been filled up;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the specific measures taken or being taken to fill up backlog and also the reserved quota in each category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) As per latest available information (as on 1.1.88) following is the staff strength (category-wise) of State Bank of Indore:

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The Bank has reported that the quota prescribed for SCs and STs could not be filled up by *inter alia* due to (i) restriction on the expansion of staff limits (ii) non-availability of eligible and qualified SCs/STs for appointments against reserved posts. (iii) Some of the SCs and STs offered appointments did not join service of the bank.

(e) All public sector banks/financial institutions including State Bank of Indore has *inter-alia* been advised to take the fol-

lowing steps to clear the backlog in the reserved quota for SCs and STs as expeditiously as possible:

1. To place indents on the BSRBs/ Employment Exchanges by making reservations for the SCs/STs to the full extent of backlog subject to the condition that not more than 50% of the total vacancies could be reserved in a recruitment year.
2. To conduct pre-recruitment and pre-promotion training programmes for the SCs and STs.
3. To give relaxation in educational qualifications for SCs and STs.
4. To adjudge their suitability on relaxed standards.
5. To give wide publicity through AIR and Press amongst SCs and STs about the vacancies reserved for them.
6. To include one member belonging to SC/ST in the DPC/Selection Committee.
7. To open examination centres nearest to the places of concentration of

SCs and STs.

8. To ask the BSRBs to conduct special recruitment tests whenever the backlog is substantial.

Reservation for Scheduled Tribes in Banks in Himachal Pradesh

2563. SHRI K.D. SULTANPUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of banks whose branches have been opened in Himachal Pradesh during the last two years;
- (b) the number of the posts reserved for scheduled tribes filled up; and
- (c) if all the posts reserved for them have not been filled up, the number of posts lying vacant and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that six banks have opened 64 branches in Himachal Pradesh during the last two years i.e. from 1.4.1986 to 31.3.1987 and 1.4.1987 to 31.3.1988 as per details given below:—

<i>Name of Bank</i>	<i>No. of branches opened</i>
1	2
1. State Bank of India	5
2. State Bank of Patiala	3
3. Central Bank of India	2
4. Punjab National Bank	23

1	2
5. Himachal Gramin Bank	9
6. Parvatiya Gramin Bank	22
TOTAL:	64

(b) and (c). Data reporting system does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, the available information (provisional) in respect of 24 out of 28 Public Sector Banks is as under:—

	<i>Direct Recruitment</i>			<i>Promotions from clerical to Officer Grade</i>
	Officers	Clerk	Sub Staff	
	1	2	3	4
Number of reserved posts filled during the year 1987	119	571	538	161
Back-log of posts reserved for the Scheduled Tribes as on 1.1.1988	555	2896	1255	1546

Adoption of villages in Nalgonda by Nationalised Banks

(c) the reasons for not adopting other villages;

[English]

2564. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the remote villages in Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh have been adopted by the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the number of villages adopted so far;

(d) whether all the villages of Chintapally, Marriguda, Nampally, Gurrampode, Deverkonda, P.A. Pally, Chamdampet, Dindi, Chandur and Narayanpur mandals have been adopted; and

(e) if not, the time by which all the villages in the mandals in part (d) above are likely to be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the existing Data Reporting System does not generate district-wise information in the manner asked for. However, as at the end of June, 1987, the public sector banks had adopted 21127 villages under the Village Adoption Scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Reserve Bank of India have, in March, 1988, issued comprehensive guidelines to all the commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on the implementation of the Service area approach which involves assigning of specific areas to banks located at rural and semi urban centres. Under this, all the villages in the country are to be allotted to one branch or other of the commercial banks including RRBs. It will be the responsibility of the designated branch to meet the genuine credit requirements of eligible borrowers living in a group of villages allotted to it.

Interim relief to Textile workers of Bombay

2565. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has recommended interim relief and grant of HRA for workers of the ten NTC mills of Bombay;

(b) whether any decision has been taken by Union Government thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and by

when the decision is to be taken and announced?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Revision of OGL

2566. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued public notices to change the list of Open General Licence (OGL) and have also added certain items under the list for textile industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and details of licences granted under 'OGL' scheme during the last seven months?

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

(b) Import of 'Air splicers alongwith necessary ancillary equipment for yarn splicing purposes' has been included in the list of Textile machinery allowed for import under Open General Licence. No specific import licence is required for import of items under Open General Licence.

Flood situation in Khiri-Lakhimpur Distt. of U.P.

2567. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khiri-Lakhimpur is worst

ds
flood prone district of Uttar Pradesh due to seven rivers and riverlets passing through the district; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to control the flood menace in the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAH): (a) and (b). The State Government have formulated a scheme of marginal embankments in vulnerable reaches along the banks of the Ghagra and the Sarda rivers.

Commission to selling scheme agents

2568. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commission payable to the agents selling National Saving Certificates, UTI bonds and other saving certificates/bonds has been raised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the present rate of commission allowed;

(c) whether it will hamper the promotion of small savings in the country; and

(d) if not, on what basis have Government come to this conclusion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The commission has been raised in following cases:—

(i) Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojna for small savings: For Investments exceeding Rs.

25,000 in a year, the present rate of 4% has been raised to 5%. This has been done with a view to provide incentive for securing more investments

(ii) Unit Scheme: Commission for sale of units under scheme for Charitable and religious trusts and registered societies (CRTS'81) has been raised from 0.25% to 0.5% as similar rate under other schemes is 0.5%.

Rise in poverty of developing Countries

[Translation]

2569. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether poverty in developing countries is on increase according to a World Bank Report;

(b) whether there has been decline in the rate of economic growth in most of the developing nations; and

(c) if so, the situation in India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The World Development Report, 1988 published by the World Bank suggests that poverty in developing countries is on the rise. It indicates that though comprehensive data on poverty are lacking, scattered information from individual countries confirms the general impression of deteriorating social conditions in

many developing countries.

2569. The Report indicates that in most developing countries, economic growth rates have slowed. In the case of India, however, the Report cites its strong growth performance, and indicates that India's GDP growth, which was adversely affected in the 1970's by rising oil prices and adverse climatic conditions, recovered in the early 1980s, and averaged 5% in the period 1980-87

[English]

Supply of Diesel to Fishing and Marine Products Industry

2570. SHRI T BALA GOUD Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has suggested for supply of cheaper diesel fuel to the fishing and marine products industry in view of the international competition; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) (a) and (b) A scheme for supply of Diesel oil at special rates comparable with international prices has been announced by Government in June 1988. The MPEDA have asked for the extension of this scheme to the deep sea fishing industry, for which the following concessions are already available for vessels of 13.7 metre length and above with machines fitted with B.H.P. 150 and above:

(i) A general rebate of 50% of the excise duty on diesel oil;

(ii) Additional rebate of 50% of the excise on each 1.08 Kilolitres of Diesel oil for every ton of prawn exported.

[Translation]

Assistance from Financial Institutions for modernisation of NTC Mills

2571. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the mills for the modernisation of which N.T.C. has sought assistance from various financial institutions during 1987-88 and 1988-89 upto now and the number of the mills for which assistance has been received, and

(b) whether the Ministry is also considering the possibilities of getting foreign assistance for modernisation of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIJWAS MIRDHA). (a) Out of 21 proposals for modernisation submitted during 1987-88 & 1988-89 (upto date) by NTC to IDBI/IFCI, IDBI, so far, cleared six proposals

(b) NTC's proposal for seeking international credit is still at an exploratory stage

Bank credit to Kerala for Industrial Development

[English]

2572. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total bank credit made available to Kerala for industrial development during the last three years;

(b) how does it compare with other States;

(c) whether there are instructions issued to the banks to accelerate the credit flow to industrially backward States; and

(d) if so, whether these instructions are being complied with?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India has reported that the present data reporting system of banks does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, the outstanding gross credit of all scheduled commercial banks in Kerala as on the last Friday of December 1985, 1986 and 1987 was Rs. 1630 crores, Rs. 1892 crores and Rs. 2264 crores respectively.

The credit deployment in a particular area is affected by various factors like level of economic activities, entrepreneurship, availability of raw material and other infrastructural facilities. Banks have been advised to take effective steps for improving the flow of credit in deficient areas for productive and identified viable proposals.

Bank loans to Professionals

2573. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether guidelines have been formulated to disburse the loans from nationalised banks to various categories of professionals;

(b) the professions included in the category;

(c) the time taken to sanction the loan; and

(d) whether persons obtaining loans keep up their repayment schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the commercial banks regarding lending to the priority sector which include 'Professionals and Self-employed persons' stipulate norms regarding margin, security, interest rates and the types of borrowers covered under the category of priority sector.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the professionals and self-employed persons identified by the nationalised banks for advancing loans include Medical Practitioners, Dentists, Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants, Lawyers or Solicitors, Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, Construction Contractors or Management Consultants or a person trained in any other art or craft who holds either a degree or diploma from any institution established, aided or recognised by the Government or a person who is considered by the bank as technically qualified or skilled in the field in which he is employed.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that all the loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000/- are to be disposed of within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.

(d) Banks are required to satisfy themselves about the proposals before financing these professionals in regard to their re-

quirements. They are also required to monitor and follow up the recovery of dues.

Trade with Poland under rupee payment agreement

2574. SHRI GOPALA KRISHNA THOTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to increase mutual trade in manufactured items under the rupee payment agreement with Poland; and

(b) if so, the kind of items covered under this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Indo-Polish trade is conducted in non-convertible rupees on a balanced basis. Continuous efforts are being made by both India and Poland to diversify and expand the structure of bilateral trade and to increase the number of engineering and manufactured items in both the imports and exports basket.

Major manufactured items which have been included in the Annual Indo-Polish Trade Plan for 1988 are textile machinery, machine tools, electronic components, consumer electronics, xerographic equipment, printing machinery, surgical and medical equipments etc. for export to Poland and equipment for power stations, mining electronics, metal working machine tools, equipment for railways, ships and ship engines, and seismic survey equipment etc. for import from Poland.

Illegal Cultivation of Poppy

2575. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study to know the extent of illegal cultivation of poppy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the States where illegal cultivation of poppy is done the most and the estimated illegal poppy production in these States: and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Survey, identification and destruction of illicit poppy crop, if any, is a continuous enforcement operation. Reports regarding illicit poppy cultivation in Jaunsar Bawar Pargana of Chakrata Tehsil of Dehradun and in a few villages of Uttarkashi districts of U.P., besides some villages in Himachal Pradesh, adjoining Chakrata, had been received by the Narcotics Control Bureau. As part of the drive against illicit drug traffic, the State Governments have been requested to conduct surveys of suspected areas of illicit poppy cultivation and to take effective steps for destruction of such crops and eradication of illicit cultivation.

The Narcotics Control Bureau, in collaboration with the State Government, also undertook major operations in Chakrata, both in 1987 and 1988. In 1987, about 25 hectares and in 1988, 50 acres of illicit poppy cultivation were destroyed. In 1988,

152 cultivators were booked for prosecution by the State Government.

Increase in lot numbers of shares of listed companies at stock exchange

[*Translation*]

2576. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued directions to the management of the Stock Exchange to increase the lot numbers of shares of listed companies;

(b) if not, the reasons for which the management of the Stock Exchange has increased the number of paid up shares of Rs. 10/- each from 50 to 100/- and those of the value of Rs. 100/- each from 1 and 5 to 10 w.e.f. 1st August, 1988;

(c) whether this decision of the management of the Stock Exchange has affected adversely the small investors and also the capital market; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government to check the activities of the management of the Delhi Stock Exchange with a view to protect the interests of small investors and the capital market?

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

(b) The Presidents of the Stock Exchanges in India in their meeting held in Bombay in February, 1988 had decided that the trading lots in the Stock Exchanges should be fixed at 10 shares of Rs. 100/-

each and 100 shares of Rs. 10/- each, with a view to rationalising and bringing in uniformity in trading practices among various Stock Exchanges and to help reduce the cost of servicing the shareholders and of transactions in shares.

(c) So far, there is no evidence to indicate that this has happened.

(d) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Export contracts of S.T.C.

2577. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value and details of the export contracts concluded by the State Trading Corporation (STC) during 1987-88 (upto date);

(b) the names of items and the countries to which these were exported; and

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange earned during 1987-88 as compared to previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The total value of contracts by STC during 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 545 crores.

(b) The items exported by STC during 1987-88 were agricultural commodities, including coffee, castor oil, rice, wheat, groundnut extractions, spices, jute goods, tea, tobacco, sugar, leather, footwear and components; leather goods and garments;

fresh and processed food including cashew kernels; onions, saltfat, guar gum, opium; engineering and construction material; textiles and garments; drugs & chemicals; meat & marine products; consumer products; army softwear and sports goods and others.

Countries to which the above items were exported are: UK, USA, W. Germany, Yugoslavia, France, GDR, USSR, Iran, Bulgaria, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Hongkong, New Zealand, S. Korea, Kuwait, S. Arabia, Canada, Norway, Spain, Australia, Belgium, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, Czechoslovakia.

(c) The total value of actual exports and foreign exchange earned during 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 580.00 crores as compared to Rs. 542.12 crores in 1986-87.

Frauds in Nationalised Banks

2578. **SHRIMATI USHA CHAUDHARY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of fraud and corruption are on the increase in the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the number of cases of fraud involving a sum of Rs. 20 lakh and above detected during the last one year;

(c) the particulars of bank officials involved in such cases; and

(d) the steps taken to check such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Information in respect of the number of frauds within the country and amount involved therein for the years 1985, 1986 and 1987, as reported to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by public sector banks, irrespective of their dates of occurrence, is given below:

Year	No. of frauds	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1985	2157	5348.02
1986	1822	4441.78
1987	1902	4084.34

(Data provisional)

In respect of the year 1987, as per available information, 18 cases of frauds, involving Rs. 20 lakhs and above, have been reported to RBI by public sector banks. RBI has further intimated that 30 officials of dif-

ferent ranks, including Zonal Manager/Regional Managers, Managers, Clerks, etc. are reported to be involved in these cases.

(d) By and large frauds have occurred

in banks not on account of lacunae in the systems and procedures but owing to non-observance of the prescribed procedures and safeguards. Banks have also books of instructions indicating precautions/checks which their staff should observe to prevent occurrence or recurrence of frauds. All banks have also an internal inspection/audit machinery and vigilance machinery. The banks have, however, been advised that reconciliation of books of accounts, both inter-branch and intra-branch should be speeded up, the do's and don'ts prescribed by them should be strictly implemented and swift, effective and deterrent action should be taken against those who are found to be involved in fraud/corruption cases, etc.

Income Tax raids

2579. DR. D.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the companies and business houses raided by the Income-Tax authorities during 1987 and till 1 July, 1988, year-wise;
- (b) whether the responsible persons in charge of management of these companies made statements about evasion; and

(c) if so, the names of such companies and persons who made statements and admitted evasion and the amount admitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). During the Calendar year 1987, the Income-tax Department conducted 8123 searches resulting in seizure of unaccounted assets valued approximately at Rs. 116.11 crores. During the period 1st

January, 1988 to 30th June, 1988 the Income-tax Department conducted 3545 searches resulting in seizure of unaccounted assets valued approximately at Rs. 85.26 crores.

In a large number of cases the persons searched have, in the course of search, admitted concealment of income. Such admitted concealment in respect of searches conducted during the calendar year 1987 was Rs. 61.96 crores and in respect of searches conducted during the period from 1st January, 1988 to 30th June, 1988 was Rs. 119.51 crores.

In view of the large number of cases involved and the fact that the required information will have to be gathered by going through the relevant records in each case, it is not practicable to furnish the names of the persons and the amount of concealment admitted by each person.

Import of PSF through STC

2580. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Union Government propose to import PSF through S.T.C.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimate of smuggled PSF in India;
- (d) whether the PSF industry has represented against the import of PSF as there is already an excess capacity available in the country; and
- (e) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

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

Price paid for Import of Cotton

2581. SHRI V. SOBHNADREES-WARA RAO:
SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantity of cotton imported this year till 1 July, 1988;
- (b) the quantity of cotton proposed in the pipeline for import upto 31st March, 1989; and
- (c) the average price paid per quintal of cotton of long, medium and short staple varieties respectively?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Relief in duty to promote Exports

2583. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken a decision to give more relief in the export duty on several items to boost exports;

(b) if so, the names of these items, and whether there has been any increase in the export of these items; and

(c) if not the steps being taken by Government to increase exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) There is not general decision to provide relief against the existing of export duties.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government have taken a series of initiatives to generate export surpluses, to produce goods internationally contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to make exports profitable.

Farm Card Scheme

[*English*]

2584. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some nationalised banks have issued credit cards for farmers under farm card scheme;
- (b) if so, the names of these banks;
- (c) the areas of the States where this farm card scheme has been introduced;
- (d) whether such scheme has been introduced in Karnataka by any nationalised bank; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) (a) to (e) Yes Sir All Public Sector Banks have been advised by the Government of India in April, 1988 to consider introducing the Credit Card Scheme for the benefit of farming community. The Scheme could be considered for introduction by banks throughout the country including Karnataka State. As per information available from RBI, in addition to Dena Bank, Syndicate Bank has also introduced farm cards to provide instant credit to farmers. Dena Bank has extended the Scheme to all its rural branches and Syndicate Bank has launched the Scheme in South Kanara and Belgaum districts of Karnataka.

World Bank Development Report

2585 SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the World Bank's development report for 1988 refers to the fragility of the international economy

(b) if so, whether it also finds divergence in the macroeconomic policies of industrial nations responsible for this state of affairs, and

(c) if so, Government's views thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) (a) to (c) The World Development Report, 1988, published by the World Bank refers to the continued fragility of the global economy despite reasonable

short-term growth prospects, and suggests that this fragility is a direct consequence of lasting divergence in the macro-economic policies of the leading industrial countries.

At various international fora India has stressed that the success of economic programmes and policies undertaken by the developing countries is dependent, to a large extent, on actions taken by the industrial countries, including greater coordination of macro-economic policies, domestic policy changes, trade liberalisation, enhanced capital flows to developing countries and acceleration of growth in industrial countries

Bank loans to Educated unemployed Persons and Farmers in Gujarat and Delhi

2586 SHRI UTTAMBHAI H PATEL
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether a number of complaints have been received against various banks from various places of Valsad, Surat, Rajkot, Baroda and other districts of Gujarat and in Delhi during 1 January 1987 to 31 July 1988 for not paying loans or making delay in the payment of loans to educated unemployed persons and farmers,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the action taken against officials responsible therefor,

(d) the steps taken so that such classes of people get the loans in time, and

(e) the details of loans given by each bank during the above period in Gujarat and Delhi to each of such classes of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that complaints against the working of banks including those relating to delay or non-payment of loans to Educated Unemployed Persons and Farmers in Gujarat and Delhi etc as and when received are taken up with the banks concerned for appropriate action

(d) Reserve Bank of India has reported that instructions have been issued to all public sector banks to dispose of the loan applications within the prescribed time limit of 15 days in respect of applications for loans

upto Rs 25,000/- and within 8 to 9 weeks in respect of loan applications for over Rs 25,000/-

(e) Details of loans given by banks to farmers and educated unemployed persons in the State of Gujarat as reported by Dena Bank, the convenor bank for the State Level Bankers' Committee of Gujarat are given in the Statement below

Self Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) is not implemented in Delhi as population of the city is more than 1 million as per 1981 census. The total agricultural advances by all Scheduled Commercial Banks in the Union Territory of Delhi as at the end of December 1986 stood at Rs 109 48 crores. Reserve Bank of India has reported that bankwise information in this regard is not available

STATEMENT

Details of loans given by banks to farmers and Educated Unemployed Persons in the State of Gujarat

<i>Name of Bank</i>	<i>Advances to farmers from 1 1 87 to 31 3 88 (Amt in lakhs)</i>	<i>Loans disbursed from 1 4 87 to 31 3 88 (Scheme Year) under Self Employ- ment to Educated Unem- ployed Youth (Amt in lakhs)</i>
1	2	3
1 Allahabad Bank	41 14	2 98
2 Andhra Bank	—	8 89
3 Bank of Baroda	5437 15	166 91
4 Bank of India	3688 82	43 97

1	2	3
5. Bank of Maharashtra	116.72	12.05
6. Canara Bank	56.60	34.12
7. Central Bank of India	848.94	51.89
8. Corporation Bank	26.68	4.57
9. Dena Bank	3450.60	231.36
10. Indian Bank	268.97	6.58
11. Indian Overseas Bank	147.31	17.49
12. New Bank of India	146.20	23.03
13. Punjab National Bank	112.59	27.91
14. Punjab & Sind Bank	2.35	0.67
15. Oriental Bank of Commerce	5.60	0.19
16. Syndicate Bank	87.29	17.30
17. Union Bank of India	750.07	45.89
18. United Bank of India	41.55	27.89
19. UCO Bank	765.53	25.75
20. Vijaya Bank	55.27	10.27
21. State Bank of India	1539.45	213.53
22. State Bank of Hyderabad	—	1.52
23. State Bank of Saurashtra	222.41	77.80
24. District Central Cooperative Banks	27569.59	—
25. Gujarat Land Development Banks	3868.23	—

1	2	3
26. Urban Cooperative Banks	610.17	—
27. Regional Rural Banks	1166.03	—
28. Others	243.99	—

Import of Raw Jute

(b) ... the details thereof?

2587. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to import raw jute against export orders for jute goods;

(b) if so, how far this would help the jute growers in the country, and

(c) the steps taken to implement the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) There is no proposal at present to import raw jute through Jute Corporation of India, the canalising agency.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Incentive for Exporters

2588. **SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to give more incentives for exporters; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Export assistance is provided on a continuous basis to facilitate and achieve higher growth of exports. New proposals are also considered as and when they are submitted.

Export of Prawns

2589. **SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) the quantity of prawns exported from the country during the last three years, year-wise,

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the export during these years; and

(c) the estimated quantity of prawns to be exported during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The quantity of prawns exported from the country and the foreign exchange earned during the last three years are shown below:—

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1	2	3
1985-86	50,349	329.82
1986-87	49,203	377.93
1987-88	55,736	426.78

(c) Estimated quantity of prawns to be exported during current year is 56,000 tonnes.

(Source: MPEDA, Cochin)

Foreign Exchange Reserves

2590. SHRI VENKATA RATNAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange reserves in the country for last three years;

(b) the reasons for its decline; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to augment the depleted foreign exchange reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The foreign exchange reserves position (excluding Gold & S.D.R.'s) as at the end of the last three years was as indicated below:

Date	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2
31.3.1986	7384.35
31.3.1987	7645.17
31.3.1988	7287.14
5.8.1988	5739.99

During the first quarter of the current year, there was a certain amount of excess outgoes due to the impact of the previous year's drought, increase in international prices of certain commodities and larger repayments due to the IMF.

The level of foreign exchange reserves is continuously kept under review and measures are taken to manage the balance of payments as and when necessary.

Pending cases in High Courts and Supreme Court

2591. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in different High Courts and Supreme Court for more than 5 years;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for the speedy trial of those cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As per information furnished by the Registries of High Courts and the Supreme Court, the pendency position has been indicated in Statement I below.

(b) The pendency is due to several complex factors as also due to increase in the institution of cases on account of the awareness on the part of the citizens of their rights, enactment of numerous laws, creating new rights and obligations, industrial development in the country, increased trade and commerce and emergence of socio-economic measures, legislative and administrative, touching the life of the citizens at all levels.

(c) The steps taken to expedite disposal of cases in courts have been indicated in Statement II below.

STATEMENT I

Position as on 1.1.1988

<i>Name of the Court</i>	<i>No. of cases pending for more than 5 years</i>
1	2
SUPREME COURT	16277
HIGH COURTS	
1. Allahabad	109140
2. Andhra Pradesh	5607
3. Bombay	34129
4. Calcutta	65659
5. Delhi	20802
6. Gauhati	5450
7. Gujarat	15857
8. Himachal Pradesh	4215

1	2
9. Jammu & Kashmir	5580
10. Karnataka	12782
11. Kerala	4909
12. Madhya Pradesh	4529
13. Madras	19658
14. Orissa	4725
15. Patna	2685
16. Punjab & Haryana	10516
17. Rajasthan	11747
18. Sikkim	—
TOTAL:	334990

STATEMENT II

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency in courts

ment of Single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal (vide. Section 100-A).

1. Elimination of arrears in all courts had been discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August — 1st September 1985 and the Resolutions of the Conference had been commended to the High Courts and the State Governments for implementation.

2. The Code of Civil Procedure, was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeal from judg-

3. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 was amended in 1978 to expedite trial of criminal cases.
4. The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March, 1977 to 444 as on 1st August, 1988.
5. The recommendations contained in the 79th Report of the Law Commission on delay and arrears in High Courts and other Appellate Courts are being implemented by the High Courts.

6. The High Courts are taking the following steps to expedite disposal of cases:—

- Cases involving common questions are being grouped together;
- Matters are fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates;
- Printing of records is dispensed with, in many cases; and
- Priority is given to cases requiring quick disposal.

7. The Government have entrusted the Law Commission, the study of the judicial system to introduce necessary reforms. The terms of reference are:—

- the need for decentralisation of the system of administration of justice by:
 - establishing, extending and strengthening in rural areas the institution of Nyaya Panchayats or other mechanisms for resolving disputes;
 - setting up a system of participatory justice with defined jurisdiction and powers in suitable areas and centres; and
- establishing other tiers or systems within the judicial hierarchy to reduce the volume of work in the Supreme Court and the High Courts;
- the matters for which Tribunals (excluding Services Tribunals) as envisaged in Part-XIV-A of the Constitution need to be established expeditiously and various aspects related to their establishment and working;
- the procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of cases expeditiously, eliminating unnecessary litigation, delays in hearing of cases and reforms in procedures and procedural laws and particularly to devising procedures appropriate to the fora envisaged in items (a) (i) and (a) (ii);
- the method of appointments to subordinate courts, subordinate judiciary;
- the training of Judicial Officers;
- the role of the legal profession in strengthening the system of administration of justice;
- the desirability of formulation of the norms, which the

Government and the Public Sector Undertakings should follow in the settlement of disputes including a review of the present system for conduct of litigation on behalf of the Government and such Undertakings;

- (h) the cost of litigation with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants;
- (i) formation of an All India Judicial Service; and
- (j) such other matters as the Commission considers proper or necessary for the purposes aforesaid or as may be referred to it from time to time by the Government.

8. The Judge strength of the Supreme Court has been raised from 18 to 26 (including the Chief Justice) with effect from 9th May, 1986 by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

9. The following steps are being taken in the Supreme Court to expedite disposal of cases:—

- (i) Matters involving common question of law are grouped together and listed in groups so that they can all be disposed of together.
- (ii) In most of the matters, print-

ing of the appeal record is dispensed with, which saves a lot of time and expenses of the litigants. In criminal appeals, counsel for the appellant is required to file cyclostyled record to save time, which would otherwise be taken in getting the record printed, so that the matter could be heard early.

- (iii) To save the Court's time, Hon'ble the Chief Justice is taking mentioning matters, which takes about one hour on each day, after the court hours.
- (iv) Supreme Court Rules have been amended empowering Hon'ble Judge in Chambers and the Registrar to dispose of certain types of matters, which were previously being listed in the court. This has been done to save the Court's time.
- (v) Specialised benches are constituted by Hon'ble the chief Justice and particular types of matters are assigned to such specialised benches for quick disposal.
- (vi) Computer technology is soon going to be introduced in the Supreme Court, which is expected to help, reduce the backlog of cases considerably.

(vii) Recently Hon'ble the Chief Justice has directed that the counsel in each matter should file written arguments, if the arguments are to take more than five hours on each side. The oral arguments on each side are now restricted to five hours unless the Court feels that more time is to be given to the counsel in which case a maximum of ten hours are given for oral arguments by counsel of each side. The length of oral arguments by counsel of both the sides has thus been curtailed with a view to securing quick disposal of matters.

(viii) A Court Administrator-cum-Registrar General, who is a senior judicial Officer, has been appointed very recently so that in conjunction with the present two Registrars there can be a re-organisation of the working of the Registry and improving its techniques and efficiency.

Water Allocation Priorities

2592. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain water allocation priorities have been fixed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). The National Water Policy provides that water allocation priorities should be broadly as follows. These may, however, be modified, if necessary, in particular regions with reference to area specific considerations.

- Drinking water
- Irrigation
- Hydro-power
- Navigation
- Industrial and other uses

[Translation]

Closure of Income Tax Office at Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

2593. SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the office of the Income Tax Department was opened in the Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh and the number of districts of the State covered by it;

(b) the full details of the opening of the Chhatarpur Income Tax Office and the causes for its closure; and

(c) the name of the office by which the cases pertaining to the Chhatarpur office are to be disposed of at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.

PANJA): (a) The Income Tax Office at Chhatarpur was opened on 1-6-1983 and the districts of Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh of Madhya Pradesh were covered by it.

(b) The Office at Chhatarpur was opened on the recommendations of the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bhopal. The Central Board of Direct Taxes accorded approval for the opening of this office in 1980.

Following some significant changes in the policy regarding income-tax assessments, re-organisation of single-I.T.O. Offices all over the country became necessary. In view of the reduction of tax rates and enlargement of summary assessment scheme, many of such offices ceased to be viable units in terms of workload and revenue collections. It was, therefore, decided to withdraw the assessing officers from such offices but retain them as service centres for receiving returns and various applications so that no inconvenience was caused to the tax-payers. It was in these circumstances that the Chhatarpur Income Tax Office was converted into a service centre.

(c) At present, the cases pertaining to Chhatarpur Office are to be disposed of by the Assessing Officer of the Income-tax Office at Satna.

[*English*]

LIC Loans for Housing

2594. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount invested by the Life Insurance Corporation in various bonds floated by the State level financial corporations during 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 (till 30 June);

(b) the total amount advanced by the Life Insurance Corporation to apex cooperative housing finance societies during the above period; and

(c) the total amount advanced by the L.I.C. to each State Government and Union Territory for housing during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO)

(a):	Year	Amount invested (Rs. in crores)
	1984-85	9.30
	1985-86	9.88
	1986-87	8.35
	1987-88	7.90
	1988-89 (upto 30.6.1988)	6.00

(b):	Year	Amount Advanced (Rs. in crores)
	1984-85	102.50
	1985-86	99.30
	1986-87	91.00
	1987-88	140.17*
	1988-89 (upto 30.6.1988)	26.25

*Includes Rs. 4 crores advanced to Andhra Pradesh Police Housing Corporation.

(c) A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in Crores)

<i>State/Union Territory</i>	<i>1984-85</i>	<i>1985-86</i>	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
Andhra Pradesh	7.66	8.13	8.89	10.16
Assam	0.59	0.67	0.75	0.85
Gujarat	3.90	4.31	4.87	5.39
Haryana	0.48	1.62	1.05	6.83
Himachal Pradesh	0.71	0.75	0.80	0.96
Jammu & Kashmir	0.96	1.09	1.03	1.33
Karnataka	7.42	4.10	-	9.59
Kerala	4.28	5.76	6.21	7.33
Madhya Pradesh	2.59	2.87	3.04	3.54
Maharashtra	1.36	1.37	1.25	1.50
Manipur	0.42	0.42	0.48	0.55
Meghalaya	0.47	-	0.32	0.36
Nagaland	0.50	0.28	0.43	0.25
Orissa	2.16	2.40	-	3.02
Punjab	2.97	2.51	2.79	3.15
Rajasthan	2.20	2.44	2.71	3.26
Sikkim	-	-	-	0.29
Tamil Nadu	6.27	6.65	7.01	8.26

1	2	3	4	5
Tripura	2.07	1.67	2.19	1.36
Uttar Pradesh	7.05	7.68	8.40	9.60
West Bengal	5.71	7.60	6.00	12.74
	59.77	62.32	58.22	90.32

Debt Position

2595. SHRI SWAMI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's debt was over \$ 43 billion at the end of 1986;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to reduce the debt position in coming periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The outstanding debt on Government account as on 1.4.1987, converted at the exchange rate prevailing on that day, was Rs. 32312 crores.

(c) The overall external debt position of the country is within manageable limits. The level of country's external indebtedness and the likely burden of the debt servicing are constantly kept in view to ensure that the debt servicing liability remains within prudent limits. The Government have been following a cautious policy of external debt and it has been the policy of the Government of accelerate exports and to ensure efficient import substitution so as to reduce dependence on external debt.

Opening of Branch of State Bank of India in Dilshad Garden, Delhi

2596. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 29 April, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 9034 regarding opening of branches of nationalised banks and state:

- (a) whether the State Bank of India has set up its branch in Dilshad Garden, Delhi for which it had been given licence; and
- (b) if not, the progress made in this regard?

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

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy, the opening of branches at Urban and Metropolitan centres, is to be evenly spread over the entire policy period.

National Equity Fund

2597. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any review of the National Equity Fund has been undertaken;
- (b) if so, the findings of the review; and

(c) the steps taken on the findings of this review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The "National Equity Fund Scheme (NEFS)" which is being operated by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) since August, 1987 was recently reviewed by the Government of India in June, 1988. For the successful implementation of the NEFS and with a view to making it more useful to the entrepreneurs, following modifications have been made by the IDBI, which came into force with effect from July 14, 1988.

- (i) The NEFS will be operated through SBI also in addition to the nationalised banks.
- (ii) State Financial Corporations/ twin function Industrial Development Corporations will also be the operating agencies in addition to banks in the North Eastern Region and hilly States of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.
- (iii) The population limit has now been increased from 5 lakhs to 15 lakhs in so far as rehabilitation/revival of Sick SSI/tiny units are concerned so that larger number of sick units could benefit from the assistance out of NEFS. There will, however, be no change in the population limit with regard to setting up of new units.
- (iv) As an incentive to banks to bring

in larger number of cases under the purview of NEFS, the extent of refinance for term loans, to be sanctioned by banks simultaneously with assistance out of NEFS, has been increased from the present level of 75% to 100%.

Export of NTC Cloth to USSR

2598. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the exports of the cloth produced by the National Textiles Corporation mills to USSR and other countries during 1987-88; and

(b) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to increase the exports thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The value of NTC's export of cloth to USSR and other countries during 1987-88 was respectively Rs. 1.38 crores and Rs. 25.11 crores.

(b) Measures taken by NTC for increasing exports include identification of potential markets and establishment of contacts with buyers.

Export of Textiles

2599. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details with value of textile items being exported during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to

modernise the old textile mills so that the production can increased to boost this trade and also to improve the quality;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) whether the modernisation work of textile mills has been held up; if so, the main reasons and the steps being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Export of cotton textiles during 1985, 1986 and 1987 amounted to Rs. 480 crores, Rs. 497 crores and Rs. 945 crores respectively

(b) and (c). The 1985 Textile Policy Statement stresses the importance of modernisation of the textile industry and states that Government Policies would aim to accelerate the pace of modernisation in it. Towards this end, a Textile Modernisation Fund has been set up under the aegis of the Industrial Development bank of India to assist the modernisation needs to both weak and healthy textile units. The import of sophisticated textile machineries at a concessional duty with export obligation has also been permitted.

(d) The Fund Scheme came into being only on 1.8.86. It is, therefore too early to give an assessment of its impact. However, judging from sanctions of Rs. 615.26 crores in 142 cases (as on 30th June, 1988) the response from the industry to the Fund Scheme has been encouraging.

Sick Industrial Units

2600. **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick industrial units in the country during 1986, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of such units has increased during 1987;

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

(d) the steps taken by Government to check sickness and help these units to revive again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). State-wise data on sick units as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the period ending December, 1986 and June, 1987 (latest available) given in the statements I and II below. In view of the revised reporting system for the period ending June, 1987 and onwards, data for June, 1987 is not strictly comparable with data for December, 1986.

(d) RBI has laid guidelines for close monitoring of such borrowal account to draw rehabilitation packages in respect of sick industrial units as are found potentially viable. Packages may provide for, inter-alia, phased repayment to bank with reliefs/concessions like reduced rates on interest, funding of overdues, waiving of penal interest, etc. As regards non-viable units, banks undertake action as appropriate for the recovery of dues which include, inter-alia, sale of goods hypothecated, enforcement of security available against the borrower/guarantor.

STATEMENT—I

<i>State/Union Territory</i>	<i>SSI Units</i>	<i>Large Units*</i>
1	2	3
West Bengal	28777	146
Maharashtra	10605	161
Karnataka	3277	43
Gujarat	4523	68
Tamil Nadu	17024	53
Andhra Pradesh	13004	44
Bihar	9649	17
Haryana	1747	17
Rajasthan	6222	11
Madhya Pradesh	9895	26
Orissa	6489	10
Uttar Pradesh	15815	68
Kerala	4046	20
Punjab	1830	6
Assam	4485	7
Delhi	2716	7
Pondicherry	223	3
Goa	1074	4
Chandigarh	207	2
Tripura	284	1

1	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	602	—
Jammu & Kashmir	2229	—
Manipur	908	—
Meghalaya	110	—
Andaman & Nicobar	1	—
Nagaland	8	—
Arunachal Pradesh	16	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	9	—
Mizoram	—	—
Sikkim	1	—
	145776	714

*Those units individually enjoying aggregate credit limit of Rs. 1 crore and above from the Banking System.

STATEMENT-II

Statewise data on number of units of Sick Industrial Unit as at the end of June, 1987.

State/Union Territories	No. of Units Sick-SSI	State/Union Territories	Non-SSI	Non-SSI
			Sick Units	Weak Units
1	2	1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	14064	Gujarat	115	57
Assam	3542	Madhya Pradesh	30	15
Bihar	7870	Maharashtra	238	101
Gujarat	5211	Goa	15	6

1	2	1	2	3
Goa	1261	Daman & Diu	1	1
Haryana	1819	Assam	6	34
Himachal Pradesh	665	Nagaland	—	1
Jammu & Kashmir	2290	West Bengal	146	120
Karnataka	5105	Bihar	26	9
Kerala	11805	Orissa	10	24
Madhya Pradesh	11053	Tripura	1	5
Maharashtra	11457	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	1
Manipur	932	Punjab	30	13
Meghalaya	122	Haryana	41	20
Nagaland	14	Himachal Pradesh	7	4
Orissa	7229	Rajasthan	36	18
Punjab	1834	Uttar Pradesh	67	57
Rajasthan	8657	Chandigarh	3	3
Tamilnadu	21146	Delhi	19	5
Tripura	556	Andhra Pradesh	66	48
Uttar Pradesh	16287	Karnataka	62	35
West Bengal	18129	Tamil Nadu	105	51
Andaman Nicobar	—	Kerala	27	23
Arunachal Pradesh	22	Pondicherry	4	4
Dadra Nagar Haveli	5	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—

1	2	1	2	3
Delhi	2577	Meghalaya	1	—
Mizoram	—			
Pondicherry	366			
Sikkim	1			
Chandigarh	204			
Diu & Daman	3			
Total:-	158226		1057	655

Note: Definition of non SSI Sick Units as per Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions), Act, 1985.

Sick Units

2601. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOS-SAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of industrial units in the country which are sick;
- (b) the share of large, medium, small scale industrial units in this total;
- (c) the total amount of bank loans given to each category of units as at the end of 1980 and 1987;
- (d) the salient features of the survey made by the Reserve Bank of India, if any, about industrial sickness;
- (e) whether Government have made any independent survey; and
- (f) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that as at the end of June, 1987 the number of sick units in small scale industrial sector and Non-SSI sector was 1,58,226 and 1057, respectively.

In view of the revised definition of sick/weak industrial units consequent to the enactment of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. RBI do not have classification of sick units into medium and large categories.

(c) As at the end of December, 1980, amount of loans outstanding against large sick unit was Rs. 1324.47 crores and Rs. 305.77 crores in respect of SSI Sick units. RBI has reported that as at the end of June, 1987 according to provisional data the outstanding amount was Rs. 1542.25 crores in respect of Sick SSI units and Rs. 2680.44

crores in respect of Non-SSI sick units (as defined in sick industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985). Data for June, 1987 is not strictly comparable with data for December, 1980.

(d) to (f). RBI undertake periodical review in respect of sick industrial units. The RBI has also reported that several factors contribute to industrial sickness which, inter alia, include improper project planning, faulty implementation, obsolete machinery, delay in modernisation of units, managerial incompetence, mismanagement, power shortages, market constraints, labour problems, etc.

Decline In Trade with Nepal

2602. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's share in Nepal's imports which was 81 per cent in 1974-75 declined to 42.5 per cent in 1985-86;
- (b) the reasons for such steep decline; and
- (c) the action being taken to increase trade with Nepal?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's share in the total imports of Nepal has declined mainly because of the increased hard currency resources available with Nepal which have enabled Nepal to tap the cheapest international sources for its

imports of items that were earlier being purchased largely from India.

(c) A number of measures have been taken to boost bilateral trade between Indian and Nepal. These, inter alia, include organisation of an exclusive Indian exhibition in Kathmandu in March 88; setting up. Working Group on Trade by the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce & Industry and PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry; encouragement to Indian public sector agencies and private companies to increase their presence in the Nepalese market; greater emphasis in establishment of joint ventures in Nepal; grant of normal export incentives for certain categories of exports to Nepal etc.

Agreement between Soviet and Indian Banks

2603. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet banks are to enter into agreement with their Indian counterparts to start joint operations in both countries, which will facilitate business contacts for both production co-operative projects and trade deals;

(b) whether the possibility of opening bank branches in each other's countries has been examined, if so, the particulars of branches to be set up to start with; and

(c) the time by which the formal Indo-USSR deal on banking is likely to be formally entered into?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AF-

FAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). State Bank of India, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India and United Bank of India are already participating in the banking transactions relating to the Indo-USSR bilateral trade. State Bank of India had recently signed Memoranda of Understanding with four Soviet Banks on banking and economic cooperation. Reserve Bank of India has received certain proposals for opening of branches from a Soviet Bank. It is not possible to indicate any time frame as the matter has to be considered from various angles.

Fraud in London Branch of Bank of India

2604. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fraud has recently been committed on the London Branch of the Bank of India by a group of London-based non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, the particulars of group of companies and the amount involved;

(c) the steps taken to recover this amount; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government or the Reserve Bank of India against such indiscriminate advances by nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that Bank of India had reported to it that a fraud involv-

ing an amount of £ 1.827 million was committed at its London (Wembley) Branch in February, 1988, in the account of M/s Pammons Motors Ltd., a concern owned by London based non-resident Indians.

(c) Bank of India has reported that the matter was reported to the Fraud Squad and court case filed against the Company. Bank's case for summary judgement against the Company was awarded in its favour and the Sheriff of London has been requested to allow the levy of execution on the Company's assets. In the meantime, the Bank's solicitors have also applied to the Court for contempt proceedings against the Directors of the Company.

(d) RBI has appropriately cautioned Indian banks having their branches abroad. The Banks have also been advised to urgently review the control systems and procedures relating to their overseas operations. In this case the concerned Manager has been dismissed.

Impact of Import of Cash Crops on Domestic Production

2606. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:
SHRI MOHANBAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to shortage and increasing demand of natural rubber, copra, coconut oil other cash crops Government allowed its import;

(b) whether it has made an adverse effect on indigenous production and prices;

(c) the steps being taken to increase the

production of such items in the country to meet the demand;

(d) whether any other coastal area such as Orissa, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Goa etc. have been tested for the plantation of rubber and coconut trees etc; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) and (b). Import of natural rubber, copra, coconut oil continues to be canalised through STC. Imports of rubber are made only to the extent of shortfall between the demand and indigenous production. Only imports of certain spices-cloves, cinnamon/cassia, nutmeg and mace have been decanalised ad allowed under Open General Licence. The prices of these spices have registered a decline but it is too early to say whether this would lead to any adverse effect on indigenous production.

(c) to (e). Survey and trial plantations have been conducted by the Rubber Board in the non-traditional areas of Assam, Orissa, Tripura, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Maharashtra and Goa. Steps are being taken to introduce high yielding clones to achieve accelerated production growth of rubber. The tempo of planting rubber is being increased to attain the target of 24,000 hectares by 1989. Similarly, Coconut Development Board is implementing various programmes for development of coconut production during the 7th Five Year Plan. For this, an outlay of Rs. 550 lakhs has been provided. Coconut plantation is being carried out in the States like Orissa, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, etc.

Suggestions for Modernisation of Textile Industry

2607. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any representations/suggestions for promoting the modernisation of textile industry and for lessening the cost of modernisation;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made for lessening the cost of modernisation;

(c) the response of Union Government to those suggestions; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by Union Government for improving the textile industry and for increasing textile export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c). Government do receive suggestions from time to time from various quarters on different aspects of modernisation of the textile industry. These suggestions are considered in the light of 1985 Textile Policy Statement.

(d) Government have taken a number of steps to improve the performance of the textile industry and for increasing exports. For instance, excise duty on certain machinery items has been reduced, revised rates of CCS have been announced and made effective from 1.7.86, units coming under the 100% export oriented Scheme and Free Trade Zones are now eligible for CCS and tax holidays for five years, etc.

Revenue from Excise Duty

2608. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revenue from Union Excise Duties during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(b) whether the actual realisation fell short of the Budget estimates in 1987-88;

(c) if so, the reasons for the shortfall; and

(d) the revenue from Customs Duties during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). The revenue realisation from central excise duties during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 was Rs. 12,956 crores, Rs. 14,470 crores and Rs. 16,633 crores (provisional) respectively. The realisation from central excise duties during 1987-88 was less than the budget estimate by 1.14 per cent. The extent of shortfall is marginal.

(d) The revenue realisation from customs duties during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 was Rs. 9,526 crores, Rs. 11,475 crores and Rs. 13,636 crores (provisional) respectively.

Price of Cotton Yarn

2609. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received representations regarding the difficulties faced by the cotton mills due to the exorbitant price of cotton yarn; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the present price of cotton yarn; and

(c) when was the price of cotton yarn last revised; and

(d) the measures Union Government have adopted to stabilise the price of cotton yarn?

THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Government have from time to time received representations from organisations representing various segments of the textile industry regarding the rise in the prices of cotton yarn. These representations mainly reflect the problems being faced by the Powerloom and Handloom sectors due to rise in the prices of cotton yarn.

(b) The weighted average of prices of cotton hank yarns and cotton cone yarns at the end of July, 1988 stood at Rs. 40.96 per kg. and Rs. 46.20 per kg. respectively.

(c) There is no control on the prices of cotton yarns and therefore, the question of revising them does not arise.

(d) Some of the measures that the Government have taken to check the rise in the price of yarn are:

i) Export of staple cotton has been suspended during the 1987-88 cotton season;

ii) import of one lakh bales of cotton

has been permitted duty free for the production of hank yarn;

iii) export of hank yarn upto 60 counts has been suspended, etc.

Refinancing of Crop Loans

2610. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has suggested to NABARD for evolution of a mechanism to ensure refinance for crop loans without restriction to compensate for the interest burden; and

(b) if so, when the decision can be expected?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Encouragement to Counter Trade

2611. SHRI R.P. DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging counter trade as an instrument of the International Trade;

(b) if so, the volume of counter trade since its introduction; and

(c) the details of benefits to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Government has decided to encourage Public Sector Enterprises to promote exports linked to import of capital goods and bulk imports in order to augment foreign exchange earnings; gain access for Indian products and manufacturing in new markets and develop new marketing channels.

(b) The total exports under Counter Trade has been Rs. 1054 crores (Provisional) so far since its introduction.

(c) This has resulted in exports of non-traditional items, to new markets as well as helped in obtaining contracts for execution of projects in other countries.

Export of Bicycle to France

2612. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French importers have stopped placing orders for bicycles due to failure of Indian exporters to observe the delivery schedules;

(b) if so, whether Government have intervened in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) There have not been any significant supplies of Indian bicycles to France till 1986. EEPC has reported that in 1987, an Indian company has secured an order from a French cycle distributor. According to the information furnished by the

Indian company supplies of about 54,380 bicycles were completed against the Letters of Credit opened for 56,100 bicycles, within the period of validity of the Letters of Credit.

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

Cement Export

2613. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to export cement;
- (b) if so, the reasons and factors which have contributed for Government's decision;
- (c) the countries to which the exports are going to be made; and
- (d) the measures Government propose to take to tackle the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (d). The present cement production in the country is sufficient to meet the existing domestic demand and to spare some quantities for exports. It is proposed to export cement to Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Pakistan.

Status of National Institution to Stock Exchanges

2614. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Stock Exchanges in the country have sought "national institution" status in order to get the Income-Tax exemption; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) The matter is under consideration.

World Bank's Appraisal of Indian Economy

2615. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank in its recent World Development Report, 1988 has praised India for its development effort for recovery from the set-back due to rising oil prices during 1970 and achieving a GDP growth rate of 5 per cent; and

(b) if so, the specific steps and programmes implemented by Government that have been appreciated by World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The World Development Report, 1988, published by the World bank, has commended India for its strong growth performance in the face of an adverse global economic environment. The Report highlights the recovery of the Indian economy in the early eighties, and the fact that the economy achieved a rate of growth of Gross Domestic product of 5% in the period 1980-87. The Report specifically notes that major initiatives have been taken in the Seventh Plan to reform trade, industry and public finance.

Development of Tea Gardens

2616. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

SHRI S.M. GURADDI:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board issued a strong warning to owners of the tea gardens who have not submitted action plans for the development of their tea gardens over the next seven years;

(b) if so, when were these owners asked to submit the action plans;

(c) the reasons for not submitting the same; and

(d) the action Government propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). With a view to formulate a comprehensive Action Plan for increasing tea production and productivity, Tea Board asked the owners of tea gardens to furnish their respective long-term development plans by 15th of March 1988 which was later extended to 31st May, 1988. As a number of garden owners failed to submit their development plans by the target date, Tea Board again asked the remaining garden owners on 1st June, 1988 to submit their development plans urgently.

(c) and (d). Some of the gardens failed to submit their development plans as they may not be having any specific development plans and in some cases disputes regarding

ownership of gardens might have prevented formulation of such development plans. As garden-wise plans have since been received from tea estates covering over 80% of the area under tea plantation and also covering over 85% of total tea production in the country, no immediate action against the defaulting gardens is being contemplated by Tea Board.

Quality Assistance and Modernisation Scheme of IDBI

2617. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of scheme offered by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) to benefit small entrepreneurs;

(b) whether several small entrepreneurs had not taken up the quality assistance and modernisation schemes offered by the IDBI;

(c) if so, the reasons for poor response; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the IDBI for early processing of applications for loans and grant other attractive benefits to small entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Assistance by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) is channelised primarily through the Refinance and Bills Rediscounting Schemes and Seed Capital/Special Capital Schemes as also assistance to National Small Industries Corporation and State Industries Development Corporations for their

hire purchase, raw material supply and marketing supporting Schemes to Small Scale Sector.

(b) and (c). The IDBI has been operating since January 1984 Refinance Scheme for modernisation under which assistance is provided on concessional terms to small entrepreneurs. The IDBI in early 1986 intro-

duced a Special Scheme for refinance assistance at concessional interest rate without any promoter's contribution to encourage new or existing SSI units to establish In-house Quality Testing and Control facilities. As will be seen from the figures given below, assistance extended by the IDBI under these Schemes has grown progressively over the year.

(Rs. in crores)

Sanctions

	<i>During 1987-88</i> <i>(July-June)</i>		<i>Cumulative upto</i> <i>and June 1988</i>	
	<i>No. of Units</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>No. of units</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Refinance Scheme for Modernisation	125	11.00	383	33.87
Special Scheme for Refinance Assistance for Inhouse Quality Testing and Control facilities	84	1.80	102	2.28

(d) The IDBI has introduced a single window scheme under which State Financial Corporations and twin function State Industrial Development Corporations are provided with refinance against term loans for both fixed assets and working capital in respect of New SSI units whose project cost is upto Rs. 5 lakhs and whose working capital requirement is upto Rs. 2.50 lakhs. The facilities under these schemes are expected to cover 75% of the small scale units. For improving awareness of facilities available under various schemes of assistance of IDBI, a number of Seminars/Workshops have been organised by the IDBI. In addition

to financial assistance, considerable emphasis is being laid by IDBI for development of entrepreneurs through EDPS.

Credit Ratings of Companies

2618. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to make it mandatory from companies to obtain ratings from the Credit Rating Information Service of India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the

proposals; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

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

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

Ready made Garments

2619. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries importing Indian ready made garments; and

(b) the number of persons employed in the readymade industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Indian garments are exported to almost all countries. The major importers of Indian garments are E.E.C., U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Canada, Japan, etc.

(b) Readymade Garment Industry being in the decentralised sector, an accurate assessment on the number of persons employed by the industry is not available. However, 11149 exporters are registered with the Apparel Export Promotion Council as on 30th June, 1988.

[*Translation*]

Pak's Earthen Dam on Ravi

2620. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOWALIA:

SHRI RAM DHAN:
SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has recently constructed a 15 ft. high and 20 ft. wide earthen dam on the bank of river Ravi;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the life of the people living in the villages on Indian side is in danger because of flood waters entering into their villages due to this dam;

(c) whether the villagers have expressed their worry in this matter to the concerned authorities;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The Government of Punjab have reported that there is no danger to the villages on the Indian side situated opposite the earthen dam. Government of Punjab are however, making preliminary investigations for a scheme to protect these villages during high floods in Ravi.

Scheme of Karnataka Govt. of Assist Backward Class People

[English]

2621. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent a scheme of Rs. 25 crores to assist one lakh backward class people in making them self-employed;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has sought assistance for the above scheme from European Economic Community;

(c) when the above scheme was received by the Union Government and;

(d) the latest position thereof?

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

(c) The proposal was received in April, 1988.

(d) The proposal involves giving loans for self employment. Portion of the loan sanctioned is to be given to banker as margin money grant, which is fixed at Rs. 2500/- per beneficiary. On discussion with the EEC, they have expressed reservation for covering the proposal which seeks external assistance for meeting margin money grant and therefore, it was decided not to pose the proposal for external assistance. The State Government was informed accordingly on May 2, 1988.

Modification in Ordinance for Preventing Drug Peddlers

2622. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ordinance regarding preventive effects of drug peddlers and traffickers has been widely hailed;

(b) if so, whether any proposals for modifications therein have been received; and

(c) if so, the main suggestions made by various social and other organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (a) to (c). Reports received indicate that the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Ordinance, 1988, promulgated on 04.07.1988, has been generally welcomed. It is proposed to make certain modifications in that law to clarify certain matters; empower the Central Government to specify by notification, any area or customs station, to be area vulnerable to illicit traffic; and to make maximum period of detention without obtaining the opinion of the Advisory Board as six months to bring the period on par with the period specified in other relevant clauses. Other modifications are of clarificatory and consequential in nature. However, no suggestion for any modification has been received from any social organisation.

Payment of Claims by General Insurance Corporation

2623. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that while giving fire, burglary etc. Policies, the General Insurance Corporation does not check on the policy as to whether it is in order;

(b) whether General Insurance Corporation raises objections about the correctness of the policies when the question of

payment of claims arises resulting in undue harassment and delay in the speedy finalisation of the claims;

(c) if so, the steps taken to check the delay/ harassment and streamline the system; and

(d) the number of claims cases pending settlement and the steps taken to expedite the finalisation thereof, with details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) All insurances are based on the principle of utmost good faith and the policies are issued on the basis of details furnished and declaration made by the proposer.

(b) and (c). In the normal course of processing claims, the Insurance Companies do not raise any objection. However, while processing the claims, if it is found that details of risk are materially different from those declared by Insured at the time of taking out insurance policy, queries are raised as they are relevant to the admissibility of the claim. This cannot be termed as 'harassment or undue delay.'

(d) The total number of claims outstanding with the General Insurance Industry as on 31.12.87 was around 4.30 lakhs.

The Industry has initiated from time to time several specific measures with a view to settle claims expeditiously which include:—

1. Simplification and standardisation of claims settlement procedures.
2. Setting up of special cells at Regional Offices to attempt out-of-court settlement of third party

claims wherever possible.

3. Settlement of claims pending with MACTs through Lok Adalats.
4. Setting up of grievance cells at all Head Offices, Regional, Divisional and Branch Offices of Subsidiary Companies as well as at the offices of the G.I.C. at Bombay and New Delhi, to enable claimants to lodge their complaints to be looked into at the highest level.
5. Availability of heads of all offices, including the Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of Subsidiary Companies on a specified date every month to personally meet claimants having any grievance and ensure immediate redressal.

As a result of the aforesaid measures, the rate of settlement of claims has considerably improved.

Sea Erosion Along Kerala Coast

2624. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate measures have been taken to prevent sea-erosion along Kerala coast;

(b) if so, the length of seawall built; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHIL): (a) to (c). About 305 Km length of sea walls have been constructed upto March, 1988. The balance

length of about 15 km is likely to be completed by the end of Seventh Plan.

Understatement of Real Value of Properties

2625. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have powers to deal with deliberate understatement of real value of properties with a view to utilise unaccounted money in their construction;

(b) if so, whether it results in evasion of taxes on income as well as stamp duty resulting in loss of revenue both for the Centre and the States; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The income-tax authorities are empowered under the direct taxes enactments to, *inter-alia*, deal with cases of deliberate understatement of real value of properties.

(b) Understatement of real value of properties, if not detected, would result in loss of revenue.

(c) The salient measures taken by the Government for checking evasion of direct taxes by understatement of real value of immovable properties are given hereunder:—

(i) In cases where the assessing officer is of opinion that the value of an immovable property is understated, the assessing officer can make a reference to the Valuation Officer (who is a technical expert) for determining the correct value of the property.

(ii) Surveys and searches conducted by the Income-tax Department also lead to discovery of evidence relating to understatement of the value of immovable properties.

(iii) Under Chapter XX A of the Income-tax Act, the Government was empowered to acquire immovable properties in certain cases of transfer to counter-act evasion of tax. The provisions of that Chapter have been replaced by new Chapter XX C of the Income-tax Act, with effect from 01.10.1986. The new provisions confer on the Central Government a pre-emptive right to purchase properties where the apparent consideration for the transfer exceeds Rs.10 lakhs.

Development of Drainage System in Delta Region of Andhra Pradesh

2626. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that huge acreage of land is being damaged annually in the delta region of Andhra Pradesh for lack of proper drainage system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal for Rs. 20 crore project for developing proper drainage system in its delta region; if so, Government's response thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken to modernise

the structures in delta region with a view to protecting them from floods and storms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d). The State Government have been executing since 1969, drainage improvement schemes in the delta region in a phased manner. They have been advised to prepare a detailed project report combining all the schemes.

Settlement of Compensation Cases of Land Losers In VSP Steel Plant in A.P. by Lok Adalats

2627. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases regarding payment of compensation to the land losers in VSP Steel Plant area were entrusted to the Lok Adalat on 29th October, 1987 by the Registrar of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) when the various benches were constituted by the District Judge and when were the cases heard and settled by them;

(c) how many such cases were finally settled by such Benches;

(d) whether the compensation has now been paid to the land losers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A statement explaining the position is given below.

(b) Lok Adalats have no prescribed procedure and in the facts of this case, the

Board evolved a procedure which was found acceptable being above board and just. Some instances were brought to the notice of the Board that there was no consent. These were got thoroughly examined by the Board through a team of Waltair University Professors and were found to be without base.

In all, ten benches were constituted to process these cases. Two benches each were constituted on 02.01.88, 18.01.88, 23.01.88, 04.02.88 and 16.02.88.

, On receipt of cases from the Special Collector Land Acquisition, these ten benches took up settlement of the claims from 02.01.1988 to 31.03.1988.

(c) As per information available with the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes, in all, 25,188 claims were settled by these Lok Adalat benches by 31.03.1988.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir, compensation has been paid to the claimants excepting those whose whereabouts are not known or where restraint orders have been passed by the Civil Courts on requests from third parties for attachment, etc.

STATEMENT

For setting up of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, acquisitions proceedings began in the sixties and the claimants were not paid legitimate compensation for almost two decades. The lands were classified into three categories — wet cultivated; dry and homestead or village site. The situation had become grave because thousands of small land owners had not asked for references under Section 18 though the award gave very small compensation. In such cases where references had been made and the same were disposed of, appeals had been carried to the High Court and in some even matters had been brought to the Supreme Court. It is at

this stage that the Andhra Pradesh Board got into the matter. It found that the lands were located in a compact area and, subject to the above three classifications, had the same characteristics as well as advantages and disadvantages. The Board felt that the cause of justice could be best answered if instead of pursuing every case and troubling every land owner — over 25,000 in number, a reasonable basis for compensating the claimants for the three classifications are fixed. Several sittings involving Revenue Officers, Advocates with claimant who were available, Judicial Officers and Officers of the Steel Plant were held and consensus about the compensation figures were reached. As a result of this, valuation of wet land was fixed @ Rs. 20,000/- per acre, dry land Rs. 17,000/- per acre and village site Rs. 6/- per sq. yard. In the case of wet land and dry land, the valuation was increased almost ten times while for village site enhancement was about three times. When this was done, the Ministry of Steel was moved for accepting these rates.

After the above valuation was approved by the Central Government, the matter was referred to the State Government and the State Government also agreed in the matter and issued orders on 29th October, 1987 requesting the Registrar of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and Secretary of the State Legal Aid and Advice Board to take action for entrusting these cases to the Lok Adalat for early settlement.

When the Governments accepted the position, the Andhra Pradesh State Legal Aid and Advice Board determined the modality of disbursement by giving the offer to the claimants through affidavits. Only when affidavits were given, the consent of the claimants was taken to have been given.

[*Translation*]

Surcharge Levied Due to Famine Conditions

**2628. SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RA-
MOOWALIA:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had levied surcharge (Drought Levy) last year keeping in view the famine conditions;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to withdraw that surcharge keeping in view good monsoon during the current year;

(c) if so, by what time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. With a view to provide relief to drought affected farmers and persons in rural areas, the Government decided to raise additional resources by levying a surcharge of 5 per cent of income tax on certain taxpayers whose income during the year exceeds Rs. 50,000/-.

(b) to (d). In view of the continuing pernicious effects of the drought and the natural calamities at the beginning of the year, the levy of surcharge was continued for one more year by making suitable provisions in the Finance Act, 1988. It is presently applicable only in respect of the income earned during the current financial year and will lapse at the close of the financial year.

[*English*]

Performance of IAS Officers in NTC Management

2630. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment made on the question of performance after inducting IAS officers in the management of NTC and its subsidiaries; and

(b) the further action proposed to be taken to make this a viable organisation soon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) IAS Officers have been inducted into the management of NTC only recently and it is too early to assess their performance.

(b) Some of the measures recently taken to minimise the losses of NTC include mill-specific action plans, selective modernisation with the help of institutional finance, product upgradation and diversification, phasing out of uneconomic activities, rationalisation of excess labour on the basis of voluntary resignations.

Violation of Excise and Tax Laws by Companies Belonging to JK Group

2631. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found any company belonging to JK Group having violated excise and tax laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against such company or companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Eleven cases involving evasion of Central Excise duties to the tune of Rs. 4.97 crores have been detected against various Companies belonging to the J.K. Group. Necessary action under the relevant laws has been initiated.

Information about alleged violation of income tax laws by the Companies of the Group is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Meeting of Law and Justice Ministers of Non-Hindi Speaking States

2632. SHRI PRATAP RAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Law and Justice Ministers of non-Hindi speaking States was held in New Delhi in July, 1988; and

(b) if so, the subjects discussed at the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The subjects discussed relate, among other things, to the preparation of a time frame or targets for translation of Central Acts in the official languages of the States and the printing and publication of authoritative texts of Central laws in any language (other than Hindi) specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution under the Authoritative Texts (Central Laws) Act, 1973.

Gold Melting Plant at Parel

2633. SHRI PRATAP RAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Gold Melting Plant at Patel in Bombay has been detected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what steps Government propose to take to check such happenings in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Inquiry into Purchase of West German Machinery

2634. SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instituted an enquiry into the purchase of Rs. 2 crore West German machinery for Alkaloid factories at Neemuch in Rajasthan;

(b) whether it is a fact that since its purchase, the machinery has been lying idle and if so, since when;

(c) whether the inquiry has been completed; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (d). The working of the Government Opium & Alkaloid Works, Neemuch (Madhya Pradesh) had revealed certain technical deficiencies causing low recovery and high cost of production. The National Chemical Laboratory, Pune who were appointed as consultants, advised for the import of certain sophisticated machinery to

remove the deficiencies and improve the recovery percentage. Accordingly, besides other machinery from some other countries, certain machinery was also imported from a West German firm in the year 1985 at a Cost of Rs. 21 lakhs (including Customs Duty). However, on installation/ commissioning of machinery, certain mechanical defects were found. The defects have been reportedly rectified.

As a section of the employees of the Government Opium & Alkaloid Works, Neemuch has been alleging irregularities in the purchase, etc., of the machinery, the Chief Vigilance Officer in the Central Board of Excise and Customs has been asked to look into the matter, whose report is awaited.

Setting Up a Science and Technology Advisory Committee for Research and Development of Water Resources

2635. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

SHRI V. TULSIRAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has set up a Science and Technology Advisory Committee to consider steps for increasing the scope of research and development in the area of water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of members and the main functions of the Committee; and

(c) to what extent the panel will be helpful in development of water resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Composition:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources	Chairman
2. Chairman, Central Water Commission, New Delhi.	Member
3. Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.	Member
4. Chairman, Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, New Delhi.	Member
5. Adviser (I & CAD), Planning Commission, New Delhi.	Member
6. Director, Central Water & Power Research Station, Pune (Maharashtra).	Member
7. Chairman, Central Ground Water Board, New Delhi.	Member
8. Director, Central Soil & Materials Research Station, New Delhi.	Member
9. Director, National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad (A.P.).	Member
10. Director, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee (U.P.).	Member
11. Prof. Subhash Chander, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi. (Alternate Member: Dr.P. Natarajan, Professor, Civil Engg. Deptt., IIT, New Delhi.)	Member
12. Dr. V.Rameshan, Principal Scientific Officer, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology.	Member
13. Representative of the Department of Rural Development	Member

14. Secretary, Central Board of Irrigation & Power, New Delhi.	Member
15. Adviser (PHEE), Ministry of Urban Development	Member
16. Commissioner (PP), Ministry of Water Resources, New Delhi.	Member-Secretary

2. Members of the Central Water Commission and officers of the level of Joint Secretary and above in the Ministry would be permanent invitees to the meetings of the Committee. The Chairman may also authorise inviting any other Officer/ scientist to attend the meetings of the Committee.

3. The broad outline of the functions of the Committee will be as under:

- (i) Identify problems for solution through application of science and technology and advise the Ministry on measures for implementation of Science & Technology Programmes keeping in view the provisions of the National Water Policy;
- (ii) Evolve short-term and long-term objectives and plans for upgradation of technology in areas related to the business of the Ministry;
- (iii) Advise on technological inputs to improve productivity, quality and reliability of products or services and reduce costs, in areas relevant to the Ministry;
- (iv) Recommend, where possible, specific support for scientific research and technology development to institutions or investigators, and

- (v) Examine any other matter related to Science and Technology.

Trade Agreement with Finland

2636. **SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Finland have reached an agreement for a wide ranging cooperation in several commercial and economic spheres;

(b) if so, whether the agreement was reached at the four-day Indo-Finnish Joint Commission meeting;

(c) the details of the agreements reached; and

(d) by what time the agreement is likely to be implemented?

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

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STATEMENT

The matter relating to bilateral trade, economic and commercial cooperation were discussed during the 6th Session of the Indo-Finnish Joint Commission held in Helsinki in May this year.

During the discussions both sides recognised the need to increase and diversify trade between India and Finland, enlarge the existing economic and industrial cooperation and promote the transfer and utilisation of technology for mutual benefit of both countries. The Finnish side agreed to help product development of a few selected Indian products for the Finnish Market as also the neighbouring markets. The Finnish side expressed their interest in cooperation in the energy production and energy saving sector, mining and metallurgy, polar research vessels, environmental technology, medical industry specially in the production of laboratory analysing systems and liquid handling equipments. The Finnish side also emphasised the need to develop Indo-Finnish scientific and technological cooperation.

Loan Linked Recurring Deposit Scheme of Dena Bank

2637. SHRIMATI BASAVARJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a new loan linked recurring deposit scheme is being introduced in the Dena Bank;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;
- (c) the extent to which this scheme is likely to be helpful to the farmers; and
- (d) whether the other banks have also been asked to introduce such schemes?

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

Working of New Bank of India

2638. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation is investigating into the affairs of the New Bank of India and its Chairman;
- (b) whether a team of officials of the Reserve Bank of India has also inspected and investigated into the affairs of the New Bank of India during the last three years and their reports are not in favour of the Bank;
- (c) if so, the reasons for granting extension of five years to the Chairman of the Bank, and
- (d) whether the Reserve Bank of India was consulted before deciding upon the extension to the Chairman and if so, what was their advice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) CBI has reported that it is not investigating any case against the Chairman of New Bank of India. However, CBI is reportedly investigating 4 cases involving 3 Managers and 1 Sr. Manager of New Bank of India.

(b). On a complaint about non-maintenance of the reserve requirements (both SLR and CRR) by the New Bank of India, the RBI looked into the matter. RBI has reported that its investigation revealed that the bank had withdrawn money on some occasions from Currency Chest for the purpose of maintaining the SLR requirements. RBI has also reported that New Bank of India was asked to pay to RBI penal interest towards default in maintenance of SLR worked out on the basis of revised returns by excluding irregular transactions relating to irregular withdrawal from the Currency Chest. The

Chairman and Managing Director has been informed that this was elapse on the part of the New Bank of India. Action has been taken by the bank against the concerned executive responsible for the above lapse by imposing a major penalty of reduction in pay. RBI is closely monitoring the compliance of maintenance of SLR requirements by New Bank of India.

(c) and (d). Decision to reappoint Shri R.C. Sunuja, as Chairman and Managing Director of New Bank of India for a further term of five years was taken by the Government keeping in view the overall performance of that Bank and after observing the necessary rules/ requirements which *inter alia* include consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

Maintenance of Statutory Liquidity Ratio by New Bank of India

2639. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Bank of India has not been able to maintain Statutory Liquidity Ratio as prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India for the last three years;

(b) whether the bank has also been found to have manipulated the figures of currency chest; and

(c) if so, the penalty imposed on the bank, year-wise, and other action taken by the RBI against the bank management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that some of the nationalised banks were not able to maintain the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) as prescribed by Reserve Bank of India from time to time during the years 1985 to 1987. Reserve Bank of India has further indicated that it would not be desirable to disclose the details of the workings of an individual bank, which failed to maintain the Statutory Liquidity Ratio.

serve Bank of India has further indicated that it would not be desirable to disclose the details of the working of an individual bank, which failed to maintain the Statutory Liquidity Ratio.

Maintenance of Statutory Liquidity Ratio by New Bank of India and Syndicate Bank

2640. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India investigated into the fraudulent acts/ transactions of maintaining the Statutory Liquidity Ratio in the New Bank of India and Syndicate Bank; and

(b) if so, the findings of these investigations and the action taken by Government on findings of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has reported that some of the nationalised banks were unable to maintain the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) as prescribed by Reserve Bank of India from time to time during the years 1985 to 1987. Reserve Bank of India has further indicated that it would not be desirable to disclose the details of the workings of an individual bank, which failed to maintain the Statutory Liquidity Ratio.

Launching of India Fund by UTI to U.S.

2641. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL
SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India (UTI) is finally set to launch the India Fund in the U.S. in collaboration with Merill Lynch, one of America's investment banks;

(b) if so, the objective of the Fund, its management utilisation, investment in Indian equities and terms of agreement;

(c) whether a similar fund floated by the UTI-Merill Lynch in the U.K. was heavily over-subscribed but its performance so far has not been upto the expectations; the fund's shares being quoted at below par; and

(d) whether in view of the poor performance of the India fund in the U.K., Government propose to re-consider their plan to launch the new Fund in the U.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government have recently permitted the Unit Trust of India (UTI) to launch the India Growth Fund (IGF) in the US. Merill Lynch is the lead manager for the issue of shares of the Fund.

(b) The resources of the Fund will be invested in equity securities of the Indian Companies both in the primary and secondary markets. Fund will be managed by a Board of Directors. The Investment Advisor for the IGF will be Unit Trust Investment Advisory Services Ltd., a wholly-owned Indian subsidiary company of the UTI. The major part of the net proceeds of the Fund will be invested in units of a special scheme of the UTI, which in turn will be invested primarily in a diversified portfolio of Indian equity shares and other securities of Indian companies in the primary and secondary markets. The investment Advisor and the UTI will receive a fee for the advisory and management services to be provided to the Fund.

(c) A similar Fund launched abroad by the UTI in July, 1986 was over-subscribed. The performance of the Fund so far has been broadly satisfactory. During 1988, the market price of the shares of the Fund has fluctuated and has remained both above and below par.

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

Steps to Boost Exports to Japan

2642. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of India's trade with Japan;

(b) whether some specific steps have been taken to boost our exports to Japan;

(c) if so, the details and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) India's trade with Japan constituted 9.8% of its total global trade in 1987-88.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The steps to boost out exports to Japan include regular inter action with the Japanese at political, official and business levels; holding of exclusive Indian fairs and participation in fairs/exhibitions in Japan; undertaking specific product and market development programmes with Japanese assistance exchange of delegations etc. As a result of these efforts export to Japan increased to Rs. 1614.89 crores (provisional figures) in 1987-88 as compared to Rs. 1343.64 crores in 1986-87.

Irrigation Projects of Kerala

2643. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of irrigation projects sanctioned in Kerala during last three years;

(b) the time by which these will be completed; and

(c) the potential added in the State during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Nil.

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

[*Translation*]

Construction of Big Dams

2644. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of big dams under construction in the country;

(b) the acreage of cultivable fertile land to be submerged in water as a result of construction of these dams; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the people as a result of constructing these dams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). 34 major irrigation reservoir projects having an ultimate irrigation potential of about 10 million hectares are under construction. Information available for 25 of these projects indicates that a cultivable land of about 3.2 lakh hectares would be submerged by them.

[*English*]

Capital Issue by Companies with Foreign Shareholding

2645. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of companies of foreign shareholdings which have applied for permission for capital issues at present; and

(b) the details of purpose of capital issue thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Number of Cases for Issue of Capital by Companies with Foreign Shareholding as on 5.8.1988

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Percentage of Foreign shareholding	Objects of the issue
1.	M/s. Regency Ceramics Ltd.	25.%	To meet the revised custom and Excise demands.
2.	M/s. Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd.	11.67%	To meet the normal capital

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Percentage of Foreign shareholding	Objects of the issue
			expenditure and long term working capital needs.
3.	M/s. Lakshmi Machine Works Ltd.	13.38%	To partinance their project for the manufacture of CNC machine tools.
4.	M/s. George Williamson (Assam) Limited	70%	To augment long term working capital requirement of the company.
5.	M/s. Dunlop India Ltd.	39.60%	To enable redemption of existing preference shares.
6.	M/s. Cosmopolitan Hotels Ltd.	22.95%	To finance setting up and operation of Hotels.

[Translation]

Quota for SC/ST Adivasis Judges in Courts

2646. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of judges in all the Session Courts, High Courts and in the Supreme Court of the country;

(b) the percentage of judges belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Adivasis among them; and

(c) whether the quota reserved for them has been filled up as per the provisions of the Constitution and if not, the steps taken by Government to complete the quota reserved for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI

H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As on 1.8.1988, there were 377 High Court Judges and 17 Supreme Court Judges. The information regarding the number of Sessions Courts is being collected from State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). The appointment of Judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court are made in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution which do not prescribe any quota for SC/ST. However, as on 1.11.1987, there were 6 Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes and one Judge belonging to Scheduled Tribe at High Court level and one Judge belonging to Scheduled Caste at the Supreme Court level.

Raid on the Premises of Big Industrial Houses and Film Stars

2647. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of big industrial houses and film stars whose premises have been raided during the past three years to detect Income Tax and Excise Duty evasion and the number of raids conducted on them during this period;

(b) the total amount of arrears of Income Tax; and

(c) the number of big industrial houses and film stars out of them against whom prosecution cases have been launched and the number of cases out of them decided in favour of Government and of those decided in favour of tax evaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Show Cause Notice to Companies with Foreign Share Holdings

2648. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies with foreign shareholdings who have been issued show-cause notice for violation of FERA and evasion of Excise and Customs Duty for more than ten crores during the last two years; and

(b) whether Government propose to Indianise the foreign shares?

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

Increasing Tea Plantation in Orissa

2649. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tea producing States and quantity of production in each of them;

(b) how many acres of land in Orissa has so far been brought under tea plantation;

(c) whether Government propose to take up tea plantation in some additional areas in Orissa; and

(d) the additional areas identified in Orissa to take up tea plantation in 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The quantity of tea produced during the year 1987 in different tea producing States of the country has been as under:—

<i>Name of State</i>	<i>Estimate of production (in Million kgs.)</i>
Assam	368.6
West Bengal	152.2
Tamil Nadu	85.5

<i>Name of State</i>	<i>Estimate of production (in Million kgs.)</i>
Kerala	56.1
Karnataka	4.3
Others including Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Manipur, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Orissa.	6.6
TOTAL	673.3

(b) to (d). So far 110 hectares of land in the Keonjhar District of Orissa has been brought under tea plantation. The Orissa Government is now actively considering the scope of bringing more area under tea in other districts of Orissa. About 2000 hectares in the Kalahandi district in Orissa has been identified for planting tea. During the year 1988-89 an additional area of 100 hectares is likely to be added to the already planted area of 110 hectares in the Keonjhar district of Orissa.

Construction of Diamond Parks

2650. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many diamond parks are under construction at present;

(b) the location of those diamond parks; and

(c) the progress made in the construction of those Parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). A Public limited company, incorporating under Section 25 of the Indian Companies Act, known as Diamond and Gem Development Corporation is

engaged in the establishment of a diamond industrial park at Sachin near Surat in Gujarat.

Steps to Curb the Use of Black Money

2651. SHRI C. JANGAREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all possible measures, legislative, administrative and institutional are being taken by Government from time to time to curb generation, growth and use of black money; and

(b) if so, what are the steps so taken to curb the use of black money in elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Such measures have to be, and are being taken on a continuous basis.

(b) The intensification of searches and surveys; deeper scrutiny of cases of suspected tax fraud; imposition of penalty for concealment of income and wealth; and prosecution of tax evaders help in curbing generation of black money which, in turn, reduces the extent of black money for use for various purposes. Further section 13A of the Income-tax Act, which exempts certain in-

comes of political parties, provides that such exemption will be available only if the following conditions are fulfilled:—

- (i) Such political party keeps and maintains such books of account and other documents as would enable the Income-tax Officer to properly deduce its income therefrom.
- (ii) In respect of each such voluntary contribution in excess of ten thousand rupees, such political party keeps and maintains a record of such contribution and the name and address of the person who has made such contribution.
- (iii) The accounts of such political party are audited by an accountant as defined in the Explanation below sub-section (2) of section 288.

These provisions serve to restrain the use of black money for purposes of elections.

Loss in National Textile Corporation

2652. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY:
SHRI YASHWANTRAO
GADAKH PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total loss suffered by the National Textile Corporation (NTC) so far; and
- (b) the steps taken to minimise the losses;
- (c) whether Government have taken a decision to close down twelve heavily losing

mills of NTC proposals for which were mooted four years ago; and

- (d) if so, the details of the decision arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The cumulative net loss incurred by mills under NTC is about Rs. 1331 crores as on 31st March, 1988.

(b) Steps to improve the performance of textile mills under NTC are reviewed on a continuing basis. The measures recently taken to minimise the losses include mill-specific action plans, selective modernisation with the help of institutional finance, product upgradation and diversification, phasing out of uneconomic activities, rationalisation of excess labour on the basis of voluntary resignations.

(c) and (d). In terms of the Textile Policy statement, 1985, unviable mills which cannot be made viable within a reasonable time-frame, have to be closed down. Various proposals for closure of unviable mills have been considered in the recent past. However, there is no decision to close down any nationalised mill under NTC.

Venture Capital Programme to Encourage Response to Capital Issues

2653. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) urged Government to promote venture capital programme to encourage response of the investing public to new capital issues; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government there to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government have not received such a proposal from the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of Public Sector Bonds by Banks

2654. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks which pick up public sector bonds through private placement have to unload a substantial part of them later to the public through an "offer of sale"; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The main reason for this is to ensure the availability of these bonds to the general public and the expectation that even though the banks subscribe to these initially, they should not hold on to all this investment for a very long period, but sell them to the public with the aid of their wide branch network.

Import of Cotton by State Textile Mills

2655. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a composite package to allow direct imports of cotton by State Textile Mills; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Government have decided to permit the import of one lakh bales of medium/long staple cotton duty free during the current cotton year for supply to Co-operative Spinning Mills State Textile Corporation Mills in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh for the production of Hank yarn for supply to Handloom Sector at reasonable prices.

Marketing Subsidy for Non-Traditional Jute Goods

2656. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to give marketing subsidy to manufacturers of non-traditional jute goods;

(b) if so, whether the subsidy had become necessary in order to give an incentive to manufacturers as also to the customers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c). Government has introduced Internal Marketing Assistance Scheme for an initial period of 3 years starting from 1988-89 for marketing of diversified and new jute products out of resources available under the Special Jute Development Fund, as part of Government's overall efforts towards long term development and strengthening of the jute industry. The internal marketing assistance scheme will cover the following items:

1. 100% Jute Decorative Fabrics
2. Blended Jute Decorative Fabrics.

3. Jute or Jute Blended Carpets.
4. Jute or Jute Blended Blankets.
5. Jute or Jute Blended Felts.
6. Jute Yarn or Jute Blended yarn for its supply to designated handlooms/ handicrafts apex cooperative society/ state Development Corporation etc.

The rate of assistance/ subsidy will be advalorem basis, 12% during 1988-89, 10% during 1989-90 and 8% during 1990-91.

Supreme Court for Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction

2657. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of long pendency

and delay in the disposal of Criminal Appeals in the Supreme Court, Government propose to have a separate Court of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction;

(b) the number of special leave petitions filed during the years 1985, 1986 and 1987; and

(c) the number of special leave petitions dismissed even at the admission stage by the Supreme Court during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a). There is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present to have a separate Court of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction;

(b) and (c). As per information furnished by the Registry of the Supreme Court, the position is as under:—

Year	Number of Special leave petitions filed	Number of Special Leave Petition dismissed
1985	21486	8551
1986	19799	9211
1987	19593	9854

Incentives for Silk Production

2658. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of silk has gone down in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the States identified for increasing production of silk and the incentives pro-

posed to be given for increasing the production; and

(c) the increase in acreage of Mulberry in the various States during the year 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the important states identified for increasing production of silk are

Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The Central Silk Board Supplements the efforts of the State Governments for encouraging silk production by implementation of the following schemes/ programmes:—

- (i) Supply of high yielding varieties of mulberry cuttings at subsidised rates;
- (ii) Supply of quality silkworm seeds to Sericulturists through a network of Seed Production Centres in the country;
- (iii) Providing R & D and Extension Support through a network of Research and Extension units; and
- (iv) Organising training programmes and conducting study tours for Sericulturists.

(c) During the year 1986-87, the acre-

age of Mulberry registered an increase of 12,720 hectares in various States.

Opening of Bank Branches in Rural Areas

2659. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of commercial banks and rural banks opened in rural areas during 1987 and 1988 (so far;) and

(b) the ratio of the number of banks in rural areas to the population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) In accordance with the information available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks have opened 1625 branches at rural centres in the country during 1987 and 1988 as per details given below:-

Year	Commercial Banks	Regional Rural Banks
1987	717*	494
1988 (as per information available)	251	163
TOTAL	968	657

(b) Average Population Per Bank Office (APPBO) in rural/semi-urban areas which was 14,000 is expected to be brought down to 13,000 after opening of branches by commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks at all the allotted centres.

Funds to NTC Meet working Capital Requirement

2660. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK: SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to provide more funds to the National Textile Corporation mills to help them meet working capital requirements;

(b) whether banks are reluctant to consider new proposals seeking fresh loans till payments that fall due before the take over and nationalisation of 109 mills under

its charge are cleared;

(c) if so, whether any study has been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the suggestions/ recommendations placed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The provision of additional funds depends upon NTC's requirements and availability of resources with the Government.

(b) By and large, banks have not shown reluctance to consider the NTC's proposals for enhancement of credit limits despite the pre-takeover/nationalisation dues being still outstanding.

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

Seniority List of High Court and Supreme Court Judges

2661. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seniority list of all the High Court Judges including the Chief Justices is maintained;

(b) whether in the appointment of the High Court Judges to the Supreme Court their inter-se seniority receives due consideration; and

(c) recent cases, if any, in which the seniority principle has not been followed and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) No combined seniority list of all High Court Judges (including Chief Justices) is maintained. For each High

Court, there is a list of Judges in that High Court in order of their seniority.

(b) At the time of consideration of a High Court Judge for appointment to the Supreme court, his seniority in that High Court is kept in view, along with other relevant aspect.

(c) This question does not arise in view of the answer to part (b).

Export of Shoe-Uppers by STC to GDR

2663. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation (S.T.C) is going to export shoe-uppers to German Democratic Republic (GDR) and other European Countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this export will affect the export of software to Hungary and how all the demands will be met; and

(d) the value of the export agreement with GDR and other countries?

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

(b) STC has been exporting shoe-uppers to GDR since 1976. They had the initial order for 2.53 lakh pairs valued at Rs. 91.16 lakhs. STC got its first order from USSR in 1979 for supply of thousand pairs of shoe-uppers valued at Rs. 1.70 lakhs. STC continues to export shoe-uppers to both these countries in large quantities.

(c) STC's export of shoe-uppers to GDR and USSR will not affect the export of software to Hungary as there are no produc-

tion constraints and exportable surpluses is available in the country.

(d). For 1988, STC has so far signed following contracts for export of shoe-uppers:-

- 14.83 lakh pairs valued at Rs. 1856.86 lakhs with deliveries upto December, 1988 with M/s. Interpelz, GDR.
- 4.52 Lakhs pairs valued at Rs. 608.28 lakhs with deliveries upto December, 1988 with M/s Sojuzpushnina, USSR.
- 2.36 lakh pairs valued at £ 10,84,200/- (Rs 265.40 lakhs apprx.) with Australia to be supplied during 1988.

Discontinuation of Promissory Notes

2664. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to discontinue the Government promissory notes in the near future and

(b) if so, the details together with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.GADHVI) : (a) and (b). Government have decided to discontinue issue of promissory notes except under some special schemes where issue of such notes may still be considered necessary.

Securities in the form of promissory notes present a number of problems both to the investors as well as to the Reserve Bank of India, when they are processed for conversion, transfer, payment of interest and

repayment on maturity, etc.; as the related procedures are time consuming on account of the characteristics of Government promissory Notes. It becomes difficult to arrange payment of interest and also to put through other transactions in good time particularly during rush periods. Quite often they lead to litigation. With their replacement by stock certificates, it would be possible for the Bank to render better customer service.

Export Dues of African Countries

2665. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) the total amount due from various African countries for the exports made to them during 1986-87, country-wise; and

(c) the measures Government are initiating to repatriate this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

(b) Negotiations are held from time to time to seek liquidation of Indian overdues in African countries.

Currency-Cum-Interest Rate Swap Between IDBI and Salomon, Tokyo

2666. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has entered into a currency-cum-interest rate swap with Salomon, Tokyo;

(b) if so the terms of this Yen-Dollar swap; and

(c) the object of this currency swap and how far it would help the IDBI to balance its portfolio and its financial implications in the event of the Yen appreciating in the international market?

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

(b) The terms of the Yen Dollar swap are as under:-

(i) IDBI receives	:	5% p.a. fixed on Yen 5 billion
(ii) IDBI pays	:	US \$ LIBOR less 0.45%.

(c) The object of the currency-cum-interest swap is to have a more balanced portfolio of foreign currencies as well as fixed and floating interest borrowings.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Private Sector Banks have been allotted 86 centres for opening their branches in Kerala. Out of these 86 centres, banks have opened branches at 54 centres in Kerala so far. In the context of Service Area approach to rural lending, RBI has instructed banks to open their branches at the allotted centres expeditiously to facilitate allocation of villages to branches under this scheme. District-wise number of offices opened by banks so far are indicated below.

(a) whether the public sector banks have expanded their branches during 1988-89 (so far); and

(b) if so, the number of branches opened in Kerala with, district-wise break-up?

Name of District	No. of offices opened so far		
	Public Sector Banks including RRBs.	Private Sector Banks	
1	2	3	
Alleppey	1	—	
Cannanore	5	1	
Ernakulam	1	—	
Kozhikode	4	3	
Kasaragod	3	—	

1	2	3
Kottayam	—	—
Kozhikode	1	—
Mallapuram	4	—
Palghat	6	1
Pathanamthitta	1	—
Quilon	9	2
Trichur	1	—
Trivandrum	4	1
Wynad	5	—
TOTAL	45	9

Appointment of Executives in SBI

2668 SHRI ANANTA PRAKASH SETHI
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of the posts sanctioned and filled in the bracket of DGM, GM, CGM and DMD in State Bank of India network at present;

(b) whether Government are guided by any policy of norms modes and modalities for appointment to such posts as well the tenure in such offices,

(c) if there is any stipulation as regards the tenure in such offices, whether the same has been strictly adhered to by the management, and

(d) if not, the details of officials in the above posts still being retained in such

capacity beyond the scheduled term and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) (a) According to State Bank of India following is the sanctioned and actual strength of DGM/GM/CGM and DMD

Designation	Sanctioned	Actual
DGM	162	163*
GM	87	90**
CGM	32	32
DMD	17	18**

Note* Impending retirement of one officer

** Impending retirement of one officer and deputation of two officers to other organisations

*** awaiting appointment in the next higher grade

(b) to (d). State Bank of India has advised that appointments to the above grades are made on the recommendation of Committee comprising of the Chairman and Managing Director of the Bank; Deputy governor, RBI; and Government's nominee on the Central Board of the Bank and with the approval of Executive Committee of Central Board of the Bank. The bank has further advised that the normal tenure of postings of officials in different positions in these grades generally ranges from 3 to 5 years and this norm regarding the tenure is generally adhered to.

Tax Evasion by Non-Resident Indians

2669. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases regarding latest method of tax evasion in the shape of bogus gifts by Non-Resident Indians have been

recently unearthed by Government;

(b) if so, the total number of cases detected and amount involved;

(c) whether persons involved in such rackets have been identified; and

(d) steps taken to check such bogus rackets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K PANJA) : (a) A number of cases have come to notice where alleged gifts received from non-resident Indians were found to be bogus.

(b) The details of such cases reported to the Central Board of Direct Taxes are given below:-

Place	No. of Cases	Aggregate amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
Bombay	18	42.50
Delhi	20	268.41
Calcutta	1	4.92
Ludhiana		2.99

(c) The persons involved in the cases mentioned in reply to part (b) above have been identified.

(d) In Bombay during the course of investigation by the Income-tax Department, the persons concerned have admitted the alleged gifts as their own income and, in most of the cases, tax due on the amount has

also been paid.

In Delhi, assessments have been completed in most of the cases assessing the alleged gifts in the hands of the donees as their income from undisclosed sources. Assessments have also been completed at Calcutta and Ludhiana treating the alleged gifts as the income of the donees from undisclosed sources. The assessments made have, however, been challenged in appeal.

Action Plan on Corruption in Banks

2670. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have prepared action plan on corruption in banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). An Action Plan on Anti-corruption Measures, prescribed by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel & Training) for all Government Departments and Public Sector organisations is being implemented by public sector banks. This envisages a three pronged strategy viz. preventive vigilance, surveillance and detection, and deterrent punitive action for the containment of corruption in public life. No separate action plan for public sector banks has been drawn up by Ministry of Finance.

Quality of Currency Notes

2672 SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: SHRI M RAGHUMA REDDY: SHRI MANIK REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Times of India dated 13 July, 1988 wherein it has been stated that poor quality soiled currency notes are being issued by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to check the issuance of such notes to the public; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d). Whether a note is soiled or not is matter of individual opinion which may vary from person to person. The Reserve Bank of India have issued instructions to all banks maintaining Currency Chest to sort out notes available with them into reissuables and non-issuables, and issue to public and other banks only reissuable notes which are not soiled/torn/mutilated alongwith fresh notes. Facilities for exchange of soiled notes have been made available at all branches of public sector banks for the benefit of public.

Economic Relations with Japan

2673. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: DR. T. KALPANA DEVI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Japan have agreed on measures which will ensure better economic relations between India and Japan;

(b) if so, whether any processing channel for economic collaboration proposals from Japan has been formulated;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) whether India has assured Japan that India would continue its liberal economic policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Both India and Japan are desirous of promoting closer

economic relations. Steps have been taken to strengthen the existing mechanism for processing and approving of proposals for technical and financial collaborations. Additionally, an inter-ministerial group has been established in the Finance Ministry which, inter alia, holds regular consultations with the representatives of Japanese Embassy/banks/industry, etc. and helps in solution of problems and taking up matters of mutual interest with the appropriate departments in the Government. A joint consultative machinery has also been set up for annual consultations on economic cooperation between India and Japan.

(d) India's liberal economic policies adopted for the economic growth of the country are continuing. Japan has been apprised of this decision of Government of India.

Interest Charged by World Bank

2674. SHRIMATI N.P.JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World bank has reduced the rate of interest from 7.72 to 7.59 per cent from 1 July, 1988;

(b) how far this is beneficial to the country; and

(c) the total loan obtained from the World Bank by India and the total interest paid thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A variable rate of interest is charged by the World Bank on loans approved after 1st July 1982. The interest rate is revised semi-annually in accordance with the qualified cost of borrowing of the World Bank i.e. on the

past 1982 outstanding borrowing. The rate for the six month period beginning 1st July 1988 is 7.59% which is lower than the rate of 7.72% indicated for the preceding six month period. This will result in a relatively lower interest; liability for the country for the six month period beginning 1st July 1988.

(c) As on 30th June 1988, the Government had received \$ 4.56 billion in disbursements from the IBRD. Cumulative interest payments upto 30th June 1988 on Government of India IBRD borrowings amounted to 1.64 billion.

Revival of Sick Units

2675. DR. A.K.PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick units in the country State-wise, and the main reasons of their sickness;

(b) the details of the private and financial institutions investments in these sick units;

(c) the policy of Government about further takeover of such units, and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve their functioning to make them viable and remunerative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) State-wise data on number of sick industrial units as at the end of June, 1987 is set-out in the Statement below. The Reserve Bank of India has reported that reasons for sickness, inter-alia, may include improper project planning and implementations, obsolete machinery, delay in modernisation of units, managerial deficiencies, power shortages, market con-

straints, etc.

(b) The amount outstanding in sick industrial units in respect of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI), and Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) stood at Rs. 1361.40 crores as at the end of June, 1987.

(c) Takeover of unit is considered when the alternative solutions are exhausted and such a step is necessary in public interest.

(d) RBI has laid down guidelines for close monitoring of all borrowal accounts by banks and to draw rehabilitation packages in respect of such sick industrial units as are found to be potentially viable. The packages may provide, inter-alia, for phased repayment to banks with reliefs/concessions like reduced rates of interest, funding over dues, waiving of penal interest, etc. As regards non-viable units, banks undertake action as appropriate for the recovery of dues which include, inter-alia, sale of goods hypothesized, enforcement of security available against the borrower/guarantor, etc.

STATEMENT

State-wise data on number of Sick Industrial Units as at the of June 1987

State/Union Territories	No. of Units Sick SSI	State/Union Territories	Non-SSI Sick Units	Non-SSI Weak Units
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	14064	Gujarat	115	57
Assam	3542	Madhya Pradesh	30	15
Bihar	7870	Maharashtra	238	101
Gujarat	5211	Goa	15	6
Goa	1261	Daman & Diu	1	1
Haryana	1819	Assam	6	34
Himachal Pradesh	665	Nagaland	-	1
Jammu & Kashmir	2290	West Bengal	146	120
Karnataka	5105	Bihar	26	9
Kerala	11805	Orissa	10	24
Madhya Pradesh	11053	Tripura	1	5

1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra	11457	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	1
Manipur	932	Punjab	30	13
Meghalaya	122	Haryana	41	20
Nagaland	15	Himachal Pradesh	7	4
Orissa	7229	Rajasthan	36	18
Punjab	1834	Uttar Pradesh	67	57
Rajasthan	8657	Chandigarh	3	3
Tamilnadu	25146	Delhi	19	5
Tripura	556	Andhra Pradesh	66	48
Uttar Pradesh	16287	Karnataka	62	35
West Bengal	18129	Tamilnadu	105	51
Andaman & Nicobar	—	Kerala	27	23
Arunachal Pradesh	22	Pondicherry	4	4
Dadra Nagar Haveli	5	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—
Delhi	2577	Meghalaya	1	—
Mizoram	—			
Pondicherry	366			
Sikkim	1			
Chandigarh	204			
Diu & Daman	1			
Total	158226		1057	655

Note: Definition of non SSI Sick Units as per Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) act, 1985.

Working days in High Courts and Supreme Court

2676. Bhai SHAMINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India have 180 working days and the High Courts have more than 200 working days in a year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has vacations of 8 to 10 weeks in summer and 2 weeks in winter while the High Courts have 5 to 6 weeks in summer and 2 weeks in winter;

(c) whether any other vacations are observed by the Supreme Court and the High Courts; and

(d) whether there is any move to reduce the number of vacations and fix the number of working days in a year to reduce the accumulating arrears in the Courts ; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) The Registry of the Supreme Court is working for 222 days. But the actual number of working days for the Judges (i.e the days on which Judges sit in the Court to dispose of the cases) is 185 days. All the High Courts normally have around 210 working days in a year.

(b) The summer vacation in the Supreme Court is on 8 weeks duration and in High Courts it varies from 5 weeks to 6 weeks. The Supreme Court and High Courts have 2 weeks Christmas Holidays.

(c) The Supreme Court and some High Courts have 1 week Dussehra Holidays

(d) The Government has written to the Chief Justice of India requesting him to

consider the question of reducing the summer vacation from 8 weeks duration to 4 to 5 weeks. As far as High Courts are concerned, they were requested to consider the question of increasing the number of working days. But the Chief Justices' Conference held in December, 1987 passed a resolution that there may not be any change in the number of working days of High Courts.

Leave Fare Concession Facility to Employees of State Bank of Indore

2677. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given to the employees of the State Bank of Indore, once in four years, if they avail of leave fare concession;

(b) the total number of kilometers of journey allowed to the each category;

(c) the amount given to the employees in other nationalised banks towards leave fare concession;

(d) whether the amount paid to employees of the State Bank of Indore towards leave fare concession is less as compared to other banks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (e). leave Fare Concession admissible to the workmen employees is governed by the relevant provisions of the Industry level bipartite settlement. In terms of these provisions, an employee is permitted to avail of L.F.C. only once in 2 years to their place of domicile or to any place within India upto a maximum distance of 1200 Kms. Employees are also given option to avail the L.F.C. once in every

4 years upto a distance of 2400 Kms. State Bank of Indore has reported that the bank is following the above provisions of bipartite settlement with respect to Leave Fare Concessions, and therefore the question of paying less than what is admissible in other banks would not arise. For Officers, State Bank of Indore is following the relevant provision of bank's Officers Service Regulation.

Promotion Policy in Syndicate Bank

2678. SHRI H.N.NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the promotion policy adopted by the Syndicate Bank, particularly with regard to promotion of senior executives;
- (b) whether there have been complaints of nepotism/favouritism in promotions made in June, 1987;
- (c) whether some officers have been promoted in spite of vigilance inquiries pending against them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). According to Syndicate Bank's Promotion policy all eligible officers are ranked according to the points secured by them in the promotion process. The factors that are taken into consideration for the promotion process of the Executives are performance of the incumbent in the grade as assessed by an internal Committee, potential as assessed in the interview taken by the Directors Promotion Committee. The Bank has indicated that Officers against whom there were prima facie cases of corruption or other irregularities or against whom charge sheets were served have not been promoted during the

promotion process conducted by the Bank during June, 1987.

Audit of Scientific Institutions

2679. SHRI S.B.SIDNAL:
SHRI S.M.GURADDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the auditing of scientific institutions or departments was discussed at a workshop organised by the Director of Audit for officers engaged in scientific audit all over the country;
- (b) if so, the main points discussed at the workshop;
- (c) to what extent final agreement was reached; and
- (d) whether Government have agreed to implement the suggestions and if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir; auditing of scientific institutions and departments was discussed at a workshop organised by the office of the Director of Audit, Commerce, Works & Miscellaneous II, New Delhi from 11th April 1988 to 13 th April 1988.

- (b) Main points discussed at the workshop related to:
 - (i) Progress made in conducting Science Audit.
 - (ii) Sharing of experience relating to audit of scientific departments and institutions.
 - (iii) Crystallising future strategy for

more effective audit of scientific institutions and departments.

(iv) Various constraints experienced by Audit Officers in conducting audit of scientific bodies and departments.

Eminent guest speakers were also invited and some of the topics conveyed by them were zero-based budgeting and R & D organisations, audit of medical research, Space Research, etc.

(c) The workshop was in the nature of an in-house programme organised for exchange of views for evolving a more effective audit of scientific departments and institutions.

(d) Does not arise.

Opening Wagha Border for Trade with Pakistan

2680. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to open Wagha border for trade with Pakistan;

(b) if so, when, and

(c) the trend of Indo-Pak trade during last three years?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) Indo-Pak trade has been marked by a consistent balance in Pakistan's favour. The provisional trade figures for the last three years are as under:

Year	Rs./crores	
	Import	Export
1985-86	26.59	14.64
1986-87	27.50	14.95
1987-88	30.59	20.12

India's Suggestion on World Bank Anti-Poverty Projects

2681. SHRI S.B.SIDNAL:
SHRI S.M.GURADDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has requested the World Bank to urgently consider setting up special facility for funding anti-poverty projects and programmes in low income countries;

(b) if so, whether the suggestion of India has been considered by the World Bank;

(c) if so, to what extent funding for anti-poverty projects has been agreed to and the total loan that will be provided to the developing countries; and

(d) to what extent India will receive the aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). In September 1987 the World Bank President stressed the need for the World Bank to play a more effective role in combating poverty in developing World. A Task Force on poverty Alleviation has been established by the World Bank to design a programme of action for increasing the scope and effectiveness of

the Bank's poverty focussed operations.

India along with other developing countries has welcomed the efforts to accentuate and enhance the poverty focus of the Bank's operations. We have stressed that poverty is the single greatest challenge that confronts the international economic community. The recommendations of the Task Force are likely to be considered by Bank Management in the coming months. At present the extent of funding for anti-poverty projects and the total loan to be provided for such projects to developing countries has not been determined.

Indo Pak Trade

2682. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Pak Joint-Commission has taken initiative in the matter of bilateral trade;

(b) whether the experts have made suggestions for new openings and dynamism;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is proposed to associate the representatives of private sector from both the countries in the deliberations of Indo-Pak Joint-Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Bilateral trade issues are discussed by the Sub-Commission on trade constituted under the Joint Commission.

(b) and (c). Suggestions have been made in various fora including deliberations

of the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission for unrestricted and non-discriminatory two way trade between India and Pakistan.

(d) and (e). No such suggestion has been discussed.

Outstanding Amount of Central Excise and Customs Duty

2683. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated amount of the Central Excise and Customs Duty outstanding at the end of March, 1987 as compared to the amount outstanding at the end of March, 1986;

(b) the percentage of recovery of the outstanding dues and what is the percentage of loss of revenue due to non-realisation of the dues on account of excise and customs duty during 1986 and 1987; and

(c) the reasons for the low percentage of recovery of the Central Excise and Customs Duty and non-recovery of the dues stating the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) The estimated amount of Central Excise duty and Customs duty arising out of confirmed demands, outstanding at the end of March, 1987 was Rs. 617. 89 crores as against Rs. 639.31 crores at the end of March, 1986.

(b) Approximately 30% of total outstandings (including those that had arisen during the year itself) were realised in 1986-87. Non realisation of arrears cannot be termed as loss of revenue. However, arrears as at the end of March, 1987 were only

2.38 per cent of the total revenue of central excise and customs duties during the year 1986-87.

(c) A substantial part of the outstanding dues is linked with matters before various High Courts/Supreme Court/Customs, Excise and Gold Control Appellate Tribunal and other quasi judicial authorities. The recovery of arrears of duty is an on-going process and administrative, legal and other steps continue to be taken from time to time. These steps include moving the various Courts and appellate authorities for vacation of stays and early decisions and engaging eminent lawyers to defend Government interest effectively in important cases.

Private Insurance Syndicates Encouraging Gold Smuggling

2684. SHRI MOHD MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the smuggling of gold into the country is 'insured' by certain private insurance syndicates thereby plying a catalytic role in the illegal trade of gold smuggling;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to identify the private insurance syndicates encouraging gold smuggling into the country, their modus operandi; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) to (c). Available reports indicate the possibility of certain private insurance syndicates stationed in the Gulf Countries insuring smuggling of gold and other contraband against loss in transit or

due to seizure. No details are, however, available.

Opening of Bank Branches in Hilly and Tribal Areas

2685. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 2247 on 1 August 1986 regarding relaxations to hill States/regions under branch licensing policy and state.

(a) whether the lead banks have actually followed the directions of the Reserve Bank of India for giving special consideration of the branch-expansion in hilly and tribal areas and identifying the cases accordingly, keeping in view the special geographical features and scarce population of these regions;

(b) if so, the names of the nationalised banks which have sent proposals after receiving such instructions from the Reserve Bank of India;

(c) whether all the branches identified by the State Governments covering these regions would be given the licences; and

(d) whether the Reserve Bank of India would ensure that all such branches are opened before the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that while identifying centres for opening bank branches under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, the Lead Banks were advised that hilly regions and tribal areas should be given special consideration and expansion in such areas may be allowed on a comparatively liberal basis. RBI has reported that while allotting the eligible centres in hilly and tribal areas out of the lists received from the State Governments, it has been ensured that bank branch is available

for a population of 10,000 as against 17,000 population prescribed under the current Policy. RBI accordingly has allotted such centres to banks depending upon their representation in the district/area on the basis of lists of identified centres received from the State Governments and as such the proposals received from individual banks have not been considered by RBI. The centres identified by the State Governments which did not conform to the norms laid down under the Policy could not be considered for allotment to any bank for opening bank offices. RBI has again asked banks to identify sufficient number of centres in deficit blocks. RBI initially advised the banks that the branches at the allotted centres should be opened in a phased manner during the remaining period of the current Policy. However, in the context of Service Area Approach to rural lending, banks have been advised to open branches expeditiously to facilitate allocation of villages to such branches under service area approach.

Setting up of Gram Nyayalayas

2686. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 2 March, 1988 to Starred Question No. 129 regarding rural courts and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision regarding the setting up of Gram Nyayalayas as per the recommendations of the Law Commission contained in its 114th Report;

(b) if so, the exact decision in this regard and the likely date by which these Nyayalayas would start functioning alongwith other relevant details regarding their jurisdiction and powers; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which a decision would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not possible to indicate a likely date for a decision, at the present stage.

Smuggling of Cattle from India to Bangladesh

2387. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been reports of large scale smuggling of cattle from India to Bangladesh across the border; and

(b) the number of vigilance Divisions of Customs, working on the India Bangladesh border to prevent smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Available reports indicate the existence of smuggling of cattle from India to Bangladesh across the border. However, there is no indication that such smuggling is on a large scale.

(b) The Customs and Central Excise Collectorate with Head quarters at shillong has four Preventive Units located at Agartala, Karimganj, Dhubri and Shillong and the Customs Preventive Collectorate with headquarters at Calcutta has three Preventive Divisions located at Siliguri, Krishna Nagar and Barasat, to detect and prevent smuggling along the Indo-Bangladesh border. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence which is the apex body for the collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence actively assists these Units through its five Intelligence Cells at Krishnagore, Siliguri, Coochbehar, Silchar and Agartala under the control of Deputy Director of Revenue Intelligence at Calcutta.

Setting up of Mutual Funds

2688. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1681 on 6 August, 1987 regarding mutual funds and state:

(e) whether the State Bank of India has taken any action on Mutual Funds Scheme;

(b) if so, the exact steps initiated by the State Bank of India for the conducting of business permitted under the notification issued on 29 June, 1987 specifying the setting up or conducting a mutual fund as a form of business; and

(c) the details of any such schemes launched by the State Bank of India and other banks in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana and the Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it launched its "Mutual Fund" in November, 1987 by constituting a trust with SBI as the Settlor and SBI Capital Markets Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bank) as the Trustee.

The Mutual Fund set up by the SBI has so far launched two schemes, namely "The Magnum Regular Income Scheme 1987" and "The Magnum Tax Saving Scheme 1988-89" for mobilising investments from individuals and corporate investors.

The schemes launched by the Banks are open to investment by all Indian nationals including residents of the States of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab and Union Territories of Chandigarh and Delhi.

[*Translation*]

N.T.C. Showrooms in Almora and Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh

2689. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation propose to open show-rooms at some places in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh in the year 1988-89; and

(b) if so, the names of such places?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and *(b). NTC do not have any proposal to open any showroom in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh during the year 1988-89.

Opening of Branches of Almora-Nainital Regional Rural Bank

2690. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where the Almora-Nainital Regional Rural Bank propose to open its branches during 1988-89 and has applied for licences for that purpose,

(b) the dates on which it applied for the licences and the date by which the licences are likely to be given;

(c) whether some of the applications have been rejected; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has allotted the following 14 centres to Almora-Nainital Kshetriya Gramin Bank for opening bank branches:-

Almora District

1. Basaut
2. Sinora
3. Machhhorh
4. Kandhar
5. Chhina
6. Bhola
7. Kanarichhina
8. Harsila

9. Bharari	Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank.
10. Loharkhet	1. Bardakhan
<i>Nainital District</i>	2. Chaudmanya
11. Patwadangar	3. Amori
12. Jannkat	4. Sukhidang
13. Maldhanchaur	5. Chalthi
14. Satbunga	6. Baluwakot

RBI has further reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, the centres for opening branches in rural and semi-urban areas are allotted on the basis of lists of centres received from the State Governments. However, three centres namely Basaut, Machhorh and Kandhar were allotted on the applications of Gramin Bank before the receipt of list of identified centres from the State Government.

Opening of Branches of Regional Rural Bank, Pithoragarh

2691. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where the Regional Rural Bank, Pithoragarh propose to open its branches during 1988-89 and has applied for licences therefor;

(b) the dates on which it applied for the licences and the time by which the licences are likely to be granted;

(c) whether some of the applications have been rejected; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that on the basis of list of identified centres received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh following 24 eligible centres were allotted to

1. Bardakhan

2. Chaudmanya

3. Amori

4. Sukhidang

5. Chalthi

6. Baluwakot

7. Tawaghat

8. Baram

9. Jaurasi

10. Duni (Chahaj)

11. Bankote

12. Seraghat

13. Pipli

14. Bhagichaura

15. Mowani

16. Digalichod

17. Kwiti

18. Tejam

19. Madkot

20. Dhunaghat

21. Paleta

22. Gurna

23. Madmanle

24. Gaurihat

Under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, centres are allotted to banks on the basis of lists of identified centres re-

ceived from the State Governments. However, before receipt of list of identified centres from the State Government, four centres namely Baluwakot, Mowani, Paleta and Gurna were allotted to the Gramin bank on the basis of its own application.

RBI had initially advised the banks to open branches at the allotted centres in a phased manner during remaining period of the current Policy i.e. upto March, 1990. However, in the context of Service Area Approach to rural lending, RBI had instructed the bank to open the branches expeditiously to facilitate allocation of villages under this scheme.

[English]

Per Hectare Yield of Rubber

2692. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various development measures undertaken to increase the per hectare yield of rubber have produced good result;

(b) if so, the per hectare yield of rubber before and after those measures were undertaken;

(c) how far below our country is still from World average and the best yield in respect of rubber; and

(d) how long will it take to reach this level of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMIUNSI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, the yield of rubber has increased from 353 kgs. per hectare per year in 1955-56 to 944 kgs. per hectare in 1987-88 due to the various development measures being undertaken by the Rubber Board.

(c) and (d). World average yield has not been officially computed by any authoritative agency. So no comparison can be made

Amongst the major Rubber Producing Countries, Malaysia has registered the highest production at 1187 kgs per hectare during 1985 and India with a figure of 898 kgs per hectare (for the year 1985-86) was the second highest among the major producing countries. We are constantly endeavoring to increase productivity.

Professions Identified by Nationalised Banks for Advancing Loans

2694. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the professions identified by the nationalised banks for advancing loans,

(b) whether journalism is considered as a profession by banks; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not considering journalism as a profession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that 'Professionals and self-employed persons' identified by the nationalised banks for advancing loans include Medical Practitioners, Dentists, Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants, Lawyers or Solicitors, Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, Construction Contractors or Management consultants or a person trained in any institution established, aided or recognised by Government or a person who is considered by the bank as technically qualified or skilled in the field in which he is employed.

Free lance journalists can be classified under professionals and self-employed persons for the purpose of bank credit, provided they satisfy the terms and conditions stipulated for availment of credit assistance from banks under priority sector.

Seizure of Narcotics and Gold

2695. PROF. RAMAKRISHNA MORE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to

state:-

(a) whether a good percentage of the drugs smuggled out of the country are paid for in gold;

(b) if so, the estimated percentage of the smuggled drugs which are paid for in gold and the areas identified by Government where such transactions take place; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government to contain the ever increasing smuggling of gold and narcotics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). There is no definite evidence to indicate that the drugs smuggled out of the country are paid for in gold. Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to comment on the percentage of smuggled drugs which have been paid for in gold.

(c) Report received and seizures made indicate that gold and narcotic drugs continue to be sensitive to smuggling. Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the extent of smuggling in narcotics and gold. However, to combat smuggling, the anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery has been geared up. Sophisticated equipment like X-ray machines, metal detectors and sniffer dogs are being increasingly used. Close co-ordination is also maintained with all the concerned agencies in the prevention and detection of smuggling into and out of the country.

Additional legal measures to combat drug smuggling have also been taken and an Ordinance for prevention of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances has also been promulgated on 4th July, 1988.

Excise Tax Rates

2696 PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to

state:-

(a) whether raids have been organised on the residential premises of many businessmen in the past few years;

(b) if so, whether such raids have brought out FERA violations unaccounted money, evasion of taxes and other economic offences;

(c) if so, whether such violations have also been accepted and necessary penalties paid by many of them;

(d) if so, whether such acceptance of guilt constitutes a bar on controlling companies/directorships of companies under the Companies Act, 1956; and

(e) if so, the action taken to ensure compliance of the relevant provisions in the Companies Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA). (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Information is being collected from Department of Company Affairs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme

2697. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the number of districts in each state which have been covered by the personal accident insurance social security scheme for poor families since its inception in 1985; and

(b) the names of the new districts in each state particularly in Maharashtra where this scheme is likely to be introduced during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The required information is as under:-

S.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Number of Districts covered
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3
3	Assam	5
4	Bihar	19
5	Goa	1
6	Gujarat	9
7	Haryana	5
8	Himachal Pradesh	4
9	Jammu & Kashmir	4
10	Karnataka	10
11	Kerala	7
12	Madhya Pradesh	14
13	Maharashtra	18
14	Manipur	3
15	Meghalaya	3
16	Mizoram	2
17	Nagaland	3
18	Orissa	7
19	Punjab	6
20	Rajasthan	11
21.	Sikkim	3
22	Tamil Nadu	13

1	2	3
23.	Tripura	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	27
25.	West Bengal	12
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	2
27.	Chandigarh	1
28.	Dadra & Bagar Haveli	1
29.	Daman & Diu	1
30.	Lakshadweep	1
31.	Pondicherry	1
32.	Delhi	1
Total		214

(b) The scheme is being extended to all the remaining districts in the country w.e.f. 15th August, 1988.

Losses Suffered by Regional Rural Banks

2698. SHRI R.M. BHOYE:
SHRI H.G. RAMULU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the regional rural banks in the country have been incurring losses;

(b) whether most of the banks have wiped out the entire share capital and reserves;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the names of such banks which have wiped out their entire share capital and reserves; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that out of 196 regional rural banks, 124 have eroded their share capital and reserves. The names of these 124 banks are given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See LT. No. 6449/881

The main reasons for such losses are (i) rapid branch expansion by these banks (ii) low business potential due to locational disadvantages of the centres served by these banks and limited clientel consisting of persons with an annual income upto Rs. 6500/- only (iii) increase in establishment costs due to upward revision in pay and allowances etc.

(e) Pursuant to the recommendations made by the Working Group on RRBs

number of steps have been taken for improving the performance of these banks and reducing their losses. These include (i) release of additional share capital to RRBs with satisfactory track record; (ii) enlarging the scope of their lending by allowing them to lend to village panchayats/public bodies etc. (iii) lowering of interest rate on refinance provided to these banks by their sponsor banks; and (iv) investment of their SLR funds directly in Government securities of better yield. The sponsoring banks have also been advised to play a more active role in fund management, staff training and internal audit of RRBs.

[*Translation*]

Production and export of Tea and Coffee

2699. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether because of decline in production of tea and coffee in the country, the export of these items have gone down and the prices thereof have gone up at home;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken concrete steps to augment the production of tea and coffee in the country;

(c) if so, the progress achieved in this regard; and

(d) if not, the shortage likely to occur vis-a-vis demand in the country as a result of exports of tea and coffee during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI):—(a) In tea there has been a record production in 1987 and in coffee there has been some fluctuation in production because of cyclical nature of the Coffee Crop.

Further, despite severe competition in the international market India has been able

to maintain its share in the global market of tea and coffee.

(b) to (d). Keeping in view growing domestic demand and the need to generate more exportable surplus both in respect of tea and coffee, Government have taken a number of measures to increase production and productivity of tea and coffee. These measures include the following:—

A-TEA:

- (i) A Committee has been set up to prepare a long-term strategy and plan for tea.
- (ii) A National Committee on Tea Research has been set up.
- (iii) All the tea estates have been asked to submit their seven year Action-Plan to increase production and productivity.
- (iv) Tea Plantation Finance Scheme—Tea Board's loans for replanting, extension planting, replacement.
- (v) Tea Machinery and Irrigation Equipment Hire Purchase Scheme—Tea Board's loans for Irrigation Equipment and Tea Machinery.
- (vi) Tea Replantation Subsidy for Replanting old bushes.
- (vii) Tea Area Rejuvenation and consolidation Scheme — Subsidy for rejuvenation, pruning and infilling.
- (viii) New Tea Unit Financing Scheme — Special loans and subsidy for extending tea cultivation in non-traditional areas.
- (ix) Darjeeling Interest Subsidy Scheme — Special Scheme for revival of Darjeeling gardens

which have been languishing on account of high cost of production. Loans are from banks and Tea Board pays 5.1% interest subsidy.

- (x) Scheme for interest subsidy on Bank loan for irrigation and Drainage.
- (xi) Scheme for Interest Subsidy on Bank loan for Extension Planting.
- (xii) Investment Deposit Account Scheme — Tea Companies can deposit upto 20% of their profits in NABARD tax free, for use on productive purpose later on.

B-COFFEE:

- (i) Coffee Board is operating several schemes for providing development loans for intensive cultivation, replanting, extensive cultivation, special purpose crop hypothecation and hire purchase scheme.
- (ii) Scheme for grant of subsidy on replanting, interest and expansion subsidy.
- (iii) Scheme for training projects, mobile soil-testing projects, project for seed multiplication and collection.
- (iv) Strengthening of the research and extension unit of the Coffee Board.
- (v) Demonstration farms.

Use of regional languages in the work of courts

2700. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received

any representation regarding use of regional languages in the work of courts;

(b) if so whether it is a fact that a demand is being made for the past many years for use of Hindi in courts in the northern, eastern and central parts of the country;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to get the work done in the courts of these States in Hindi only; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Section 272 of Cr. P.C. 1973 provides that the State Government may determine what shall be the language of each court within the State other than the High Court.

Transfer of immovable property of Hindustan Lever Limited

[English]

2701. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 11th December, 1987 to Unstarred Question No 5496 regarding Ghaziabad Factory of Hindustan Lever Limited and state:

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Limited have applied to the Reserve Bank of India for permission for transfer of a part of its immovable properties situated at Ghaziabad, Etah and Tiruchirapalli along with plants and machinery; and

(b) if so, the details of the immovable property including the plants and machinery which is sought to be transferred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). According to the information available with R.B.I., M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited, Bombay had applied to the Reserve Bank of India for permission for transfer of a part of its immovable properties situated at Ghaziabad, Etah and Tiruchirapalli alongwith plants and machinety to Lipton India Ltd. (LIL) — a sister concern of HLL (51% of HLL's equity capital and 40% of LIL's equity capital are held by Unilever p.l.c., U.K.). The proposal envisaged transfer of HLL's undertakings engaged in the manufacture of some of the items in non-core sector, viz. vanaspati, animal/poultry feeds and dairy products to Lipton as a going concern.

Construction of office building and staff quarters at Lower Ganga Division

2702. SHRI R.P. DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of office building and staff quarters at Lower Ganga Division under Central Water Commission;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There has been no progress in the matter because of financial constraints.

Appointment of Peerless as Broker by SBI

2703. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Peerless General Finance and Investment Company

has been appointed as a broker by the State Bank of India for selling IPCI bonds, NTPC bonds and also the units of the Unit Trust of India as reported in the "Business Standard", Calcutta of 11 May, 1988; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that SBI Capital Markets Ltd. (SBICAP), a subsidiary of SBI had, in 1987, arranged for placement of 13%-public sector bonds issued by Indian Petro Chemicals Ltd (IPCL) with SBI. These bonds were subsequently offered for sale to the public for which SBICAP appointed about 350 brokers/agents including Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. (Peerless). According to SBICAP this was a one time transaction with Peerless Company and it has not been given any general status as SBICAP's brokers nor is there any standing arrangement with them.

According to information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, the Peerless Company has not dealt with NTPC Bonds or units of Unit Trust of India as brokers.

Writ Petition against Jute Packaging Materials

2704. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private parties have filed Writ Petitions in various High Courts against the Reservation Order issued under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present position?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c). A number of private parties had filed writ petitions in various High Courts against the Reservation

Orders issued by the Government under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987. Govt. of India took immediate steps to defend these cases in various High Courts. As different High Courts were giving conflicting orders/judgements in respect of these petitions, Govt. moved the Supreme Court and got these cases transferred there for vacating the interim stays granted by the High Courts. On 10th May, 1988 the Supreme Court vacated the orders passed by several High Courts on the operation of the Reservation Orders. This has enabled the Government to implement the Mandatory Orders in respect of usage of jute packaging materials by different sectors of the economy. The main matter is still under consideration of Supreme Court for final disposal.

Centrally sponsored Irrigation Scheme of Maharashtra

2705. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Centrally sponsored irrigation schemes with cost in each case in the country; and

(b) the number of such schemes in Maharashtra and the amount spent thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). The information is given in the Statement below.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

<i>Name of the Scheme</i>	<i>7th Plan allocation for the scheme for the entire country in the central sector</i>	<i>Central assistance released to Maharashtra during the 7th Plan to the end of 1987-88</i>
1	2	3
1. Command Area Development Programme.	50000	4496
2. Strengthening groundwater and surface water (minor irrigation) organisations.	2500	121.95
3. Encouraging irrigation through the use of sprinklers, drip system, hydrams, water turbines, man or animal operated pumps.	1000	35.46
4. Rectification of diesel pump sets.	500	2.10
5. Census of Minor irrigation schemes.	350.00	12.00
6. Rationalisation of minor irrigation statistics.	450.00	NIL

Import of Luxury Items

of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

2706. SHRI R.P. DAS: Will the Minister

(a) the luxury items allowed to be im-

ported during 1984 to 1987; and

(b) the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Import of consumer durables, which include luxury items, is not normally allowed. Some items of personal use are allowed under transfer of residence rules as baggage. Gifts of articles are also allowed in certain cases. In all such cases, no outflow of foreign exchange is involved.

Bank Loans to Minorities

2707. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in terms of the Reserve Bank of India directive to banks to improve and monitor credit flow to minorities, the banks are required to submit any returns of their advances to minorities;

(b) if so, which are the minorities specified in these returns;

(c) the total amount advanced, as on the date of last returns, by each of the nationalised bank to each of the minorities mentioned in the said returns and likewise what was the number of borrowed accounts; and

(d) the total amount of advances by each of the lead banks in the 40 districts identified as having high minority concentration, to each of the minorities mentioned in the return and the number of the borrowed accounts?

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

(b) Christians, Muslims, Neo-buddhists, Sikhs and Zoroastrians have been specified as minority communities in the return prescribed by Reserve Bank of India

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

[*Translation*]

Alleged Harassment to Moolchand Sharbatli Devi Hospital Trust, Meerut, by Income Tax Officials

2708. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Moolchand Sharbatli Devi Hospital Trust, Meerut' has made complaints to the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Finance Ministry in March and May, 1988 about the harassment allegedly caused to them by the Income Tax officials there; and

(b) if so, the points made in the complaint and the action so far taken against the concerned officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The main allegations made in the complaint referred to in part (a) of the Question are that the assessing officer impounded certain documents without making any entry in the order sheet; that he had made back-dated entries in the order sheet; that he was making fishing inquiries and thereby harassing the assessee; and that his orders were perverse and against law and record. The complainant also sought permission of the Central Board of Direct Taxes to prosecute the officer under certain provisions of the Indian Penal Code. On making inquiries, the Commissioner of Income-tax, Meerut, is of the opinion that the allegations against the officer are not tenable. The Central Board of

Direct Taxes has, however, directed further investigation into the allegations.

tional items of exports such as Latex gloves, leather jackets, galvanised pipes, mango kernel oil etc.

[*English*]

MOU with Bofors

2709. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the restrictions on destination, under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bofors;

(b) the value of contracts, in terms of the MOU, effected so far and the way in which Bofors has got payments of profits/service charges thereon, alongwith their estimated amounts; and

(c) the additional outlets for Indian goods provided so far by Bofors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) As per the MOU signed by STC with Bofors, any exports to Rupee Payment Areas; Israel and South Africa are not allowed. Further, exports of textiles/garments and coffee to quota countries carpet backing cloth to North America; shrimps to Japan and USA; cashew kernels to USA and tea (bulk) to UK do not qualify for exports.

(b) Till middle of July, 1988 export shipments worth Rs. 21.12 crores have been effected. Further shipment of goods worth Rs. 44.66 crores are in progress. No service charge is payable by STC to Bofors.

(c) The additional outlets are non-tradi-

Central Excise Duty Evasion

2710. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: SHRI MANIK REDDY: SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH: SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: SHRI MOHANBHAI PATIL: DR. G.S. RAJHANS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Excise Duty evasion of about 170 crore in 3000 cases has been detected during the last six months as reported in the Indian Express dated 8 July, 1988; .

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details in respect of important cases where investigations have been completed and Show Cause Notices issued are given in the Statement below.

(c) Appropriate action would be taken under Central Excise Law.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the party</i>	<i>Date of issue of Show Cause Notice</i>	<i>Amount of duty evaded (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1.	M/s. Kalyan Steel Ltd., Pune.	25.1.88	25.92

1	2	3	4
2.	M/s I.G.E. (India), Pune.	3.2.88	30.73
3.	M/s Advani Orlikon, Pune.	4.2.88	25.00
4.	M/s. BEE Electronics Machines Ltd., Bombay.	5.2.88	49.76
5.	M/s. Sewanandha Pipe Fitting, Hosur.	16.2.88	13.35
6.	M/s. Calcutta Rolls Manufacturing Co., Howrah.	22.2.88	29.26
7.	M/s. Swastik Rubber Products, Pune.	22.2.88	43.99
8.	M/s. Swan Plastics (P) Ltd., Bhopal.	23.2.88	12.12
9.	M/s. Kirloskar Computer Services, Bangalore	25.2.88	135.28
10.	M/s. Victor Industries, Sangali.	3.3.88	26.01
11.	M/s. Sunpra Energy & Recovery (P) Ltd., Pune.	9.3.88	77.48
12.	M/s. Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd., Ramagundan.	17.3.88	194.45
13.	M/s. Filter Manufacturing Inds., Calcutta.	30.3.88	25.65
14.	M/s. Pieco Electronics & Electricals, Pune.	11.4.88	132.99
15.	M/s. Eastern Coils (P) Ltd., Calcutta	29.4.88	65.52
16.	M/s. Expended Incorporation, Bombay.	29.4.88	127.87
17.	M/s. Tamilnadu State Electricity Board, Madras.	6.5.88	31.35
18.	M/s. Brakes (India) Ltd., Shollingur.	9.5.88	26.50
19.	M/s. Praga Tools Ltd., Hyderabad.	13.5.88	13.16
20.	M/s. S.V.K. Industries, Kunnsthir.	18.5.88	17.18
21.	M/s. National Tele Vedio, Bombay	10.6.88	13.76
22.	M/s. Tata Eng. & Locomotive Co., Pune.	20.6.88	13.38

1	2	3	4
23.	M/s. Automotive Axles Ltd., Mysore.	10.5.88	11.10
24.	M/s. Shri Chandra Tobacco, Hyderabad	25.3.88	1234.00
25.	M/s. Suvarana Filter & Tobacco Products, Hyderabad.	25.3.88	906.00
26.	M/s. Universal Tobacco Co. Ltd., Hyderabad	25.3.88	183.00
27.	M/s. G.T.C. Industries Ltd., Baroda.	25.3.88	1899.00
28.	M/s. J.K. Cigarettes, Jammu.	29.3.88	278.00
29.	M/s. G.T.C. Industries Ltd., Bombay.	30.3.88	5033.00
30.	M/s. Kanpur Cigarettes (P) Ltd., Kanpur.	31.3.88	101.00
31.	M/s. Oriental Carbon & Chemicals Ltd., Ghaziabad.	30.5.88	33.00
32.	M/s. Visnagar Taluka Audyogik Sahakar Mandli Ltd., Visnagar.	1.7.88	77.00
33.	M/s. Dunlop (India) Ltd., Calcutta	5.7.88	172.00

Avenues to Fix up Responsibility for Losses in NTC

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

2711. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of the National Textile Corporation Limited has found possible to fix specific responsibilities on officers and Directors for the losses suffered either by the holding company or by the subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action being proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Withdrawal of Deposits of Customers by Employees of SBI

2712. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that employees of State Bank of India have withdrawn the deposits of customers from the branches of the Bank in Delhi and have spent the amount;

(b) if so, the number of employees found involved in these bunglings and the action taken against them; and

(c) if no action has been taken against them, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). State Bank of India has reported that 5 employees of its branches in Delhi have been found to be involved in incidents of withdrawal of amounts from the deposits of the banks' customers. The bank has further reported that the total amount involved in these incidents is Rs. 6,73,562/- out of which Rs. 6,50,500/- has been restored to the customers. The bank has initiated inquiries in the matter and, in the meantime, has placed these employees under suspension from its service.

[*English*]

Machinery to Dispose of Drugs

2713. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any machinery has been established by Government to dispose of the drugs hauled by the Police or enforcement authorities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). No single Central machinery has been established for the disposal of drugs seized by the Police or other enforcement authorities. However, the Narcotics Control Bureau have formulated and circulated to all Central and State enforcement agencies a detailed procedure containing guidelines, *inter alia*, covering disposal of drugs.

The procedure requires a three-member Committee known as the 'Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Disposal Committee' be constituted in each enforcement agency. The Committee is to be headed by an officer of the rank of Deputy

Collector and consists of two other officers of the rank of Assistant Collector of Customs and Central Excise. The Committee is directly responsible to the Head of Department concerned.

The Committee is required to review the drugs pending disposal and advise the respective officers on the steps to be initiated for expeditious disposal. Upto limits specified in respect of each drug, the Committee is empowered to order destruction. Such drugs, excepting opium, morphine, codeine and thebaine drugs which are ripe for disposal, are required to be destroyed by incineration in such places where adequate facilities and security arrangements exist for the same. If the quantity of drugs to be disposed exceed the specified limit, the destruction is to be ordered and to take place only under the supervision by the Head of the Department himself, along with the Chairman and Members of the Committee. Opium, morphine, codeine and thebaine are required to be sent to the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works for further processing.

Rise in Minors' Marriages

2714. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rise in the incidence minors' marriages in various parts of the country and the names of the States where the practice of minors' marriages prevails the most; and

(b) the deficiencies/weaknesses, if any, identified in the law prohibiting child marriages and the manner in which Government propose to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Information collected by the Government from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in the past reveals that there have been prosecutions under the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 in Andaman and Nicobar

Islands, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The number of prosecutions in different States under the Act cannot be regarded as necessarily indicative of the extent to which minors' marriages are in vogue in those States as the question of launching the prosecutions depends on the vigilance of the administration. It would not be fair to single out any particular State as one in which minors' marriages are in vogue. It would also not be possible to give percentage of rise in the incidence of minors' marriage unless some indication is given of the year with reference to which and the period for which the information is desired.

(b) The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was amended in 1978 with a view to provide that the offences under the Act shall be cognizable for the purpose of investigation and for all matters other than matters referred to in section 42 of the Cr. P.C. (arrest on refusal to give name and residence) and the arrest of a person without a warrant or without an order of the magistrate. Thus, it is felt that the provisions of the Act are sufficiently deterrent and there are no deficiencies/weaknesses in the Act. The practice of child marriage has deeply embedded amongst certain sections of the society and any legislation, however stringent its provisions, would not be able to achieve the object of stopping this practice. It is only through social and economic upliftment of these sections that the practice can be eradicated completely.

Child Marriages

2715. **SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of child marriages which came to the notice of Government in the country, State-wise during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons prosecuted under the law so far; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to implement the law strictly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). The information is not readily available. The same will be collected from the State Governments/Union territories and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 has been amended in 1978 with a view to provide that offences under the Act shall be cognizable for the purpose of investigation and for all matters other than matters referred to in section 42 of the Criminal Procedure Code (arrest on refusal to give name and residence) and the arrest of a person without warrant or without an order of the magistrate. In addition, a number of steps, including stress on education, have been taken for educating people about the consequences of the evil practice of child marriage through mass media, by involving voluntary organisations in the task and by other measures. This includes putting posters, radio programmes, exhibiting cinema slides, short documentary films on T.V., press posters, group discussions with rural women, etc.

Vacant Post of Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customs

2716. **SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of full time Chairman of the Central Board of Excise and Customs is lying vacant;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the reasons for delay in filling up the post; and

(d) the action being taken to expedite the appointment and the time by which the

post will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Boycotting of Government Auctions by Timber Merchants

2717. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the timber merchants have boycotted Government timber auctions since March, 1988, and saw mills and timber merchants have been observing all India strike since 30 May, 1988, against the amendment of Section 44AC and Sec. 206C of Income Tax Act, 1961;

(b) whether it is a fact that fifteen per cent income tax is recovered at the time of purchase of timber irrespective of any correct account for determining profits; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per information available, the strike has since been called off.

(b) Section 44AC is a special provision for computing the profits of persons engaged in the trading of items specified in the section. It lays down a presumptive rate of profit at 35 per cent of purchase price in respect of timber obtained under a forest lease. The rate of collection of tax in respect of this item is 15 per cent of the purchase price.

(c) Does not arise.

Jordan's Offer for Economic In Co-operation between Countries of Middle East and South Asia

2718. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: SHRI KRISHNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jordan has invited India to participate in an export oriented industrialisation plan that could facilitate viable economic cooperation between countries of Middle East and South Asia, on the same lines as European Economic community Countries;

(b) if so, the details of the plan suggested; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). No plan/proposal has been made by Jordan to India to promote economic cooperation between the countries of the Middle East and South Asia on a multi lateral basis.

Findings of N.I.F.P. and Wanchoo Commission on Black Economy

2719. SHRI H.M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of the Committee of Secretaries of Economic Ministries has completed its work of examining the suggestions of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) on the aspects of Black Economy in India;

(b) if so, the results of their examination;

(c) whether one of the findings of the Wanchoo Commission was that transfer of landed property especially by way of power of attorney, was one of the major causes of generation and accumulation of black money; and

(d) whether in view of the many findings of the above Institute, and the Wanchoo Commission about the generation of black money, Government propose to revise Income-Tax and Wealth-Tax to plug the loopholes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). The suggestions of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in its report titled 'Aspects of Black Economy in India' have been examined by the Finance Ministry and the suggestions relating to the other Ministries and State Governments were forwarded to them for taking appropriate action. The Central Board of Direct Taxes is primarily concerned with the major problem of tax evasion for which several far reaching effective steps, like rationalization in tax rates, simplification and rationalisation of tax laws and procedures & stepping up of deterrent measures, have been undertaken.

(c) Transfer of ownership of flats in metropolitan cities without the statutory requirement of registration under the Indian Registration Act was identified as one of the sectors generating black money in the report of the Wanchoo Committee.

(d) The provisions of the Income-tax Act and the Wealth-tax Act have already been amended through the enactment of the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987 after taking into consideration the various recommendations of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy relating to evasion and avoidance of taxes. The Finance Act, 1987 has introduced provisions with effect from 1.4.1988 whereby any person having possession of any building or part thereof on 'Power of Attorney' basis will be deemed to be the owner of that property for the purposes of the Income-tax Act and the Wealth-tax Act. The Central Government has also been empowered with certain pre-emptive rights to purchase the immovable property in metropolitan cities of Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Bangalore and

Ahmedabad with a view to curb under-state-ment of value of real estate.

Export of De-oiled Cakes to Europe

2720. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is exporting de-oiled cakes to Europe;

(b) if so, whether these cakes are used as cattle feed;

(c) whether India is also importing butter and milk products from Europe; and

(d) if so, whether it would not be advisable to use de-oiled cake as cattle feed here itself and get the butter from our cattle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). De-oiled cakes are used in the manufacture of compound cattle feed. Their exports are allowed to all permitted destinations including Europe after an assessment of exportable surpluses available in the country.

The National Dairy Development Board is importing Skim milk powder, butter oil and butter from European Economic Community as gift under Operation Flood Programme. However, in view of the acute drought situation in the country during 1987, some quantity of Skim milk powder and butter oil had to be imported under commercial quota during 1987-88 to tide over the domestic shortages.

Buying of Indian Goods by China from Third Parties

2721. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China prefers to buy Indian goods from third parties due to their availability at lower price than offered by India as reported in the 'Economic Times' of June 15,

1988;

(b) if so, whether steps have been taken to see that such switch trade does not flourish at our cost;

(c) whether Hong Kong traders have offered to provide Chinese orders for Indian goods; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). It is a fact that a significant share of China's trade is conducted through Hong Kong. There are a number of trading organisations, particularly run by overseas Chinese which have been trading with China for many years and have established themselves in China's overseas trade. This is true not only with regard to Indian goods but China's trade with other countries as well. It appears that Commerce Secretary's general remark in this regard has been taken to relate specifically to Indian goods only, which is not correct.

Any sovereign country is free to decide its methods for conducting trade depending upon its assessment of the comparative advantages to be gained therefrom. While

we are making efforts to promote direct trade with China, we cannot insist upon China or any other country, that it must buy directly from India. Import of Indian goods through a third country cannot per se be objectionable since it results in gaining market access, which may otherwise be difficult, and consequent increase in our exports.

Export of Cashew Kernels

2722. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and volume of export of cashew kernels during 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(b) whether the export is showing downward trend;

(c) the export target set by the Export Promotion Council for 1988-89; and

(d) the steps taken by Government and the Council for meeting the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Exports of cashew kernels from India in the last two years have been as follows:—

Year	Qty (Mts)	Val: (Rs. crores)
1	2	3
1986-87*	41759	334.10
1987-88*	36937	322.7

(*Provisional)

(b) Exports of cashew kernels during 1987-88 showed a marginal fall as against the record export during 1986-87.

(c) An export target of Rs. 300 crores has been set for export of cashew kernels (incl. CNSL). However, the international market for cashew has been fluctuating and

the prices are yet to stabilise.

(d) To step up export of cashew, Government has been granting CCS @ 8% on export of cashew kernels in consumer packs of 1 kg. or less. Import replenishment @ 10% on exports of cashew kernels is also being granted. Besides this the cashew

Export Promotion Council, undertakes export promotional measures by way of sending trade delegations and participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad.

Import of Foreign Cars

2723. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the import of the foreign cars into India has been liberalised;
- (b) if so, the number of foreign cars imported during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the brief particulars of existing policy in this regard?

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

(b) Details of number of Customs Clearance Permits issued during last three years for import of cars is given below:

Year	No. of CCPs issued
1	2
1985-86	1758
1986-87	988
1987-88	662

(c) Import of cars and vehicles is allowed to certain specified categories of importers. Details are given in Chapter XI of the Import and Export Policy, April, 1988-March, 1991 (Vol.I), copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. In the case of non-resident Indians while the policy remains the same the condition relating to the no-sale period in respect of cars imported by them, has been dispensed with.

Trade with 'Group of 77'

2724. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the value of India's export and import from the 'Group of 77' countries in absolute terms as well as percentage of total export/import during the last three years for which the figures are available year-wise;
- (b) the incentives provided by Government for trade with the 'Group of 77' countries; and
- (c) the proposals under consideration for increasing our trade with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Information is given in the Statement below.

(b) and (c). There are a few exclusive trade preference arrangements among developing countries of which India is a member. Under these, tariff preferences are available for our trade with some of the countries of Group '77'. Recently forty-eight countries member of Group '77' including India exchanged tariff concessions under Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries. The tariff concessions under GSTP would be implemented after the countries concerned have ratified the GSTP Agreement and the Agreement has come into force. Apart from these, there are no special incentives for trade with countries of Group '77' nor any proposals under consideration in this regard. However, various trade promotion measures such as exchange of business delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, encouragement to trading houses etc. for opening offices abroad, market research, joint ventures, cooperation among trade enterprises etc. are utilised in our efforts to promote trade with countries of Group '77'

STATEMENT

Value of India's exports to and imports from Group of 77 countries and as percentage of total exports/imports during the period 1983-84 to 1985-86

(Value: Rs. Crores)			
<i>Exports from India</i>	<i>1983-84</i>	<i>1984-85</i>	<i>1985-86</i>
(a) Exports to Group 77 countries	2014	2264	2086
(b) Total Exports	9771	11744	10895
(c) Percentage of (a) to (b)	20.6	19.3	19.1
<i>Imports into India</i>	<i>1983-84</i>	<i>1984-85</i>	<i>1985-86</i>
(a) Imports from Group 77 countries	5472	6460	6697
(b) Total imports	15831	17134	19658
(c) Percentage of (a) to (b)	34.6	37.7	34.1

Bank Robberies in Punjab

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

2725. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bank robberies committed in Punjab since Operation Black Thunder indicating the amount of money looted, the number of persons killed/injured therein; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The details of bank robberies/dacoities in the State of Punjab, as reported by Public Sector Banks from 19th May 1988 upto 31.7.88 are as given below.

<i>Name of the District</i>	<i>Name of the Bank/ branch</i>	<i>Date of occurrence</i>	<i>Amount looted (Rs. in lakhs)</i>	<i>Persons killed</i>
1	2	3	4	5
Ferozepur	State Bank of India, Mudki branch	1.6.88	Nil	2
Roper	State Bank of India, Punjab Secondary Education Board branch	1.6.88	4.35	—

1	2	3	4	5
Faridkot	Punjab & Sind Bank, Daroli Bhai Branch	27.6.88	3.93	—
Jalandhar	Punjab & Sind Bank, Kamam branch	11.7.88	0.04	—
TOTAL				8.32

(b) Banks have been taking steps to improve their security arrangements so as to offer as little inducement to miscreants to rob banks and also to deter them from such attempts. This is a continuous process and security measures implemented by public sector banks are being reviewed from time to time. Whenever further improvements are considered necessary, requisite guidelines/instructions are given to the banks. Depending on the risk factor involved, steps have been taken to appoint security guards, install appropriate alarm systems, deployment of ITBP personnel in important branches, etc.

Excise Exemption to Fishermen

2726. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has been repeatedly urging Union Government to grant excise duty exemption to the fishermen using mechanised boats; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government in this regard and by when a decision in this regard will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). No such recommendation from the Government of Maharashtra has been received recently. However, requests have been received from various

quarters for grant of complete exemption from excise duty on diesel oil used by fishermen in mechanised boats.

Certain excise duty concessions are available in respect of the diesel oil supplied to deep sea fishing vessels. The Government consider that the existing concessions are adequate.

Involvement of Private Sector in Indo-Pak Trade

2727. PROF. RAMAKRISHNA MORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: (a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Pakistan has permitted its private sector to send their products to India without routing them through the Trade Corporation of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the estimated rise anticipated in the trade between the two countries as a result of this concession;

(c) whether Government propose to extend similar facility to the private sector in the country; and

(d) if so, whether any decision has been taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) It is not possible to make any quantitative assessment as to whether this concession would result in an increase in trade between the two countries except to state

that the reduction in bureaucratic procedures may encourage Pakistani exporters to look more to India.

(c) and (d). The question of extending a similar facility to the Indian private sector trade does not arise as there are no such restrictions imposed on private trade by us especially for trade with Pakistan.

Insurance Scheme for Agriculture Labourers

2728. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had announced the introduction of Free Insurance Scheme for agricultural labourers on 16 May 1987;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has been implemented by the Life Insurance Corporation during the financial year 1987-88; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the Scheme and the number of landless agricultural labourers who have been covered under the scheme during 1987-88 and the targets for 1988-89 and 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister had announced on 16 May, 1987 that a free Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers would be devised soon.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India accordingly formulated a Group Insurance Scheme which came into force with effect from 15th August, 1987.

(c) All landless agricultural labourers in the age group of 18 to 60 throughout India are covered under this Scheme for a sum assured of Rs. 1,000/- payable by LIC to the nominee in the event of death of the labourer covered. The labourer for the purpose of

coverage under this Scheme would be identified through Village Level Officer/Talati/ Patwari. For such identification the name of the covered labourer should not appear as land holder in the revenue records and he should not have inheritable right to agricultural land and his wage should be paid as manual labourer in agriculture irrespective of the mode of payment. He should be employed in one or more of the following agricultural occupations:

(a) Farm including cultivation and tillage of soil and/or

(b) Production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural commodity.

The entire premium cost of the Scheme is borne by the Central Government. The number of landless agricultural labourers who are automatically covered under the Scheme is estimated as 3 crores.

Issue of Rice Export Licences

2729. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI: SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Rice Export Licences have been issued by Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for issuing these licences despite the shortage of rice in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). As per the current policy, export of Basmati Rice is permitted under Open General Licence subject to Minimum Export Price of Rs. 7500/- per MT. Export of Non-basmati Rice is permitted within a limited ceiling. However, no ceiling for the year 1988-89 has been released.

Export of 7590 MT of Non-Basmati Rice has been allowed in 3 cases during the

current financial year against unexhausted ceiling for the year 1987-88 keeping in view past commitments.

12.00 hrs.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no use of doing all this. This has become your daily affair.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed anybody.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: It would have been better if you had asked me. In that case you were not required to make a fuss of the kind you are making.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Have I ever stopped you? Have I ever stopped you doing anything? Have I ever withheld my consent on any subject raised by you?

[*English*]

What is the need of doing all this? Have I ever stopped discussion on any subject?

[*Translation*]

You table it, I will arrange discussion.

[*English*]

I do not object to it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If this is the way, all right you do it. I have not allowed anybody.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SOBHNADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Telugu Ganga and several other projects are pending for clearance with the Union Government. It is taking long time...

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will do it, provided you table the notice.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no problem with me.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Sir, the Punjab Government is cheating the farmers by supplying expired pesticides (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: When did I stop you for it?

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Can you permit one of us to speak?

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard them and I have told them that if they give something in a proper form, I will consider it.

(*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do when I am not being allowed to speak? Neither you nor I am being allowed to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Does it behove you? Neither you nor I am in a position to hear anything. What is the use of doing like this daily?

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to listen but I am helpless. I am not able to follow when fifty persons speak at a time. How can I listen to them for I have got only two ears? Is it the way? Does it behove you to do like this?

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Does it behove you to do like this?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not bar any discussion.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Ask the Minister to make a statement. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen and heard. As I have already told you that whatever you want, please give it in proper form. I will arrange discussion on it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If fifty persons speak together, what's the use of it? I told you that I would do it if you convince me.

[*English*]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, the Punjab Government is cheating the farmers by supplying expired pesticides.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will do it.

[*English*]

You leave it to me.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Coolly I want to make a request, Sir. If the Ministers from Bengal come here to offer 'dharna' because their projects are not cleared, it is a very serious matter...

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed.

(*Interruptions*) *

MR. SPEAKER: I am not concerned with that. They can have a dialogue straightforwardly.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you behaving like this?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed anybody. Neither you nor they are being allowed by me.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. I don't like it. They have a right to talk to the Central Ministers and you have a right to

* Not recorded.

discuss certain things through me but not like this.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Direct the Minister to make a statement. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: When did I stop?

—
12.07 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Notifications under the Customs Act 1962 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) GSR 600 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing effective rates of auxiliary duties of customs on goods falling under First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act.
- (ii) G.S.R. 601 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum providing for total exemption from auxiliary duty of customs on specified goods.
- (iii) G.S.R. 602 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum provid-
- (iv) G.S.R. 603 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum providing for partial exemption from auxiliary duty of customs in excess of 5 per cent ad valorem on specified goods.
- (v) G.S.R. 604 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum providing for exemption from auxiliary duty of customs in excess of 5 per cent ad valorem on certain goods which are partially exempt from basic customs duty.
- (vi) G.S.R. 605 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum providing for exemption from auxiliary duty of customs in excess of 30 per cent ad valorem on certain specified goods.
- (vii) G.S.R. 606 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum providing for exemption from auxiliary duty of customs in excess of 30 per cent ad valorem on certain goods which are partially exempt from basic customs duty.
- (viii) G.S.R. 607 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory Memorandum regarding fixation of the level of auxiliary duty on component parts of simulators of aeroplanes etc.
- (ix) G.S.R. 608 (E) published in

ing for total exemption from auxiliary duty on certain goods which are wholly or partly exempt from basic customs duty.

Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum providing for partial exemption from auxiliary duty on exposed cinematographic films.

(x) G.S.R. 609 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding fixation of rate of auxiliary duty on component parts of medical electronic equipments.

(xi) G.S.R. 610 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding fixation of the level of auxiliary duty on component parts of machinery imported for initial setting up of specified machinery.

(xii) G.S.R. 611 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum providing for partial exemption from auxiliary duty on copper wire bar, cathodes etc. imported against export of copper reverts etc.

(xiii) G.S.R. 612 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce the basic customs duty on polyurethane films and polyurethane foils of specified thickness intended-to be used for finishing of leather.

(xiv) G.S.R. 613 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all goods imported into India from so much of the additional duty of customs (Countervailing duty) as is equivalent to the special duty of excise on like goods produced or manufactured in India.

(xv) G.S.R. 614 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 84/88-Customs dated the 1st March, 1988.

(xvi) G.S.R. 615 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to raise the basic customs duty on ash and residues of zinc (including dross).

(xvii) G.S.R. 730 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt basic customs duty on non-alloy steel billets conforming to Bureau of Indian Standard specification No. IS:2830 or IS: 2831 or equivalent specification to these specifications recognized by Bureau of Indian Standard.

(xviii) G.S.R. 745 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification Nos. 42/78-Cus dated the 1st March, 1978, 29/79-Cus dated the 10th February, 1979 60/85-Cus dated the 17th March, 1985 and 224/85-Cus dated the 9th July, 1985 which provide certain concessions to the leather industry and add four items of machinery to the existing list of machinery prescribed with concessional duty in terms of Notification No. 16/85-Cus dated the 1st February, 1985 in respect of garment and hosiery

Industry.

- (xix) G.S.R. 746 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to make some procedural changes in availing the benefit of customs for duty concession to certain machinery when imported for technology upgradation.
- (xx) G.S.R. 747 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe a concessional rate of 35 per cent ad valorem on machinery and equipments.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 748 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt goods covered by Notification No. 208/88-Customs dated the 29th June, 1988 from the levy of whole of auxiliary duty of customs.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 749 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to postpone the requirements of satisfying fuel efficiency norms specified in Notification Nos. 74/85-Customs dated the 17th March 1985, 22/87-Customs, dated the 20th May, 1987 and 33/88-Customs, dated the 1st March, 1988 prescribing concessional customs duties in respect of light commercial vehicles upto 1st October, 1988.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 750 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 1988 together with an

explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification No. 216/85-Customs dated the 3rd July, 1985 upto the 30th September, 1988. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 6395/88]

Order issued by the President in pursuance of Article 280 of the Constitution and the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 30th June, 1988 issued by the President in pursuance of article 280 of the Constitution and of the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 1951 published in Notification No. S.O. 632 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 1988 making certain amendments in the Order published in Notification No. S.O. 581 (E) the 17th June, 1987. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 6396/88]

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12.08 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing Tuesday, the 16th August, 1988, will consist of :-

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants

(Railways) for 1988-89.

never objected to discussion

- (3) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (Determination of Conditions of Service of Employees) Ordinance, 1988 and consideration and adoption of the amendment made by Rajya Sabha in the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (Determination of Conditions of Service of Employees) Bill, 1988.
- (4) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Ordinance, 1988 and consideration and passing of the Bill in replacement of the said Ordinance.
- (5) Discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1988-89.

MR. SPEAKER: Submission- Shri Virdh Chander Jain

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You are to do it

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You decide it whenever you want to do it. I have no objection to any discussion.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me, I

[English]

You can have a clear cheque for that.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : The following item may be included in the next week's Agenda:-

Radiation is health hazard. Food articles affected by it should not be consumed.

Butter affected by radiation is available in some of the European countries and efforts are being made by our country to import such butter either free of cost or at negligible cost. Poor people will get attracted to purchase it without knowing hazards involved.

Central Government should not import such radiation affected butter.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: When have I stopped you? This is to be done by you. I have no objection to the discussion. I have got no objection at all

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Are you directing the Government to make a statement Sir?

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No please, not allowed.

(Interruptions)*

Shri Basudeb Acharia and some other hon. Members then left the House

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Sir, a group of Ministers

* Not recorded.

[S. Buta Singh] met the hon. Prime Minister this morning and gave a memorandum. The Prime Minister is likely to consider that memorandum. How is it that they are trying to force this issue like this in this House? Also, they are making a misuse of their political powers and constitutional authority. We have never heard of duly constituted Government members and Ministers coming and sitting in *Dharna*. This is something ridiculous. Only this morning, they have given the memorandum, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I work according to rules. I am working according to rules and I have not allowed them. It is so simple.

S. BUTA SINGH: Also, there are forums where inter-State and Centre-State things can be discussed. There is the Planning Commission; there is the National Development Council and there is the Home Ministry. But Sir, this is not the way.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that is what I said. They can discuss it in a proper form and that is what I have been telling. Whether it is the Opposition or the Ruling Party or whoever it is, I have to go according to rules you have laid down

[*Translation*]

Mr. Ramoowalia, You give your calling attention notice regarding pesticides, I will get it done.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: It is all right. The Government itself is sending it.

MR. SPEAKER: Give me in writing, I will get it discussed.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : The following item may be included in the next week's Agenda:

Even after completion of Radio and T.V. Projects scheduled to be constructed in

Orissa during the Seventh Five Year Plan, large areas of the State will still remain outside their coverage.

Government of India should set up soon Radio stations to cover Deogarh, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Gunupur, Parlakhemundi areas and T. V. transmitters at Talcher Kriburu and Rayagada to cover surrounding growth centres. Commercial broadcasting stations should also be set up to cover growth centres.

Further a T. V. studio at Sambalpur should also be set up.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : The following item may be included in the next week's Agenda: -

1. Bureau of Public Enterprises have withdrawn the facility of providing employment to land losers on account of acquisition of land for public sector undertakings. Government of Orissa have moved to restore the earlier practice of providing employment to a member of affected family as a measure of rehabilitation, and have requested Government of India to amend the Coal Mines Land Acquisition and Development Act, 1957 which may kindly be considered.
2. Huge financial aid is provided to carry out relief operations, house building grants, to renovate sand castings, repairs and restoration of flood and saline protection embankments etc., in flood affected area. Besides, crops worth crores of rupees are destroyed almost every year due to floods.

To mitigate the problems well-planned drainage schemes in affected area for quick discharge of flood and saline water be taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOW-
ALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's Agenda.

Recently the Agricultural Cost and Price Commission have recommended the Government that the procurement price of wheat for the ensuing wheat Crop Season should be raised to Rs. 183/- per quintal. According to a recent assessment made by Haryana Agriculture University, the cost of production of wheat per acre comes to Rs. 2403 as against Rs. 2,297 last year. Last year the production cost of wheat per quintal has gone upto Rs. 173. In the current year, not only the prices of agricultural implements and inputs have increased but also the wages of a farm labourers have been increased by Rs. 1600 a year. The farmer has to pay more to buy other necessary items and he gets less prices of his produce. Consequently, the real economic condition of farmer is getting from bad to worse and finally it will adversely affect country's economic conditions. Therefore, it is imperative that the Government should immediately fix the procurement prices of wheat for its ensuing season at last Rs. 250/- per quintal. Therefore discussions on this subject of public importance must be held in the House.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : More industrial units can be set up on Hazira-Bizapur-Jagdishpur Gas pipeline. The Government should appoint a selection committee of industrialists and Government undertakings which will consider as to how best the gas can be utilised. I would like to make an appeal to the Government that the persons who wanted to set up factories and industrial units at other places but could not set up due to Shortage of Coal, electricity and other reasons be encouraged to set up their industries on Hazira-Bizapur-Jagdishpur gas pipeline.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHNADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : The following may be included in the next week's Agenda:-

1. Jaggaiahpet Municipality with 40,000 population is fast expanding industrial area. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Lime Stone Unit, and several Cement factories have come up apart from several other small scale industries. To help entrepreneurs to contact different parts of the country easily, there is urgent need to convert the present manual telephone exchange into automatic telephone exchange with STD facility.

2. There is a Buddhist monument on hill top near Jaggaiahpet. Government must take suitable steps to develop this spot with funds made available from Japan.

[Translation]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : In Satna, the Vayudoot Services was discontinued immediately after its inauguration. This caused grave discontentment among the people of Satna which may assume the form of public movement and disturb the peace of the area. Therefore the Central Government should immediately issue instructions to revive Satna -Reeva Vayudoot Service.

2. In Satna about four hundred telephone lines are not working for a long time due to which the people and businessmen of Satna have been facing great difficulties. But the local officials of Telephone Department are not paying any attention towards it due to which there is grave discontentment among the people of Satna. There is an urgent need to improve this situation.

[English]

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP (Thane) : The fol-

[Sh. S.G. Gholap]

lowing item may be included in the next week's Agenda:-

There are several schemes of Central Government which are implemented through State Government.

Under Anganwadi Scheme, Anganwadi worker is getting Rs. 200-300 per month. Balwadi worker gets less than Rs. 200/- and helper gets Rs. 110/-.

Voluntary workers appointed in Rural Family Welfare Centres and sub-centres as female part-time attendants get Rs. 50/- per month. Family Welfare Programme is 100 per cent Centrally Sponsored Programme. Voluntary workers working in State Government Scheme are paid more and Maharashtra Government has sent a proposal to enhance the honorarium of Rs. 50/-.

I request the Minister to look into the matter and increase the pay of female Attendants who are working in Rural Family Welfare Centres.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI
(Khalilabad) : The following may be included in the next week's Agenda:-

Government is very much concerned about the problems of poor farmers, largest among them are the cane growers. Payment for cane supplied to the various mills is not made to the poor farmers at once. Several mill owners have not made payments to poor farmers for the last two to three years. The Khalilabad Sugar Mill in U.P. is going to close down without clearing the old outstanding amount of more than Rs. 50 lakhs. Union Government should intervene so that the arrears are paid to sugarcane growers immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI . KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, the following subject may be included in the next week's list of Business of the Lok Sabha.

There is a Regional Agriculture Research Centre in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh which is a centre of Jawahar Lal Nehru Agriculture University. Research Scholars come here to conduct research work on Agro Forestry. The centre will conduct research on forests agriculture and the ravines of chambal and other rivers. Chambal division is the most backward area. The flow of the rivers have caused heavy erosion of land in the area and this has resulted in unemployment here.

I request the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Forest that an Agro Forestry University should be opened in Chambal Division.

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) : I will place the points raised by the hon. Members in respect of the business for the week commencing the 16th August 1988 before the Business Advisory Committee when they meet next.

12.21. hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Harijans and Adivasis in different part of the Country—CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will not take up further discussion on the atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis in different parts of the country, raised by Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia on the 2nd August, 1988.

Mr. Ganga Ram.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA RAM (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, The incidents of continu-

ous atrocities and oppression of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in our country are not only a matter concern for all, it is a matter of shame for us and for this House also that such incidents are increasing day after day even after 40 years of our independence. It is a matter of deep regret that about 25 crore Indians out of about 80 crores population of the country are suffering the pains of atrocities perpetrated by affluent section of the society. Even in this scientific age we are doing inhuman behaviour with our fellow brothers and sisters, though we are fully aware that our country has been subjected to slavery for hundreds of years due to this very reason.

The atrocities committed on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes include dacoities, rape, assault and inflicting injuries and resort to arsoning are punishable under section 302, 396, 376, 325 & 326 and 4361 I.P.C. respectively. There were 14012 cases of this type that came to light in the whole country according to the figures of year 1987. These figures include 4872 cases in Uttar Pradesh, 3321 in Madhya Pradesh, 1592 in Rajasthan, 704 in Tamil Nadu, 600 cases in Gujarat, 526 cases in Kerala, 951 cases in Bihar and 445 cases in Maharashtra. A study reveals that atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis are maximum in the areas where religious fanaticism, social inequality or economic exploitation prevail and also in the areas where the reactionary and feudalistic forces and the people affected by the Caste Supermacy reign supreme.

Harijans and Adivasis are an integral part of Hindu religion. I will not hesitate even to say that they are the backbone the Hindu religion. History bears a testimony to the fact that Harijans and Adivasis have served the country and the society faithfully and honestly from the time of Alexander's invasion to the Britishers rule in India. But, the people who always bowed before the foreign invaders never understood the pain and agony of these people, they never appreciated their hard work and power.

Such incidents in the modern scientific

age are a slur on the fair name of the humanity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the more regrettable is the mass killing of the people in this post independence period places Aarwal, Belchi, Deote, Sadhupur, Rampur, Kafalta, Karam Chedu and continuance of such ghastly acts. I still remember. I am reminded of a couplet of some remember urdu poet:

*"Log Samajhe the ki Inklab Ate Hi Najam
Koho Chameka, Badal Jayega, Yeh
Kissko Khabar Thi Ki Atishe Ghul Se hi
Tinka Tinka nasheman ka Jal Jaiga."*

According to my views there are three reasons for these atrocities and tortures. These are religious fanaticism, social inequality or economic disparity or economic exploitation. So far as religious fanaticism is concerned it exists in our country, specialy in Hindu religion. Harijans are debarred from entering into the temples and the high-low problem prevails. Recently, a statement from Shankeracharya of Puri was published, it is just before me. He says that the Harijans do not deserve entry into the temples from the religions point of view. Harijans should look at the finial of the temple, they should not enter the temple. Such irrelevant things are there in his statement. Till such religious Mahants, Heads of Maths, Swamis of the ashrams and such other parasites exist, and keep on issuing such statements, the atrocities on Harijans will go on increasing and will not stop. I have suggested time and again in this House that such statements and such persons should be challenged under protection of civil rights Act and they should be punished.

Sir, I remember what had been stated about religion by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru at a meeting held at Rishikesh in April, 1959. He said that the religion which does not suit to the requirements of the changing times, perishes, as it happened in Tibet at that time. He said that Buddhism perished because a handful of people heading the Maths were ruling over the entire country and were enjoying. But when the people resented and

[Sh. Ganga Ram]

there was awakening among the weaker sections Buddhism was wiped out and buddhist Lama's were forced to break stones on the roads. Heads in our Ashrams and Maths and religions monopolists should remember that when there will be awakening among 25 crore people of this country, they will meet the same fate as that Lama's did.

Sir, I will appeal to the administration to take strict action against Acharya Niranjan Dev. He has attacked the unity and the integrity of the country and insulted and depreciated the 25 crore's people of this country. Sir, so far as the question of caste system is concerned, there are 10036 castes among the Hindu's in this country. This includes 1085 castes of scheduled castes and 639 of scheduled tribes. This caste system has given birth to fundamentalism. The steps taken to promote and develop the scheduled castes and tribes and to eradicate caste differences by Swami Dayanand, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya, Swami Vivekanand, Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi, Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar, Babu Jagjivan Ram and our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi are praise worthy. They made all out efforts from every angle to improve the lot of these people in religious social and economic fields. The results of the efforts made are there. Efforts made to uplift the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, specially by our congress party, during last 40 years of independence are commendable and praise worthy while the other parties want to take political advantage of this. Whenever there is such a mass killing, the members in opposition make a lot of hue and cry about the incident and they want to derive political advantage of the situation.

I want to say one thing here in the House that there are mass killings of Harijans, rapes are committed but the voice is raised only after such incidents have taken place. The members of the opposition parties put these victims of rapes to suffer more disgrace and insult on the cross roads by making a lot of hue and cry about the inci-

dent. It is really very shameful act. When there is a law in the country, the culprits should be treated under section 376 and section 395. Action should be taken against them under the law. We should not give a political colour to it. According to my view such incidents should not be treated politically, it will lead to decrease in atrocities.

We should sincerely implement the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity enshrined in the constitution. I feel it necessary to say in this connection that the reason behind, as stated by commission, the atrocities, clashes regarding the allotment of Govt. land and distribution of surplus land among the members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the tension arising out of non payment or less payment of the wages fixed by the State Government is the general awakening among the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes about their rights in the constitution and special concessions provided to them. The State in which the literacy rate and economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are comparatively high, the extent of oppression is less.

I want to request the Government that the economic programmes which have been prepared should be implemented. The policies of our Government have always been good but the machinery which is responsible for their implementation does not have good intention. Effective efforts have not been made to implement the policies and plans of the Government. Government should gear-up this machinery to ensure comprehensive development of our 25 crores of people. When their economic position is strengthened, their educational backwardness will be removed, that will result in the enhancement of their self-respect and they would be able to face the situation on their own.

Apart from this, I want to submit that no doubt non-scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people commit atrocities but Police Force is also involved in it. The oppression and excesses committed by the police force should be taken very seriously. P.C.R. or

any other type of cases which are still pending, should be disposed of quickly. I want to suggest to the hon. Minister that separate courts should be set up to deal with cases of oppression of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and agencies like C.B.I. and C.I.D. should be entrusted with the job of investigation of such cases so that the investigations are completed quickly and provisions for summary trial can be made. These type of cases have been pending for years and so far I have not seen any such case whether that of P.C.R. or any other type in which the culprits have been awarded any punishment.

The issue of bonded labour is also very serious. In Uttar Pradesh, there are still such areas where agricultural labour is paid Rs. 2 per day and at some places they remain content with only breakfast and meals. In some parts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, the labourers have to work without getting a penny except the meals. The main reason behind it is that the State Government has never take any initiative in this regard.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi had made appreciable efforts under the 20 point programme to end the system of bonded labour and to implement the Minimum Wages Programme so that bonded labour may be saved from Exploitation. But it is essential to accelerate its pace. Finally, I would conclude by quoting some lines of a poem:

"Koi bhi sanket nahin jo ghatata
huz lage andhiyara.
Jaane kab tak dar-dar thokar
khata phire satya banjara
kintu kisi kone mein man ke yeh
vishwas pala karta hai
koi andha yug aniti ka nahin
sadav chala karta hai
Raat bhale lambi ho lekin
nishchit kabhi subah ayegi
jarra sabhi tironit hogi, nai
chetna lahrayegi."

The future of the harijans is still dark and they are suffering very much. But, still I have hopes that Government will make earnest

efforts to understand their position and take step to curb the increasing trend of exploitation and oppression of the harijans.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that harijans are being oppressed in many States today. The poor and the backward sections of society regardless of whether they are harijans or of other castes, are being oppressed in some form or the other. When the poor people approach the courts for justice their cases are not heard.

It has been observed that the Police personnel also commit excesses on the harijans. They do not help whenever they are approached to register complaints. You have seen how the massacre took place in Bihar. I want to say that harijans are maltreated in every State and several type of atrocities are committed on them.

Today thousands of cases connected with oppression of harijans are pending in the courts but hearing of these cases is not being done. In this connection, I would like to suggest that special courts should be set up to deal with these cases. Just now another hon. Member has also suggested that separate courts should be set up for ensuring speedy justice in this matter.

The judicial system in our country is not so efficient. A large number of cases remain pending for a long time. Our Hon. Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi was assassinated in broad daylight and the case which was filed in this regard continued for 4 years and the judgement was delivered after such a long time. The special courts should be up for the cases committed with harijans and girijans, only then can we do justice with them. You should make provisions in the law accordingly.

As regards, the employment opportunities, 15 percent posts have been reserved for the scheduled castes and 7 1/2 percent for the scheduled tribes. But this has never been implemented. The Public Undertakings and our banks do not adhere to the

[Sh. K.D. Sultanpur] aforesaid provisions. They run from pillar to post in search of jobs but no one listens to them. The officers cadre is not in their favour. I want to give an example in this connection. In Air India, the quota fixed for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has not been filled so far. Whenever we ask the reason's for doing so, we are told that they are not competent enough. If you want you can get full details from the Employment Exchange. After looking into them, you will realise that harijans are being oppressed. The call-letters are not deliberately issued in time. As a result they are deprived of their jobs.

Madam Minister, in order to protect the deprived sections of society, you should adopt a policy of not only absorbing those who are competent but also reserve quota for those scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, who cannot be absorbed on the basis of their merit. I want to submit that the way Mahatma Gandhi had worked, panditji had worked and Indiraji had worked, and Shri Rajiv Gandhi is working, the way he is going to the tribal areas and listening to the difficulties of the people and in this way the grievances of the harijans and Adivasis come to the notice of the people but why do our officials not co-operate in that may and implement Government policies. In this connection, you will have to ensure that all out efforts are made to implement the policies and programmes of the Government. It is the poor people who are doing all the menial jobs. The question of caste community does not arise here. There are poor people of every community and they are doing all the menial jobs and they have to do so to survive but still they are being exploited. They do not have enough funds to fight cases in the courts and compete with the big shots therefore, our Government should endeavour to remove any difficulty which comes in the way of implementation of the policies so that our country is able to make progress.

Alongwith it, I want to submit that our I.P.S. Officers and our Policemen who belong to the Scheduled Castes and Sched-

uled Tribes should be posted in the tribal areas. They should occupy high posts because these backward classes are exploited very much by others.

Harijans should be given actual possession of Land allotted to them by the Central and State Governments from the time of late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi till now. Even if the Government has to move the Court for this purpose it should do so.

The Shankaracharya of Puri says that Harijans should not be allowed to enter into temples. If he is so much against Harijans entering temples, Let the temples be patronised only by the people who have to offer progress and worship there. It is the poor Labourer who constructs the temple, makes the idols which are to be worshipped. Yet, this poor labourer is denied entry into that very temple on caste considerations. The gifts of Nature, Like sunlight and water, are meant for everyone irrespective of caste or creed. The birth-process is the same you one and all. Hon. Shri Ganga Ram rightly said that people belonging to opposition,

to use religion as a divisive force are trying to weaken the country. These people are playing with religion, making tall claims of being supportive to the Harijan and Adivasi cause. But the real supporter of Harijans and Adivasis is the Congress(I). The sole benefactor of these people is the hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Only the principles and values of the Congress (I) can help us make progress. The Opposition merely pays lip-service to the cause of the backward classes. Even when they were in power they did not frame any laws for the benefit of backward classes. When Late Smt. Indira Gandhi came to power she reserved a special quota for Harijans and Adivasis. Seeds should be made available to villagers having small land holdings because as at present only people with clout are getting the seeds. Proper banking facilities are not available to Harijans and Adivasis. They are kept in the dark regarding the loan facilities available to them. Loans which should actually go to them, end up in the hands of influential people. A Poor having no

recommendations unable to get full benefits from banks.

I agree with my hon. colleagues when they say that public-sector undertakings should be directed to recruit Harijans and Adivasis. Harijans and Adivasis must be given due weight at the time of interview and their rights should be protected.

Whoever perpetrates atrocities on Harijans should be declared a criminal. A law to this effect is already there but the Administration does not enforce it. The Government should pay attention to all these things so that atrocities on Harijans could be minimised. I am sure the Government will spare no effort in this direction.

[English]

SHRI K.R. NATARAJAN (Dindigul) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of AIADMK, I would like to participate in the discussion on the atrocities committed on Harijans and Adivasis in different parts of the country. Sir, prior to independence, there was feudalism in India. Victims of feudalism were the Harijans, backward people and other weaker sections of the society. Harijans are mostly agricultural labourers, sundry workers and marginal farmers. They have to do all the sundry work for feudal lords. So, they were considered as 'untouchables'. They were treated as untouchables. The untouchability was practised before the Movement of Gandhiji, in India.

Sir, in 1930's, Ramsay Mc Donald offered communal award to Hindu society to divide between the caste Hindus and Harijans. Dr. Ambedkar supported this offer. But our Gandhiji saw a danger in it because this would weaken the freedom movement. So, he started the movement for upliftment of Harijans. He named untouchables as Harijans (Children of God). He voluntarily went to the streets and houses of Harijans and swept and cleaned their toilets. He started various voluntary organisations to render help to the Harijans. The Father of the nation committed the nation for the upliftment of the

Harijans and better deal to them in free India. The framers of the Constitution introduced principles of socialism and democracy in the Constitution for upliftment of the Harijans and other weaker sections of the community. But we see the socialism has not been practised even now. The Constitution abolished untouchability. Yet it is practised somewhere in North India. We see the atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis in large measure, especially in North India, in U.P., M.P., Bihar and Rajasthan and even in Maharashtra.

This is a very shameful affair after 40 years of Independence with the relentless effort made by Periyar EVR, Dr. Anna, and Bharat Ratna MGR, there is no question of untouchability in South India, especially in Tamil Nadu. They are given equal status with others. There may be some stray incidents.

A lot of atrocities are committed in North India on Harijans and Adivasis. Sati is also practised in North India. Sankaracharya of Puri refused to give equal status to the Harijans with others. This is a very shameful affair. After 40 years of Independence, their position is the same as it was before Independence. This evil should be eradicated. Their position should be improved. All the children of the Harijans and Adivasis and backward classes people should be given proper education throughout their career. They should be given employment and their economic position should be improved. Then only these atrocities may be avoided. The Government should strictly follow the Directive Principles of State Policy. The inequalities in income and inequalities in status should be abolished or at least should be narrowed down. If they are narrowed down and proper economic status is given to the Harijans, definitely such atrocities can be avoided. We hope the present Government will take necessary steps to improve the status of the Harijans, Adivasis and other backward classes people. The Janata Government appointed Mandal Commission for improvement of the backward classes people. The mandal Commission Report

[Sh. K.R. Natarajan] has been received, but is not being implemented so far. Then, how can we achieve socialism in our country? Their status is like that. Their children go to school only when they become 7 years or 8 years old. So, they do not have sufficient educational facilities, library facilities etc. So, it is impossible for them to compete with the children of other affluent people. The officers in the cadre of IAS and IPS are given proper training to their children. So, their children are selected again for IAS IPS and other coveted jobs. But unfortunately this position is not available to the Harijans, Adivasis and other backward classes people. There is no reservation for backward classes people. Articles 45 and 46 have become dead letters. They have not been implemented so far. So, the reservation should be given to them. Age limit for the students coming from backward class people should be raised to 28 years. Unless they are given the right to appear in the competitive examination, it is only a dream that backward class students will be coming in IAS and IPS and other Central Secretariat jobs. So, the Mandal Commission report should be implemented immediately.

There are other weaker sections in our country. Their lots should also be improved and their children should be given proper education and proper employment and such other opportunities to develop and increase their economic position. Then only, we can see that equal status is given to Harijans, Adivasis and other weaker sections in our country.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI VIR SEN (Khurja) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to express my views on this subject. Sir, generally it is the complaint that whenever an issue concerning Scheduled Castes comes up, the people from the non-Scheduled Castes take little interest. They keep generally silence. Even in the Jehanabad case also, except that the report appeared in the Press, generally the people

throughout the country kept silence. So, I would thank Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia that he moved this motion for discussion in the House. As a matter of fact, he has broken the tradition which was, of course, prevalent. The number of members present in the House also indicate the sympathy and concern of the Members, of the generally community have for the trials and tribulations of the Scheduled Castes. The number, I think, is below the quorum. I have not counted the number.

This question has been raised in the House that Scheduled Castes are called Harijans and Mahatma Gandhi gave this thing. Some people are allergic to this word, particularly members of the Scheduled Castes, because whenever we refer them as Harijans, they object to it. They ask, what does Harijan mean? This question was also referred to by the hon. Member who preceded me. Well the clear meaning is, Harijans mean, sons of god, the people of god. But what about others? Naturally they are not sons of god. Then, whose sons are they? There are, of course, two entities. One is the god and the other is the Satan. If one community or the people is the son of God, naturally the other community is the son of Satan. But I would not brand that all the people are sons of satans because there are good people and I also address them as Harijans.

13.00 hrs.

Whenever the identity of the Hindus or their interests are threatened, their feelings and susceptibilities are roused. Otherwise, they will be silent. When Meenakshipuram conversions occurred, the whole Hindudom was agitated and there came a Body named Vishwa Hindu Parishad. They collected several crores of rupees. Why they collected, I do not know. They did not spend even a single pie on the amelioration of the condition of Harijans. The whole money is a wastage in travels and useless Yajnas. I have not heard about the functioning or how do they function, whether it is doing any thing good for the Hindus or for the Harijans.

India is the oldest of civilisations. Unfortunately, there are some people on whom civilisation has had no effect. Some of them who are committing or perpetuating the atrocities, I would like to say were brutes and are brutes today and, I am afraid, they will remain brutes tomorrow also. I am of the view that Manu was the first person who remained untouched by the effect of civilisation. He remained barbarous and in the Manu Smriti he embodied all the principles of barbarism and I think that he was responsible for all the evils that Indian society suffers from. The infinitesimal, vivi section prevents this country from becoming a nation. It is a great hurdle for this country to become a nation and I believe that as long as casteism remains and caste considerations remain, the people of India can never become a nation.

Manu was responsible for these atrocities even today because he is the inspiration and had been responsible for the slavery of this country for so many centuries because he created a class of warriors and the rest of India had no interest in the defence of the country. When the invaders came, the whole of the country was sleeping, because they had no interest and there is a saying

“Ku rīp ho home ka hani Daasi chod na hou va rani”

“We shall not become the rulers or kings or queens. Why should we worry if a king changes or a queen changes?”

This has been psyche which has been created by the teachings of Manu. I think he deserves condemnation from all sides and the Manu Smriti has to be burnt.

We are talking about the progress of things. What progress is being made in different fields? I think it would be better to refer to the progress made in the field of atrocities also. Generally, from 13,000 cases of atrocities registered every year, now the number is increasing. It was 13,975 in 1979 and in 1982 it became 15,054. Quite a good prog-

ress, I suppose! Sir, there are certain States which can be termed as very prominent in this affairs. So, Madhya Pradesh is one of them where, out of the All India figure of 14012 cases, Madhya Pradesh accounts for 3321. Of course, Uttar Pradesh comes first with 4872 cases. Rajasthan comes next with 1592 cases. Therefore, this is the figure from 1982 to 1986. From 1985-86, the total number is 15373... (Interruptions) Now, I would like to cite the cases of rape. In the case of rape, Haryana tops. One-fourth of the cases go to the Courts and out of the total number of cases of 1832, only 199 cases were convicted and 1633 cases were acquitted. This what the Courts have been doing; what the police is doing and what the prosecution is doing as also the administration is doing. This will give you the clear picture.

The question is: why there are so many acquittals? There is a guide-book from the Government of India sent to the States and in the introductory note, it is written that one of the reasons why witnesses do not come forward is because they lose their wages. If they go to the Courts, they will lose their wages. Further, those who do such crimes say that they would provide for wages also. But is this the real cause? I am sorry to say that the Government does not go deep into this matter and does not see what is the real cause. It is for fear of reprisals. That is the real cause. That is why they do not come forward to give witness. If they come forward as witnesses, then the next day they will be killed and their families will be exterminated. This is the real reason. -

The other reason is sympathy of the police and the administration with the criminals. Those who commit atrocities are friends and relatives of these officers and policemen. So, this is the reason and the third reason is administrative failure. The administration does not hear them to take any action. I would like to quote a few lines which are relevant here. This is the respect of officials indicted for anti-Dalit posture. This thing appeared in the patriot, I think. It says:

[Sh. Vir Sen]

"In the course of probing, the Committee passed severe strictures against the Tahsildar, village officials, medical officials and the police for failure of administration and of filing false reports on the incident in order to conceal the Anti-Dalit violence perpetrated by upper caste Hindus" ..

This is the report of the Tribal Welfare Committee of the State Assembly of Maharashtra. This is c example. But this is a general rule. This is not a single solitary example. Throughout the country, this is the practice. Whenever a Scheduled Caste person goes to the police station to report a case he is beaten away, threatened away and a report is lodged against the victim himself. And he is sometimes sent to the jail. This is the position about government administration.

Now, what is the role of the Central Government? In 1985, they sent guide lines. After that, there is nothing. The plea is that the law and order situation is a State subject and they cannot interfere. Are we satisfied with this explanation and plea? When the whole country is reporting and registering cases of atrocities, I think, we will have to take some special measures. This alone, of course, is not going to do anything. There is the charge of lack of will. Here also I would like to read out a few words from an editorial of the *Statesman*-this is from the *Statesman* of 21 June 1988;

"The Jehanabad massacre would not have taken place if human life were not held so cheap, if Harijans were not regarded as being outside the protection of the law...."

"The Harijan plight would have been ameliorated long ago in Bihar and elsewhere if the Congress—I had not persistently shirked implementing its socio-economic promises for fear of upsetting the upper caste leaders of the rural society who are so invaluable for mobilising money and votes."

This is one of the reasons. Particularly in Bihar it is the political parties which are supporting and helping the criminals, If I read from magazines and papers, it will take time. The House should be convinced that the caste war is going on and atrocities are being committed because they are asserting their rights. I would like to quote from an article written by Shri K.S. Subramanian in the *Times of India* of 24th May 1988;

"Rural India today is witnessing an increasing assertion by the rural poor of their human, social and legal rights in terms of the provisions accorded in the Constitution..."

"... an attempt by the Government to pamper them because of their numbers and political importance. Therefore, they resort to using their monopoly of social, economic and political power, their links with the administration and the economic dependence and social disabilities of the weaker sections to inflict violence on them."

This is an effort to keep the Scheduled Castes down to the level of slavery, serfdom, and the caste Hindus and the kulaks resort to this practice only to keep them under their foot. Then, what should be done? The first and the most important question is this. Who will implement? What is the implementing machinery? Those who are charged with protection of the Harijans are themselves friends of the oppressors; go to the police, they are friends of the oppressors; go to the officers, they are also friends of the oppressors. Because they belong to the same caste. The problem is you will have to find out a machinery where these caste-ridden officers and policemen and protectors of law are barred from interfering in administration of justice. This is one thing.

Another this is that every matter that comes forward is given a political ground. It is said that such and such thing is because of some political reason. (*Interruptions*) I will take only two or three minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are many more Members to speak.

SHRI VIR SEN: The same thing has happened in Jahanabad also. It is shown as a war between the Naxalites and Indian people. I think, the problem should not be seen in that light. It should be seen that crimes are committed by the *Lodak Sena* and their supporters. Some say, the disputes are because of land. Others say, disputes are because of reservation and the heart-burning and jealousy created by reservation. I do not agree with these people. But the real reason is that there has been changes in the society and the social structure, the four-wall structure, has already collapsed. Today, we do not find Brahmins in the real sense of the term as ordained by Manu. 99 per cent of the Brahmins have not studied or seen the Vedas. They know only a few *Mantras* to perform *Yagya*. They have joined other profession. They are Government servants, shopkeepers and the cooks. That system has totally collapsed. Mentally, that system remains and this dicootomy is responsible for atrocities on Harijans. I think, that has to be demolished. What has to be done? I think, the first and foremost thing is to abolish the casteism and the world *vyavastha* by law. Some people say that we should preach people by persuasion. Persuasion has failed even during the last century. Budha came first and preached equality. But failed and was driven out from India. Mahavir tried, Kabir tried, Ravidas tried. But everyone failed. During 1975-77, when there was Emergency, everything was all right. Schools began to open in time; examinations were held in time, shop-keepers were behaving properly. Trains were running as per schedule. It was all because of the law. I think, law alone will help in this. You may go on persuading. But I think, the primary thing is the law and persuasion is the supplementary thing.

Another important thing is land. Who ever owns land, dominates the scene, dominates the society and the politics also. I think redistribution of land should be the first measure. Let the land be redistributed

on egalitarian basis. Then, of course, you will be able to eradicate this evil or menace of atrocities.

Something has to be done for atrocities. I think arms should be given to Harijans on liberal basis at least wherever there are sensitive places. A machinery of course should be created. Atrocities are not confined to the rural areas or the mofussil alone; but they are prevalent in the services and offices also. Harassment, constant denigration, spoiling of CRs, posting at wrong places, implication in engineered cases, adopting different standards of punishment for the same offence are the atrocities in the offices.

Today the position is that, you may complain and there is no remedy for your complaints. Nobody is going to hear. On frivolous grounds a member of the Scheduled Caste is dismissed or removed from service. You make hundreds of appeals and they will fall on deaf ears. You have to create a machinery that if any complaint or charge-sheet is levelled against a Scheduled Caste officer, then that should be examined by a high officer who is either a member of the Scheduled Caste himself or a person who is not biased against the Scheduled Caste.

The last thing I would like to say is that a book by the name 'Rebellion of Harijans' was published sometime back. I will conclude my speech with a quotation from this book. The author has said:

"With Harijans within the Hindu political group, the future of the Hindus is safe. Without Harijans the destiny of Hindus will remain uncertain ... We do want to have Harijans on our side in the political struggle and even if it were for this purpose alone for the selfish purpose alone the caste Hindus must raise this curse of untouchability and bridge the gulf that divides them from their co-religionists. There is a real crisis in the political life of the Hindu community."

[Sh. Vir Sen]

I think if the Hindu community has to remain, these atrocities must have to stop. Sympathy has to be created for them and equal rights and equal privileges have to be ensured for them. The rights and privileges that are offered by the Constitution have to be ensured and if the Hindu society or the Government of the people fail, the result will be disastrous for the whole country.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, while we are discussing this important matter I want to speak on the tragic state of Harijans in the country. Hon. Members, particularly those of the ruling party should give this matter serious thought .

Today, many tragic incidents are taking place in the country. Hon. Members belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes need to think over all this. We are discussing atrocities on Harijans. I have received information from the Bihar Chief Minister Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad that 10 Harijans were killed in my constituency yesterday. For how long this discussion will continue? The Hon. Member who spoke earlier has thrown light on a number of facts supported by statistics. I understand that the Jahanabad area has the highest crime rate in the country killings are taking place everywhere but not as many as in Jahanabad. After the first incident in which 18 people were killed, 10 more were killed who were peasants. Then comes the most recent case where 10 people were killed yesterday. In this in evidence also the victims were Harijans. Yesterday's incident took place in Janua village falling under kako police station. What a tragedy this is! I want to relate the situation existing in my constituency before this august House. After all what is reason behind these killings? Some are blaming the Naxalites and some the feudalists. Others say that caste-based senas, like the Lorik Sena, Vanvaasi sena and the

Bhoomin Sena, are responsible. But the real reason escapes us. And as long as this happens, the likings will not stop. I suppose the hon. Minister is also not present .

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Here is the Minister can't he see him?

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Please listen the hon. Home Minister should have been present at this time.

SHRIMATI SUNDERWATI NAWAL PRABHAKAR (Karol Bahg) : MR. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on a point of order Six important discussion is being held on Harijans. Ye, the hon Members who brag about their support for the Harijan cause and shed tears over the pitiable plight of Harijans are not to be seen in the House. No one from my party is present. All this makes me wonder whether nobody is interested in listening to Harijan problems.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Atrocities on Harijans are a daily feature. The Pipariya episode, where Harijan and other women were raped by the police, is no less tragic . The police had a hand in the massacre of 26 Harijans in Arwal last year. To call these killings as the handiwork of feudalists is certainly not acceptable. The hon. Minister should give statistics regarding the caste to which the victims belonged, how many people were killed in police girding and the caste to which they belonged. This will reveal that more than one party is responsible for the killings. It is true that some people prepare caste-based senas for self defence. But these senas are meant to kill others, not Harijans. These incidents are a result of the anti-people policies of the Government such incidents will continue so long as the anti-people economic policies are not changed for the last weight years a terrorist organisation is operating in Jahanabad. This organisation is divided in two factions called liberation and party Unity. These organisations are linked with I.P.F. Both collect arms and attract youngsters into their fold. These youngsters belong to the poor oppressed and backward classes. The reason for the

backwardness of these classes is the pace of development on the caste basis. In an atmosphere of equitable development, Naxalites could not have flourished. This is the situation in my constituency where development is the privilege of a certain class alone. And this situation gives ample opportunity to terrorist organisations to misguide the jobless Harijans and Adivasis.

The Government is widely publicising the implementation of a system of minimum wages. As to the question of minimum wages, prosecution under the existing laws takes a lot of time as in 'Diwani' cases. This is the Government's policy for implementing the minimum wages law. The existing laws should be amended for the speedy disposal of cases. Even in a genuine case of minimum wages the labourer is harassed. He realises that nothing can be gained from this law. The only result is an increase of trouble and expenditure I feel that the system of trial for minimum wages needs to be changed.

The question of implementation of land reforms has not been included in the 20 point programme, I have written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister as to why this has not been done. 20-Point programme is implemented by government. I am not allowed to raise any question pertaining to this programme I shall give an example. An I.A.S. officer, called Shri Vyas, of the rank of S.D.O was posted in village Dumri falling under Ghosi Police station. There is 52 acres of Government land in this village. This land, with Account Number 127 and plot number 212 was got evicted by the said officer from the landlord. This was done to distribute the land among the poor. But public representatives of that area got the officer transferred by Labelling him as a Naxalite. Later the commissioner of land reforms wrote to the collector asking for a guarantee that there would be no bloodshed if and when this land is distributed I am presenting the letter which was written. This is Government's policy. The Bihar Government's policy of giving land to the poor never bears fruit. The ones to gain are the Naxalites who question the

Government's fear of bloodshed when land is distributed. Even then the Collector is unable to explain the Government's attitude. When the land is distributed, he asks how can there be bloodshed. Here is the letter, the source of which is the land reforms office of the Bihar Government. On the 15th of last month I visited Bihar along with the secretary of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the 15th instant. He was also surprised to see the letter and decided that we should talk to Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad. This matter relates to my constituency. All these things have happened. Who is to be benefited by it and who is doing all this? It is your representatives who are indulging in such activities.

There are hundreds of villages of Harijans, tribals and backward classes in that area. The question arises as to what are the reasons behind terrorism and how can it be curbed? The population of those villages ranges from 500 to 1000, but no arrangement has been made for primary education there. The inhabitants are living like savages and are not being provided with basic facilities of education. You are drifting away from your policy. By not imparting education to the illiterate. It is shameful that the District Education Committee is opening schools in the villages belonging to higher castes alone, where primary schools already exist. Even the hand pumps for drinking water are being installed in those very villages. The poor and the Harijans, on the other hand are drinking contaminated water by digging kuchcha wells. In order to save his chair, Shri Dubey had told the M.L.As that they could get hand pumps installed wherever water was not available. But instead of that, the M.L.As. got the handpumps installed in their bath rooms. As a result, our poor and downtrodden youth are coming under the influence of Naxalites. They are fast joining their ranks. Recently on the 22nd, their leader Shri Nagbushan Patnaik held a meeting, in which 25 thousand people participated. You must have received the report about all this and your officials too must have told you about the happenings. You can well imagine about the situation prevailing there.

[Sh. Ramashray Prasad Singh]

What is behind Jahanabad massacre? If you do not want such incidents to take place, then you should get schools opened and handpumps installed in their villages. If you perform all these tasks, I am sure, these naxalite organisations will be isolated and the people will get disillusioned from them.

Besides, you will also have to liquidate these caste based armies, no matter whether you have to shoot them. The Harijans are also being killed by these caste based armies. The Nazalites are divided in two groups and due to this group rivalry, they are resorting to killing of each other's members. They are fighting with each other in order to establish their supremacy and are killing even the Harijans in the process. There is yet another factor involved. One comes across with three types of police there. One is the police deployed by the Centre and the other two are deployed by two different organisations. The uniform and other things of all the three are similar. Whom should the people recognise as the real police? At night a policeman comes and apprehends a person from his house by saying that he has warrants against him and later on shoots the person dead. I have written in this regard as to whom should the poor farmers and the people recognise as real police. The uniform of all is the same and anyone of them can arrest a person at night. Such is the situation over there. It is shameful on the part of the Central Government if it fails to remove these gunmen. You have deployed police in 200 villages, but in spite of that there is no law and order there. My submission is that the Government should open schools and get handpumps installed in those villages so that the standard of living of these people could be improved.

[English]

SHRI S.B.SIDNAL (Belgaum) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this is a subject in which each and every man of this country is concerned. This was there in pre-independence, right from the 18th century till today. Many remedies have been found by reform-

ers, Sants and Mahatmas of this country and many people like Puri Jagath Guru were against it. So, this is a tradition of the society. This is the system of the society which many of us have inherited and carried till today. The question is whether this problem could be solved at this juncture, legally, socially or economically. These are the things to be fought by everyone of us, irrespective of any caste or creed. Sir, our country itself has the fabric of casteism, communalism, regionalism and language-ism. There are so many 'isms', in this country. What should we do now? Is this problem to be tackled by Government alone? No Sir, government is only an instrument. We can legislate a law and we can have certain preventive measures. But how can we cure this disease, which is plaguing us so badly for thousands of years. It will at least take some hundred years to cure it completely and to get rid of it.

When we go through the leaves of history, we find that even Dr. Ambedkar was humiliated. When he was teaching in Banares, he was not allowed to sit in the common staff room and he was not allowed to drink water in the common staff room. When such a great man like Dr. Ambedkar whom we remember here in this august House every day, could be so humiliated, what to speak of ordinary people who are socially and economically backward and who are politically unheard of and totally unprotected by the administrators? Sir, this is the situation in reality. So, what have we to do now? This is a problem which crops up every now and then in one way or the other. I wonder whether it can be dealt with by passing an anti-atrocities Act. But when we pass such an Act, we must have a provision for very severe punishment. Punishment must be given for more than ten years. Otherwise, it will not solve the problem. We have legislated many laws in the past. But they remain unimplemented. We have added so many amendments also to these laws in this very House. But it requires serious attention of the Government. I do feel that legislation is a must and implementation of the provisions of the legislation is also a must. Severe punishment should be given to those who

violate the rules. These people are totally weak both economically and socially and in addition to backwardness, there is also the stigma of untouchability. Who will take care of these poor people and who will protect them. Is it the police? No, Is it the teachers? No. Is it the politician? Again, no. Who is going to report the atrocities committed against these people, in the police station? Just let me give an example. In my own constituency in the Bendigeri village, during the Janata regime, five Harijan boys cut the grass from some land. The owner of that land collected some people and called the boys to his house. He put them in a room and forced them to eat human excreta. Even in Stone Age, this could not have happened but now it has happened. Just before our eyes. Unfortunately, till one month, there was not even an investigation. This happened in the Janata regime in Karnataka. In yet another incident, two Harijan boys prevented somebody's animal from straying and they started beating the animal. Meanwhile their mother intervened. The high caste people came there, made her naked and humiliated her. This too happened in Karnataka. In Raichur even a social boycott took place. Every where such things are happening and there are many cases which go unreported. Why? The reason is nobody cases for them and nobody gives them protection.

Now I will come to the issue of reservation in government and other sectors. My friend who spoke earlier gave some good suggestions and I was very happy about it. But what is the general attitude of the cream of our society? We speak and preach many things. But what do we practise? There is again an anti-reservation climate in this country. The people whom we seek to protect through reservation are our own brothers. Unless we rebuild and restructure this society, we cannot be a good country and nor can we become a strong country. When you ask an educated man about reservations, he question the wisdom of continuing the system of reservations. This is the general attitude. It really pains us. Many times, I have tried to explain to them. After Independence, the Constitution provided for

18 per cent reservation. But where were the Harijan people who would be ready to receive these jobs? Forty years back, even those people belonging to other communities were illiterate to a large extent. How could they get absorbed in the Government services? What was the use of these reservations for nearly 30 years immediately after Independence. Not much could be achieved during this period. Now there are people who are ready to utilise this reservation facility. Even now, in the fields of technical education such as electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, medicine, etc., not many persons are available. You cannot even get four per cent. Then, what about the remaining percentage? When this is the existing situation, even then we do not want them to come up. In the olden days, in Guna, an earthen pot used to be tied to the bodies of the Harijans and sweepers of the corporation and they were not even allowed to spit on the road. This was the situation in this country not long back. And there are many such stories. In this country, we allow cats and dogs to sleep on our beds and to dine with us. But human beings were segregated. What tragedy. Even today, these people have to face many difficulties. I can quote many figures and statistics. But many of my friends have already quoted many figures and I do not want to bother the House again with all those details.

But Sir, what is the remedy? According to me, education is the first universal cure for this problem. When we meet an educated man, there will not be any feeling of untouchability and no stigma is attached to him. Second cure is economic development. When a person is economically sound, his status will be elevated and he lives comfortably and moves in the society freely. He can travel anywhere. These people should be free from exploitation and they should be brought into the mainstream. Their shackles must be removed and their stagnant status should be changed with dynamic progress and development. Therefore, preference should be given to these people in the fields of education and industry. This will improve

[Sh. S.B. Sidna]

their economic status. One of my friends suggested about more and more recruitment of these people in the military service. Going to village to village, we should recruit Harijan boys on a massive scale and we should absorb them in the services, so that at least the succeeding generations of these economically and socially backward people can improve their lot and lead a better life. This is a very good suggestion and I support it. I also suggest that we have to recruit them in the police also on a large scale. Also, driving schools must be opened for literate Harijan boys who might have passed the Eighth Standard or the Ninth Standard. These people should be given jobs not only in the Government but in the cooperative and private sectors as well. In general, private sector is not recruiting them. I request the hon. Minister to direct the private sector as also the cooperative sector to recruit more and more Harijan and other socially and economically backward people. This Parliament can pass the legislation. As far as implementation is concerned, it is the job of the State Governments and the Bureaucracy. I am sorry to comment about the attitude of the bureaucracy. These people are our own brethren and they are members of our own community. They are not outsiders. They should inculcate a feeling that by helping these down trodden people, they are helping their own country and they are restricting their own society towards progress and development. If they take the responsibility of implementing all the laws and legislations enacted in this august House, our country will have a bright future. If we simply pass the Bills, and take them very lightly when it comes to their proper implementation, nothing can be achieved. The print and other media go on reporting all these things but the result column will remain nil. Then what is the use of all these things? What are we doing here? Though I belong to the same party, I am pained to observe that even hon. Ministers do not show enough concern and seriousness. They have should taken issues like this more seriously and should have been present here when a serious issue like this is being discussed.

I would like to mention one more point. In the Military, there is a regiment called the Mahar Regiment. This name should be scrapped once for all. It should be named only after we are able to build a better India. You can see that hostels and hotels are named after one community or the other. Everywhere we can see that every other house belongs to some other community. Even every other temple belongs to some other community. You can see Masjids. So some strong legislation should be brought in here, where you should provide for a punishment which should be more than ten years and as far as possible the amount should be large.

Madam Gandhi brought in so many reforms. The Reformers can never be a politician and politician can never be a Reformer but Madam Gandhi was equally a politician and a Reformer. She brought many reforms in this country and she gave awareness to these poor people and told them that you are part and parcel of this country. You are sons of the same soil and you are the partners in progress and prosperity of this country.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi has also shown his concern to those poor people but only thing that is left is at the implementing level.

I appeal to all my colleagues to follow this. Thank you very much.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak. It is true that atrocities are still being committed on the Harijans and the tribals in the country. You must have heard some time back that 19 people were killed in Jahanabad and just now Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh has said that 10 more persons were killed 2-3 days back. You might be aware that atrocities were committed in Chharhata village of district Bhind of Chambal division in Madhya Pradesh. Recently, atrocities were committed on many Harijans in Mainpuri too. These

atrocities will not end unless the Government takes strict action against those involved in such atrocities on the Harijans and Adivasis.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission to the Government is that just as licences for guns are given to the people belonging to general castes similarly Harijans and tribals too should be provided licences. The situation today is such that if the Harijans and the tribals apply for gun licence, the Collector or the S.P. refuses them by saying that issue of licence is banned at present. There are no such common people in the villages who do not keep guns. I am speaking of the situation in Madhya Pradesh. I have myself witnessed that in a family of four members, all the four keep guns besides revolvers and pistols. I am aware of the situation in Madhya Pradesh only and not in the whole of India. When we the M.Ps or the M.L.A.s recommend that the Harijans and the tribals should be issued gun licences, pat comes the reply that the licences are not being issued at present and even if they are issued, their number is very small. Therefore, my submission to the Government is that either the licences should not be issued to the common people and if this is practised, the Harijans and the tribals should also be issued the licences so that they could stand against these atrocities and these clashes do not recur.

Secondly, I want to submit that the cause of the most of atrocities is land. The Harijans and the tribals who were given the documents of ownership of land have not yet got the actual possession. Most of the cases are such where the people have not got the possession though they deposited the money. The people of general categories have filled writs in the courts. In this way also the Harijans and the tribals are being suppressed by the people belonging to general category. They are being intimidated and threatened to withdraw their case lest they should face atrocities. Therefore, my submission to the Government is that immediate possession should be given against the

ownership documents which have been given, so that the atrocities could be brought to an end.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another submission that I want to make is that the police personnel who are paid by the Government should be held responsible in this regard. Most of the atrocities are committed under the very nose of the police. My suggestion is that in order to reduce the incidence of atrocities in the jurisdiction of those police stations where the number of incidents is comparatively higher, directions should be given by the Government to all the police stations to submit a report regarding atrocities and tortures taking place under their respective police stations. The moment such reports start pouring from the police stations, it will be possible, on analysing the reports, to identify the police stations under the jurisdiction of which occurrence of such incidents is more. Following the receipt of such reports, the Government can initiate follow up action to reduce them. This will result in gradual reduction in such incidents. According to my information, the police play a significant role in the incidents of atrocities.

Although, there is a provision for scholarship and other kinds of assistance for the children of Harijans and tribals in schools, but so far as I know, the teachers do not give that money to the children on some or the other pretext. These pretexts include telling the parents that they have not filled up the form. Thus, they pocket that money themselves. I am talking about the situation prevailing in the schools in Madhya Pradesh. I do not know what the situation is in other parts of the country. I want that such cases should be investigated by the Government so that the children of Harijans and tribals could actually get the grant which is given to them by the Government.

I have also come to know that even for programmes like afforestation, the Government acquires the land or the forests which are predominantly inhabited by the Harijans and the tribals. In this way, how can the problem of their livelihood be solved? Their

[Sh. Kammodilal Jatav]

livelihood is dependent on the forests. My submission is that the Government should allot whatever follow land it has to the Harijans and the tribals for afforestation so that they may get their rights. The Harijans and the tribals do not own any land and whenever they go out for work they are harassed by others. This is also one of the reasons for incidents of atrocities on them. Therefore my suggestion is that the Harijans and the tribals should be given Pattas (ownership rights) of fallow land.

Houses are being constructed and allotted to the Harijan and tribals at various places in our country under the Indira Aawas Yojanax. Some houses have been constructed in cities and some in the villages. My submission is that whatever houses are constructed under this scheme should be constructed near the cities only so that these people need not have to go to far-off areas for labour. They may be saved against exploitation in this manner as well. With these words I conclude.

*SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWAR RAO (Amalapuram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the House is discussing such an important subject like atrocities on Harijan's, there is hardly any one in the House barring those who are started to speak. I convey my unhappiness over this. One has to feel ashamed at the atrocities that are being perpetrated on Harijans even after 40 years after independence. The atrocities are taking place in every hook and corner of the country. Even now the Harijans are not allowed to draw water from common wells. Harijans are not being allowed into the Hotel where the right of admission is reserved. One has to hang his head in shame over the matter. The Hon. Prime Minister wants to take the country to 21st century. The computer era is being ushered in the country but inspite of all these noble intentions and advancements, the Harijans in the country are still being meted out a raw deal. They are being harassed and ill-treated every day.

Atrocities against Harijans are on the increase. Many hon. members who have participated in this discussion have already reeled off data on these atrocities. Only a month ago, a tragedy had taken place in Bihar where a large number of Harijans were killed mercilessly. This incident shook the entire nation. But surprisingly this government is behaving as though it is not at all concerned with this incident. Now it is being said that 19 Harijans were killed by Naxalites. Not even a single arrest has been made so far and no effort has been made to trace the culprits.

14.00 hrs.

The seat of Shankaracharya is a sacred one and yet Puri Shankaracharya is issuing statements condemning Harijans day in and day out. No action has been taken against him so far. Neither the Central government nor the government of Orissa tried to curb the utterances of Puri Shankaracharya. The Central Government says that the matter is sub-judice and chose to keep quiet. Though a private person has filed a case in Supreme Court, the government cannot close its eyes and say that the matter is sub-judice. Action has to be taken against such persons. Year after year, meetings were being called by the Prime Minister and Minister of Social Welfare to discuss the atrocities on Harijans. They reel off some figures and wash off their hands. At no meeting did the government mention about the concrete steps it has taken and the concrete results it has achieved in curbing these atrocities. If the situation is allowed to continue like this, the Harijans who constitute one fourth of our population will fight unitedly to get their rights bestowed under the constitution. That day is not far off. They will fight unitedly and decisively to achieve the cherished goal of Dr. Ambedkar. Let it serve as a warning to the government. I hope that the government will wake up at least now and do something positive for preventing these atrocities and providing the rights to these most neglected sections of the people.

The reservation and other facilities were provided and a special status was accorded to Harijans in our constitution, yet inspite of this clear direction, the government has failed to act on those lines. Whenever any incident takes place, the government comes out with some statement. There ends the matter. The government does not speak about the action that has been taken and yet to be taken so as to prevent such incidents in future. Government also remains silent about the help extended to the victims of such incidents. Whenever any such incident takes place in opposition-ruled States, the Prime Minister rushes to the spot and expresses his sympathy for the victims. But strangely whenever such an incident takes place in Congress-I ruled States, the Prime Minister chooses to remain silent. When such a ghastly incident took place in Bihar, the Prime Minister did not go to the place of incident. I protest at this attitude of the Prime Minister. Sir, policies which are being pursued by this government one also making the life of Harijans and Adivasis miserable. Forests are being declared as Reserved forests. Adivasis and others who had been depending on these forests through centuries are being suddenly deprived of their livelihood. Government remains silent when some influential people mint money exploiting those very reserved forests. Rape cases were reported from Assam. No one knows what action the government has taken to punish the culprits. One shudders to think about the future, if the situation is allowed to deteriorate at this pace. The reservation facility was accorded to SC and ST candidate. But nowhere was it implemented seriously. The quota is being filled up only in the case of class IV employees like sweepers. In top posts, in I.A.S. and other services the policy is deliberately being ignored. The reservation percentage in these top posts ranges from 1 to 2 percent. The reservation policy has to be strictly implemented in all categories of posts.

The government goes on repeating that the surplus land acquired by the government by implementing land ceiling, is being distributed to Harijans. The fact is otherwise. No

where, the surplus land was distributed. Even if distributed, the pattas are not given. In real terms they were not made the owners of the land. The rich landlords do not hesitate even to murder the harijans who occupy their surplus land. Hence steps should be taken to see that a Harijan really enjoys the fruits of benefit of the land which was distributed to him. The rich land lords have to be tamed. The rights of Harijans have to be protected at any cost. Also, the government should take effective steps to protect the life and property of Harijans. I am a member of Central Social Welfare Board. But I do not know what is going on in the Board. Simillarly a commission was set up for the same purpose. What is the commission had done so far is everybody's knowledge. The achievements of these various bodies are almost nil. The government is trying to promote inter caste marriages with Harijans. It was announced that those who marry harijan boys and girls would be given jobs. I want know how many people including their children were provided jobs on the basis of intercaste marriages.

14.04 hrs.

[MR. SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Many bonded labourers are Harijans, I want to know how many Harijans both men and women were liberated and rehabilitated so far. There is a legislation to prevent child labour. Yet there are many children who are working in various industrial establishments. Many of these children belong to harijans. The Harijans are very poor, as everybody knows, and hence can not afford to send their children to schools. In stead they send their kids to work to earn livelihood and supplement their income. These hopless children are not paid proper wages. The government can atleast takes steps to compel the employers to pay proper wages to the children.

Sir, Harijans in the country constitute one fourth of our population. If the atrocities continue they are not going to keep quite in the days to come. The Harijans would unite

[Sh. A.J.V.B. Maheswar Rao]
and fight for their rights and a proper place in
the society.

Hoping that the government would take positive steps to avert the ever deteriorating condition of Harijans and do justice to them, I conclude my speech.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, right now I was listening to the views of the hon. Members who spoke on the subject atrocities on the Harijans. The people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are economically, educationally and politically weak. That's why they are being exploited. The Central Govt. as well as the State Governments, both have taken concrete steps for their economic upliftment. But the situation is so bad that the Central Govt. and the State Governments both should take more stringent and drastic steps in this regard. The need of the hour is to improve their standard of living. The landless farmers in the rural areas are dependent on zamindars. Whenever they demand minimum wages, disputes arise. At present there is no effective union of these people to take up the cause of their rights. Whenever these landless farmers stand up to fight for their rights, they find themselves unable to face them because the kulaks wield a lot of power. Nowadays police also collaborates with the kulaks. Now the question is how to get rid of the zamindari system, so as to raise the living standard of these people?

The Government has implemented land reforms. In Rajasthan the steps taken to implement land reforms were not very progressive and effective so as to make the cultivable land available to the landless. The land distributed among the landless was uncultivable and also unfit for any other use. The land surrendered by the landlords was mostly the disputed one. As a result of all this, the economic condition of the landless did not improve.

The Government gave the slogan of the land to the tiller of the soil. But till to date this

could not be given a practical shape and both the zamindari and jagirdari systems are still in vogue. We got rid of the British rule and the princely states and abolished privy purses, but could not do anything to check the vested interests and root out the zamindari system. This is our biggest weakness and is the cause of atrocities being committed on the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. Presently atrocities are being committed in Bihar, U.P. and Rajasthan and the reason is the failure of the Government to provide land to the tillers and in fact, it remained mere a slogan. If the Government intends to bring about revolutionary changes in the system, then it shall have to take concrete steps and fight against the vested interests to derive the requisite strength for the land reforms. Difficulties and struggles will certainly come our way. But ultimately the right and the just will have its upperhand. The biggest need of the hour is the land reforms. The Planning Commission has also stressed on it time and again but the State Governments never agreed to it which resulted in the present crisis. I would like to state that if the Government is not in a position to undertake all this then it should not leave landless at the mercy of zamindars and it should formulate some scheme for their upliftment. The Government must make provision of alternative employments for them particularly in the cottage industries in the Eighth five year plan and ask them not to work for the zamindars to earn their livelihood. If such schemes are formulated for their economic upliftment, then the incidence of atrocities and injustice could be mitigated to a great extent. Otherwise atrocities and injustices will be continuously perpetrated on them unchecked.

Second problem is that of untouchability. Untouchability is in vogue since time immemorial in our society and is difficult to eradicate resulting in present chaos. The hon. Minister has just now made a statement that it is a big achievement of the part of the Government that it has succeeded in getting the entry for the Harijans to the Nathdwara Temple. By arranging the entry of these people to the Nathdwara Temple the Gov-

ernment should not take it for granted that the gates of all the temples have also been opened for the harijans in the rural areas. In 1950 I had tried to seek the entry of the harijans to a Hindu temple in the Barmer city but failed in that attempt. I also lost the elections because it is difficult to bring about revolutionary changes in the mentality of the masses. A change in the mentality can only be brought about by making an impact on the youths and children through necessary changes in the curriculum under the new education policy, otherwise the problem of untouchability will continue to persist. We are pained to see the harijans carrying the garbage on their heads in the urban areas. This system can be done away with by providing modern equipments to the municipalities and Municipal boards. There is the need to get rid of this system as early as possible.

Now I would like to speak about the crimes. In this regard, the Central Government had issued instructions to the State Governments in 1980 and 1985 which have made some impact. At present all cases of untouchability are investigated by DSPs or Circle Officers to bring to the light the facts. The harijans have also developed some consciousness about such crimes. They put up resistances to such advances against them but still in certain states particularly in Bihar, incidents of massacre such as Belchi massacre have taken place which are the culmination of the ongoing exploitation of the landless by the landlords.

In Bihar, different castes have organised their own senas like Kanwar Sena or Social revolutionary Force or like that. I would like to request the Central Government to order disbanding of all such caste based senas. The Government must take stringent steps to wipe out all such senas, with the help of its armed forces. In this way, under the democratic system such senas have been collecting money, indulging in dacoities, crimes and adultery. Such forces should be quashed. Casteism is on the rise, though all of us have put in our endeavours to put it out and the big leaders like Jagjivan

Ram also had raised their voice against it but it has not yet vanished. At least this much can be done that people are not asked about their castes in the courts. At the time of census also, caste of the individual is noted. The Government should stop this practice. However, an individual may be asked about his religion. But at least at the time of census, the caste of an individual should not be asked and mentioned.

Untouchability is a curse, a stigma on our society. We must take a vow to eradicate untouchability from our society, to put in all our energy and resources for the upliftment of the poor and to implement the schemes formulated by the Central Government for their welfare. The Government must earnestly take up the implementation of the scheme and the component plan which have been formulated for the development of the tribal areas, in addition to the proper implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme so as to improve their economic condition for making them powerful enough to fight the caste menace.

With these words I support this motion which has been presented in the House.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this discussion started on the issue the massacre of Harijans in Hehanabad. 19 Harijans were brutally massacred on 10th June in Nanaha and Nagawa villages and today we are discussing the atrocities being committed on Harijans. I am very much aggrieved to know that yesterday also 12 Harijans have been brutally murdered in Jehanabad near that place. It appears that this problem is not going to be solved in the near future.

Earlier also I had talked about the social and economic conditions of Bihar and today also, I am raising the same issue. I have to make only one submission and please listen to me carefully. My submission is that a committee consisting of non-Bihari M.P.s. may be constituted and it should be entrusted with the task of finding out the reasons of the frequent incidence of massacres

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

and the probable solutions of this problem. In my view, these things cannot be checked unless and until a radical change is brought about in the socio-economic conditions. As I had earlier stated in the House, the land reforms have become a mockery in Bihar. There a few people whom we may not call the landlords but the land barons are owning land in the names of their pet dogs and cats. Hence, the position is that some people have been the owners of thousands acres of land and the Government inspite of its willingness, cannot do any thing in this regard. When this is brought to the notice of the Government; they say that the matter is pending with the court. Under the pretext of pendency of case in the court, these land barons have been exploiting the people to the extent possible.

What are the reasons of the human killings in Jehanabad in the month of June? The fact is that a person named Laldas Paswan was working as a labourer for a land baron named Rama Nand Singh. He was given one and a half kilogram of foodgrains as wages for his labour. He requested his master with folded hands to increase the wages because one and a half kilogram of foodgrains was not enough for his subsistence. At this, his master replied, 'Let the time come, the wages will also be increased.' After the harvesting of crop when that sharecropper was carrying his share of wheat to his house, the land owner objected to it and told that he would not get any foodgrains because he had taken a loan from his master. At this, he told his master that he had never taken any loan from him. Inspite of it, he was deprived of his share and returned home empty handed. Since he was left with no other alternative, from the next day he started working as a labourer for some other person. At this, his previous master was infuriated and in that fury of anger, he butchered his entire family. A six month old daughter, Pinki of Lal Das Paswan, an 8 year old boy of Girejeva Cobbler and a 10 year old boy Umesh Paswan were killed. Paswan was hiding there when these people were being killed.

He was asked to surrender if he wanted to save the lives of his wife and children. Laldas Paswan surrendered in the hope that his wife and children would not be murdered but instead of getting any relief he had to face the splash of bullets.

I had stated earlier also that the society of Bihar cannot be separated from the Indian society. This problem should be viewed seriously. If it is not checked in time, it will go on increasing. What are the reasons that the government finds itself unable to implement the land reforms in Bihar. Some people have thousands acres of land with them while the others do not have even one or two acre of land. This struggle is not between the Harijans and the caste Hindus but this is a struggle between the haves and have nots. It is a struggle between the rich and the poor. It can be seen in the rural areas how the rich Brahmin landowner commits atrocities on a poor Brahmin and does not give him even one kilogram of foodgrains for his labour. The same is the case with the Rajputs also. Thus it is a struggle between the rich and the poor and this can be stopped only by the intervention of the Central Government. I had stated even earlier that illegal arms being manufactured in every house in Bihar. The bombs and country made pistols are being manufactured there and a sort of caste war is being waged. In yesterday's caste war, 10 persons were killed. In addition to this, such incidents occurred even in Jehanabad and Bhagalpur. The Government will have to find out its solution. By taking the help of B.S.F., the manufacturing of these illegal arms should be checked in every district, village and house. Otherwise, there will be a day when these illegal bombs and pistols would be brought to Delhi and you will not be able to check it. This is a socio-economic and a law and order problem. It is my submission that the Central Bihar where atrocities are being committed on Harijans, should be declared a disturbed area and B.S.F. should be deployed there for the enforcement of law. The police force from this area should be deployed there in every sensitive village because the people think that the Bihar Police is totally caste-ridden.

The Bihar Police takes the caste factor into consideration and does not take much pains for the protection of a particular caste. Central Bihar where these types of incidents occur repeatedly, should be declared a disturbed one and B.S.F. should be deployed there and then see whether the atrocities on Harijans are checked or not. The solution of this problem lies in ruthless implementation of land reforms. With these words I conclude my speech.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak. Shri Ramoowalia is not present in the House now, but I want to thank him for initiating the discussion on this subject. Shri Rajhans ji has said that the atrocities on Harijans are on increase in Bihar. My submission in this regard is that these types of atrocities are being committed not only in Bihar but in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat also. India is a country where the people belonging to all castes, languages and religions live together. Our ideal is "Saare Jahan Se Accha, Hindustan Hamara". The Gita, Kuran, Bible and Guru Granth Saheb are also our ideals. Shri Rajhans ji has said just now that Harijans are the worst affected in the present caste war. But the atrocities on Harijans are being committed in all the States of Hindustan. No doubt, the grass root of this problem is the socio-economic problem. The issue of haves and have nots have been raised only in this context. This is also true that our Government have paid adequate attention to the development of Harijans and other backward classes. When our constitution was drafted, Dr. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru did the utmost to uplift these communities after independence, and the efforts are still on. But today the struggle against the casteism has taken serious turn. Atrocities on Harijans have taken place not only in Jahanabad, but as Shri Rajhans has pointed out, such incidents have taken place in his constituency Bhagalpur and Orissa also. The Hon. Minister should arrange to conduct a survey to find out its cause. There is Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which is performing its duty but as Shri Rajhans has suggested, the Government should depute a team of the Members of Parliament, which should look into the basic problems of these communities. It is not proper that we do not respect the feeling of Harijans. "I do not care for them. Hon. Prime Minister himself has stated that we will have to pay more attention to the problems of Harijans and we have also read it in the newspapers. But who will initiate action in this regard? I would like to quote figures of the incidents of atrocities committed on Harijans. In 1985, the number of Harijans upon whom atrocities were committed was 5373, 502 were killed and 1357 were injured. In 1986 atrocities were committed on 5403 persons, 563 killed and 1406 injured. In 1987 atrocities were committed on 3196 persons, 481 killed and 1471 injured. The incident of Jahanabad has not been included in these figures. The main cause of the recent incident, I think, is land reform. One of the major achievements of West Bengal Government is the implementation of land reform. The poor people can be provided with land through land reforms. But the Government of Bihar has not implemented the land reforms. It has got to be done expeditiously, otherwise the struggle of haves and have-nots will never end. The struggle between the zamindars and the poor has been going on and it will continue. On the other hand Naxalite agitation is also going on. The reservation policy of the Government is quite correct but its implementation is not proper. I have been a member of Committee for welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and observed that the reserved quota meant for these categories is not properly filled by the officials and the same is filled by the general candidates. Those people feel that they are discriminated. The Government is not paying adequate attention towards this problem. That is why reservation policy of the Government is not being implemented effectively. You must review the situation. Earlier when a bill on the same subject was introduced, Meira Kumar had related a number of incidents. I was deeply shocked to hear that even after 40 years of

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

independence people nourish feelings of untouchability towards their Harijan brothers. They are not allowed to enter several temples, mosques and other places also. Our country follows secularism but Harijans are an exception to this. Religion says that nobody can interfere with the religion of others, a person of higher caste cannot suppress the person of lower caste and insult him. So equal respect and regard should be given to everybody. Although we are proud of our country and claim that there is no discrimination on the basis of caste or creed but the correct picture is different altogether because there is discrimination on caste basis. I would like to submit that the progress of the nation depends not on discrimination but on unity at this juncture. All the citizens of India should inculcate this feeling. Not to talk of Harijans, atrocities are committed even on minorities at some places... It is a matter of great regret. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi was our Prime Minister she was not allowed to enter the Puri temple. In a secular country like ours on what basis she was prohibited. People belonging to different castes, religions and speaking different languages live together in our country. Even our present Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi was prohibited from entering the temple on the plea that he was not Hindu. Has nobody other than a Hindu got the right to go to temple? Should a Muslim not be permitted to enter any church. How can the people of various communities live together in such a situation? How can the song 'Sare jahan se acha, Hindustan Hamara' be proved a reality? I congratulate the Government for its effective measures to enable the Harijans to offer prayers in the Nathdwara temple. But at the same time I wish that the sanctity of holy shrines should be maintained and no one should interfere unnecessarily in their working but people of other religions should also be allowed to enter the aforesaid holy places. If Muslims are prohibited from entering temples and Hindus are prohibited from entering mosques, the incidents of atrocities on weaker section will further increase. Weaker sections comprise people of all communities viz Muslims, Hari-

jans Girijans and Sikhs. So, this should not happen. The Government should follow a uniform policy and there should be no discrimination in this respect. I would like the Government to take a serious note of the incidents occurred at Jahanabad, Gujarat, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. Although many schemes have been formulated for the upliftment of Harijans and Adivasis, Planning Commission has also allocated adequate funds, yet owing to faulty implementation of the schemes, these people still remain disappointed. I would urge the Government to give priority to these communities, and to complete their backlog in the services at the earliest. I do not want to discuss the matter extensively because there is good number of Harijan Adivasi Members in the House and opportunity should be provided to them also to express their views but we should create such a situation in which there may not be any discrimination. Ours is a secular country and we should proceed according to that ideology. We should also pay attention to minimise the gap between haves and have-nots in our country.

[English]

SHRI HET RAM (Sirsia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I cannot forget the day in my life, when I had been elected to this House and the day on which in Bihar the massacre has happened. I will never forget this massacre. On the one hand, I was elected as a Member and on the other hand, news came 22 lives were lost. We cannot understand what a mess and what chaos is going on in India. We are 25% population of this country. We are a social and economic bone of this country. But what we are having? We are having no economic power, not even political power. Whatever the British Government had done about reservation, it was safeguarded in our Constitution by the grace of Dr. Ambedkar. But what is this reservation? Reservation is not for Scheduled Castes. It is for the non Scheduled Castes. 15% is reserved for Scheduled Castes. But they are not eligible because they are not having merit. Who is deciding about the merit. I do

not know. What is the merit, I do not know. You may say, 7 1/2% is reserved for ST. So, the remaining would be filled up by others. That means, 82% would be reserved for the non-Scheduled Castes and that would be filled up. But due to lack of merit—it is decided by the same person—reservation is not done for us. What is the merit? A girl or a boy born in a Scheduled Caste family has no facility, not even of house, not even of light. He has to sit on a separate seat in the school. Their teacher is not interested in asking anything from him. He steers his way through Matric or BA, whatever he does. On the other hand, in public schools and Door schools, there are facilities. They come out with good marks and if they are not getting good marks, they arrange the marks. This is happening and they are getting the merit. But those who are fighting from the day of their birth against poverty and humiliation are not coming up and they are not called meritorious. What is this system? I cannot understand. What for reservation is? He enters the professional colleges where he has to cope with English medium of instruction for which he is not prepared. Due to this system and money power, instead of rising morally and mentally, they are depressed and some have to resist this menace. They leave the professional colleges because there is nobody to help them and to cooperate with them and there is no hope for them. Even the teachers will not cooperate and assist them. But if any son of a rich person enters the college, he will have every facility. The teachers and his relatives help him. But if a scheduled caste student enters the medical college or engineering college, he will have nobody to support him. At least they should be helped because they cannot afford to live like the rich. There should be separate colleges and universities. They should not be left alone and separated. I know that separate universities and colleges will create aloofness and separation. It is already there. The Scheduled Caste people cannot mingle with them. They are alone. This is due to this century-old holocaust that Ekalavya has been sacrificed in Mahabharata. During Ramayana period, Ram has got killed Nishad. Even in Rig Veda,

there were four sections of society and the fifth is that of Scheduled Caste. There is no history about Scheduled Caste. Still we are makers of history. Scheduled Caste has no political power. You can well know that Shri Ambedkar could not win the election to Parliament because he was not having the support of any political party. All the Scheduled Caste people were behind Dr. Ambedkar but he lost. This means that without any help, no Scheduled Caste man whether from Congress or Opposition party, can win. We can only see the language of the party. If there is any whip, we will not be able to see or say anything for the people he represents. What I suggest is very simple. To meet this chaos, we have to change the social and political system and even our Constitution has to be amended, because reservation is essentially wrong. Reservation is not doing anything. Reservation is not creating any facilities. It is creating chaos because the people who are getting these benefits are only a fringe of society and they are unable to lead the nation. I will refer to a Hindi novelist, Amrit Lal Nagar who wrote the novel "Nachyo Bahut Nacho Gopal". In that novel, a man belonging to Scheduled Caste is the leader of dacoits and the other dacoits who are to be led by him ask him "What is your caste?" He declares himself a Thakur. He knows that if he is telling that he is Valmiki, they will not obey him. This is the real situation. So also, if we are telling that we belong to Scheduled Caste Community and we are Scheduled Caste people, nobody is going to follow us. The same condition has happened in the case of Shri Jagivan Ram. He fought for this country for a period of sixty years; he fought for the country, for the people but he was called the Leader of Harijans. He was declared as the leader of the Harijans and not of the nation as a whole. The same position holds good with all the leaders. *Bahut Nachogopal* vividly expressed how this Class is being harassed. There is no way out. We have to search and find a new way out. It is not that we depend on the Government alone. We try to change the religion so that we may be accepted in another religion. But there also, we are the out-castes. We have accepted Sikhism. We

[Sh. Het Ram]
are called *Ravidasia* and *Majhabi* etc. We have accepted Buddhism and we are called Neo-Buddhists. We have accepted Christianity and there also we are having the same thing. We used to do this because that was our livelihood. We feel that if we do like that, we may be accepted in society. But, instead, we have got our hands cut. The society is not accepting us in toto. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the economic, social and political system need a thorough overhauling in this country. If that is not done, then under that holocaust, we will remain suppressed. We will be afraid of certain forces. We will not be able to speak. We will remain as meek and silent people. We will be unable to speak, unable to express our feelings ourselves. Now, one-fourth of the population of this country remains silent suppressed, and maimed. They are unable to lead their life. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to see if anything can be done for those down-trodden people. If the Government can do something, I will be highly thankful to them and as you are having power, you can help such people so that with pride, we may say that we are Indians and there is no discrimination in terms of caste and creed. We may say with pride that in India nobody is discriminated against religion. By doing this, Mahatma Gandhi's dream may be fulfilled at least after 40 years of our Independence. I would suggest that this situation should not be extended for another five or 10 years. If this is not improved, then I would like to submit that the very existence of India may be in danger. I give this warning to this Government.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD
(Chamarajanagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community still continue to be suppressed due to their social and economic conditions. Just two days ago, our hon. Prime Minister convened a meeting of MPs belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community, Chief Ministers, Lt. Governors to review the Seventh Report of

the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1984-85. The hon. Minister for Social Welfare was also present there. I really compliment the Prime Minister for his radical ideas which he has given. In the discussion, reservation of posts for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people and about the atrocities committed, their development figured.

Sir, I have been elected twice to this sovereign body of this country. Time and again, in this August House, we have been discussing about the atrocities on Harijans and so many suggestions and remedies were put forth by the hon. members to prevent the atrocities on Harijans and to improve their socio-economic conditions. I am sorry to say even after 40 years of Independence, Harijans have been subjected to humiliations and exploitations. Today, our country is celebrating 40th year of Independence. Even in this Capital, in memory of this, a marathon race was conducted in a colourful manner. Still so many programmes are going on in celebration of our Fortieth year Independence; so many cultural programmes are going on; you can see colourful posters in airports and other important places that we are celebrating our Fortieth Independence. On the other hand, the atrocities have been taking place on Harijans in this country. So many Harijans have been killed in States like Bihar. Even in States like Kerala and Karnataka, atrocities are taking place. An inhuman imposition like forcing the Harijans to eat human excreta is taking place. In Karnataka, as my senior friend, Shri Sidnai, has said, in his Constituency in Bendigere village, just because a Harijan boy cut off some grass to be used as fodder for his animal, he was made to eat human excreta. The same was the case in Shimoga district, in Tattur village: a Harijan went to the temple and he requested for worship of the God; he was refused and then he was forced to eat human excreta. The same was the case in Kerala also. This is the nature of the atrocities being committed in this country. Why are these atrocities taking place in this country? As far as my knowledge goes — and almost all the Members

are aware of it —, basically, these Harijans are not the asset-owning community, they are the poorest among the poor; the majority of these people are living below the poverty line. Therefore, the feudal landlords of the society make constant attacks on the landless labourers and they are exploiting their poverty because those people are basically agricultural labourers.

I would like to say one more thing. We are also elected representatives belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We have also failed in our attempts to safeguard the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes because our electoral system is such. For example, in a reserved Constituency, 85 per cent of the voters belong to non-Scheduled Castes and we have to act according to their whims and fancies. If we assert our responsibility under the Constitution and try to help and protect the interests of the weaker sections of the community, whenever any injustice takes place, if we try to set right, the other people, the 85 per cent of the people feel that we are instigating the Scheduled Caste people against the non-Scheduled Caste people and they say that we have been breeding hatred against 85 per cent of the non-Scheduled Caste people. If the non-Scheduled Caste people say anything about the Scheduled Caste people, they will be known as social reformers, they will be called the heroes of the society. But if we say anything, we are told that we are breeding hatred. This is the position. Therefore, I would suggest that, unless and until there is a separate electoral system, we cannot honestly discharge our duties. After all, we are also human beings. We do not want our relations to be spoiled. If we take up their cause openly here, then we will be mistaken and we may be defeated in the elections. Therefore, unless and until there is a separate electoral system for Scheduled Castes to elect their true representatives, their problems cannot be tackled. This is the position in respect of Parliament and State Assemblies also.

You see our foreign policy. We talk always about anti-apartheid. We criticise

and condemn the arrest of Nelson Mandela in South Africa because these white people have been exploiting the black people in South Africa. In this country, except in certain towns and cities, you can see this apartheid in each and every village of this country. This is the position. In what way the Scheduled Castes of this country are better or have got better facilities for living than these black people. Our position today is still worst than the black people. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): Go and see Africa, you will not say that.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: I have been seeing. We have been experiencing in the villages. I am not condemning any individual or Government but our system as such is like that. We have heard of Bihar and U.P. Dr. Rajhans has just now said that just because a Harijan demanded for one and a half kilogram of ration in a village in Bihar he was killed. This is the position of our society. Harijans are not only being killed physically but they are being tortured mentally also. Two hundred million of these Harijans have been insulted by Swami Shankaracharya of Puri. He said that Harijans should not be allowed to enter into the temple. We the youngsters know that we will not be benefited by entering this temple. But our illiterate people think that they will get salvation by entering the temple and their problems and difficulties will be solved. More than that, according to our Constitution, it is our right to enter the temple. That is why, we demanded that Swami Shankaracharya should be arrested. He has said that Harijans should not be allowed to enter into temple whether it is Nathdwara or any other temple. But subsequently, I appreciate all those who have got progressive thought had condemned his attitude and statement. And he subsequently twisted the statement, and said: "Almighty God loves the Harijans more than others. Why should they bother to go to the temple. God Himself propitiates His devotees."

[Sh. V. Sreenivasa Prasad]

Then, yesterday, I think, Madam Bajpai announced that some of the Harijans have entered the Nathdwara temple. If it were so, if the Harijans are the lovers of this Almighty God, then this Swamiji could have led the delegation. But he has not done anything. I was told that after these Harijans came out of the temple, that temple was cleansed.

As I said, I am not bothered about this temple. But our illiterate people think that they will get salvation by entering the temple. Therefore, I would request the Hon. Minister to take action against this Swamiji. Article 17 of our Constitution says that any person preaching or practising untouchability, which is a crime, is punishable under law. But nothing has been done against this Swamiji. Kindly direct the concerned State whether it is Orissa or Rajasthan to take action against Swamiji.

I would like to suggest about the solution to improve the socio-economic condition of this community. I request at least a provision of land for landless should be made because Harijans are basically agricultural labourers and in order to give them security against the continuous onslaught land should be made available to the landless. Another is the enforcement of minimum wages. As Dr. Rajhans has said 80 to 90 per cent of this community belong to agricultural class.

The enforcement of Minimum Wages Act is essential.

About educational facilities which is the major solution, I would request the Government that as enunciated in the Directive Principles clearly, free and compulsory education should be given. Kindly give us compulsory and free education. Any popular Government cannot distribute wealth and make everyone rich. At least give us education, we will come up and to know how to get our rights. Therefore I would request that in order to give education, please make it compulsory. Kindly provide residential school at *hobli* level and give more and more

facilities of hostel.

The possibilities of private employment are absolutely limited for the Scheduled Caste community. In order to give employment opportunities, at least to fill up the backlog, 50% reservation should be made for the Scheduled Caste at the recruitment level.

About the atrocities in States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, there the people are very poor and they don't have the power or strength to fight against the feudal landlords. The feudal landlords have got arms like pistol, guns etc. If it is possible, please give us also some arms so that these feudal landlords and other anti social people will come to know the value of life. If these people have got some pistol or other arms to defend themselves, the feudal landlords get threatened. That is why kindly distribute some arms to defend themselves to these people.

As far as I know, sometime back the Home Ministry has issued a circular or instruction to the various State Governments that wherever atrocities have been taking place against Harijans, either the District Collector or the Superintendent of Police should be an officer belonging to the Scheduled Caste. I would like to know how many States have implemented this instruction.

My friend was talking about adequate representation for SC people in the military. The high caste people are not allowing us to live; at least allow us to die for the sake of the country by giving us more representation in the military.

We have enacted certain Acts here to curb the terrorism. The Central Government has now got the Prevention of Terrorist Activities Act, under which deterrent action is taken against the guilty. Similarly, atrocities on Harijans are also on the same footing as terrorism and it is a previous crime. Therefore, similar provisions should be made against those who commit atrocities on Harijans. Terrorist problem is there in

Punjab only. But the atrocities on Harijans are taking place in every nook and corner of the country. So, this Act should be applied to curb this menace also on Harijans and Adivasis.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUNDERWATI NAWAL PRABHAKAR (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Sir, you may recall that when our country got freedom, Gandhiji gave us a slogan that our independence will remain incomplete as long as untouchability is not abolished. He worked for the welfare of Harijans until his death. Atrocities were committed and untouchability was practised at that time. They were not allowed enter the temples. He called them Harijan merely because all human beings are the creation of God. The universe is created by the almighty. Harijans are no exception to this, why should we treat them differently. So he called them Harijans. But it is a matter of great regret that our fellow beings interpreted the word Harijan differently. They consider that the Harijans are different and they have nothing to do with them.

What I mean to say is that unless untouchability is abolished and due respect is given to Harijans, the dream of complete independence for Harijans will not be fulfilled.

I think the whole discussion is futile unless the schemes meant for the upliftment of Harijans are executed properly. Proper implementation is an important task. People complain that injustice is being done to them. Some of the hon. Members have just now spoken. They related the incidents of atrocities committed on Harijans at Jahanabad. Massacres were done at various other places also in Bihar. Such incidents take place everywhere, why is it so? Are Harijans not human beings? Are Adivasis not human

beings? Can't they become the member of our society just because they are Harijans or Adivasis?

At the time of elections, adequate importance is given to them as voters. All the politicians get the rough estimate of Harijan votes and are eager to get their support. But they are not given due respect thereafter and totally ignored in the day today life. There are different types of schools in Delhi and other big cities. There are public schools, private schools and government schools. But the Harijans have to face a great difficulty in getting admission for their children. They do not get admission in colleges. Colleges do not accept the certificate which they give in the schools. They ask for another certificate. They have to get a photostat copy of the certificate and only then they get admission. Many children do not get admission due to the less percentage of marks also.

A great distinction is made between the children of public schools and those of Government schools with the result a horrible situation has arisen for Harijans. In public schools, children of rich people study, who can afford to pay a fee of Rs. two hundred per month. I have been demanding here that in public schools, some percentage of admission should be fixed for the Harijan and tribal children. If the Harijan children get the opportunity to study in public schools, then only equality will come. Otherwise, there will always be discrimination. So the Government should take over the public schools so that all children both of the rich and the poor can study together. This will result in removal of the caste system. Until this thing is done, Harijan children will never get the opportunity to rise.

In villages, children go to schools. It is shown on the television also that children of high families sit on one side and the Harijan children sit on the other. Do the Harijan children not have eyes, nose, ears and brain? Do they come dirty or bring urine in bags due to which they are hated? 41 years have elapsed since our country got independence, but still the same feeling is pre-

[Shrimati Sunderwati Nawal Prabhakar] vailing that a Harijan remains a Harijans. A number of murders are taking place. How this carnage should be stopped? This is a very serious matter. Many persons are burnt alive and many are murdered and thrown into the river. Who is responsible for all this? Why stringent steps are not taken to stop these things. I would like to tell something about Pararia village which I visited along with two or three lady M.P.s. We saw that there are about 20 or 21 houses. The dispute arose about one girl who was going to her in-laws' house. I am giving you the fact. In the night, police went to the village and beat up and scared away all the young and old male members of the houses towards the jungle and after that they misbehave with the women. I don't understand why the poor Harijan women are tortured. They are not treated as women. They are our sisters and daughters and do have respect. On an enquiry, the police said that nothing had happened there. When we went to the police station to lodge a report, no one was there. When protectors themselves have become killers then who will extend protection. Who is above them. Our Parliament is above them and the representatives elected by lakhs and crores of people sit here. It should be decided here as to how atrocities being committed on women be minimised. Through newspapers in Delhi and by going there also we come to know as to how the women are tortured. This problem should be solved. After all, they also belong to this country and have the right to live. Many Members mentioned about the temples. Harijans are not allowed to enter temples and if they enter, then the place is washed with water and milk. Is there some one to see what is happening in villages and help the poor and do justice to them? No one has been paying attention towards them for years. If it is said that there should be a police post for the protection of Harijans, even in this a doubt arises. Because we have seen that if anyone goes to the police to lodge a report, he is beaten up, scared away and threatened with dire consequences. So where the poor will go? Half of the funds provided for Harijans are pocketed by the

middlemen. They never get the full amount of the assistance provided by the Government. In offices, they have to bribe peons and gate-keepers and thus they do not even get half of the amount. Just two or three days ago, Rajiv ji said in our meeting that why the quota reserved for Harijans is not completed. There may be some officials who do not pay attention towards this matter. I don't understand as to why it is so and for how long this will go on like this. Even today, our people are backward and in education also they are lagging behind. In foreign countries, when toilets are cleaned, the garbage is removed, the scavengers wear a clean dress and when they go home, they live there quite respectfully and comfortably along with other people. But in India, that position has not yet been attained. Only God can save Harijans from the traditional curse with which they have been putting up through the ages.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Charanjit Singh Athwal.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO: Sir, today some harijans were murdered by some people. So I want a statement from the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us finish this.

[Translation]

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH ATHWAL (Ropar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the time you have given me to speak.....

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are having a discussion regarding the atrocities being committed on Harijans, but I have got an information that 12 persons have been murdered in Jahabad.....

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH ATHWAL: It has been forty years since this country got independence. Most of the time, the Congress party has been in power at the Centre and in

most of the States also. Although it is correct that Opposition has also been in power in some States. But we as their representatives know that even after such a long time, there has been no improvement in the condition of Harijans. It is known from the extent of progress of Harijans that how far the Congress' Government has been serious about them both at the Centre and in the States. Even today, the posts are being dereserved. Who is responsible for this; who should be doubted? I think that the Government has done this deliberately because anti-Harijan persons are dominant in this Government and that is why posts are being dereserved. So far as A and B class posts reserved for Harijans are concerned, there is still a backlog. The Government has never been serious about their quota. If the Government has been serious, this situation would not have arisen. I am proud to say that in Punjab, when there was paucity of teachers, then our Government arranged special training for them and made them teachers and thus completed the backlog, but here neither any instruction has been given to complete the backlog nor any arrangements have been made imparting training to them. If the Government has been really concerned about Harijans then it should have done this. In villages, a person who has land, enjoys his self-respect, whether he is a Harijan or a rich man. But the Harijans in the village have not been given that land. It would be not wrong to say that the Harijans have been made a bone of contention. Some agents of the Government go and tell Harijans that they would get the landlord's land. On the other hand, they tell the Zamindar that the Harijan would usurp your land. As a result, bitterness is created between them. On paper, the Government allots the land to Harijans, but in actuality, that land remains in the possession of the Zamindar. First of all, there is boycott, then there is a fight and the Harijan is unable to take possession of the land, as the Zamindar does not let him do so. So there is a fight in the village. Then some agents of your party go there and say that our Government has allotted you land, but this landlord is not letting you to take its possession, because he belongs to an opposition

party. In this way, you politically exploit Harijans. They are already exploited economically. I want to say that even after 40 years of independence, you are exploiting Harijans only to get their votes. Allotment of land to them is shown on paper only, but in reality they never get possession. If the government had really been sincere about providing land to the Harijans, then it would have made such laws under which along with allotment the Harijans would have also got the possession of the land and they would have not to go to courts. First of all they don't have means to go to courts.

He does not have the manpower with the help of which he could forcibly take the possession of that land. That is why the Government has been making the Harijans of the Country a bone of contention just to take vote from them and befool them.

Had the Government been sincere, we could have overcome the deplorable condition of Harijans in service matters. Their position is very bad in services. Our Colleagues who have entered the Parliament on the basis of reservation know this thing very well. It is altogether a different thing that they are keeping mum having been bound by their party discipline. But they know that injustice is being done to the Harijans. An officer belonging to Harijan Community continues to be efficient, able and intelligent only upto the time his immediate boss remains unaware that he is reaching his (boss's) level. The moment the boss comes to know that the officer is reaching equal to his level, he becomes inefficient, corrupt and everything goes wrong with him. Allegations will start levelling against him. If there will be no other way left to take action against him, an application will be put against him with a view to stall his promotion. I came to know from the Department of Railways that as soon as an officer belonging to Scheduled Castes becomes due for promotion, a stay order is taken from the High Court by filing a writ petition and his promotion is stalled. When the stay is vacated, he is promoted not with retrospective effect but from a later date. Every time the same story is being

[Sh. Charanjit Singh Athwal] repeated. In this way officers belonging to Scheduled Castes are not being treated properly and their seniority is being disturbed. I am of the view that the Government did not pay due attention to this problem deliberately. There are innumerable boards, corporations and universities under the Government control. Though the Scheduled castes and Adivasis are being given due representation at the time of recruitment to various posts in Central Government Department's under the prescribed rules, yet their representation in the boards, corporations and universities which are about 2500 to 3000 in number, is not satisfactory. So far no Harijan has been made a member of any board.

I would like to know from the Government as to how many Harijans and Adivasis have been made members in various recruitment and promotion boards and Committees. Scheduled Caste candidate will feel satisfied when he will come to know that his candidature is being rejected by the board in which a member of his community is a bonafide member. I, therefore, request the Government to include members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in all such committees, boards and Corporations.

Now, the thing I want to know might affect the States Also. My point is that how many persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been made Minister in the Central Cabinet. How many of them are cabinet Ministers, how many are States Ministers and Deputy Ministers. When the Central Government does not give them proportionate representation what the States will do. The States will be influenced by the Centre. Today Rajivji is not here, otherwise I would have asked a question to him. The hon. Minister is sitting here. Could she be pleased to state as to how many persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes have been given berths in the Cabinet at the Centre. Until and unless the Central Government follows these norms at the centre, how it can

be expected from the State Government. When the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are included in the term of Ministers, they will induct person belonging to their communities as officers and when their own men will become officers they will not allow any atrocities to be committed on these communities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, after 40 years, of independence, posts meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are lying vacant and the persons belonging to these communities are not being recruited against these posts. The Heads of the Departments may be held guilty. If the posts in the universities are lying vacant, whether for clerks or for any other post, the Vice Chancellors of the universities should be asked as to why the posts are lying vacant and they should be held responsible for that.

I would like to submit that people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be made members in all universities, boards and Corporations. It is not enough that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given representation among the employees in these bodies, but these communities must also have political representatives in these bodies. This measure will do some good to these communities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know as to why no action has yet been taken against the Shankaracharya of Puri. He has done the worst thing. Everybody, who has some regard for human beings and who has some feeling for a man, feels that the Shankaracharya committed a wrong thing. Our constitution says that there is no ban on anybody entering a public place on the basis of caste, creed or religion. Then what action the Central or the State Government has taken against him. It should not be so that a private person filed a suit in the court and the Government say that it has filed a case. I would, therefore, like to know as to what the Government has done in this case and what action has it taken. Similarly, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be given proper representation in Public

schools also so that the Harijans could breathe free air and live happily in this new world. With these words, I express my thanks to you.

[English]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much that you have called me at the last moment to speak. So, I think I will not be able to conclude my speech today. That is my first submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get time to continue your speech later on.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter under discussion is, 'Atrocities on harijans'. Atrocities should not be committed on harijans but it does not mean that it should be committed on non-harijans. We have to take the matter in a proper perspective. In totality, we have to see the both sides of the coin. We have to condemn it. We have to take every possible measure to see that atrocities should not be committed on Harijans. Government should take more stringent measures to bring amend to the atrocities on harijans to an end.

Society is not static, it is dynamic. Every problem that is solved creates new problems. A number of provisions are there for the upliftment of the harijans. A number of laws have been enacted and the Government is looking forward for their upliftment. But there are so many inter-related and interconnected problems that we have to see and solve.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can continue next time.

15.31 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FIFTY FIFTH REPORT

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up

Item No. 16.

SHRI S. S. BHOYE (Mallgaon): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 10th August, 1988"

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 10th August, 1988."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bills for introduction.

PROF. P.J.KURIEN — Not present

Shri Jai Prakash Agrawal — Not present.

Shri Syed Shababuddin

15.31 1/2 hrs.

MUSLIM WOMEN (PROTECTION OF
RIGHTS ON DIVORCE) AMENDMENT
BILL

(Substitution of new long title for the
existing Long Title etc.)

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Muslim

[Mr. Chairman]
Women(Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.

The motion was adopted

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I introduce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Basavarajeswari — Not present

SHRI V. TULSIRAM —Not present.

15.32 hrs.

BANNING OF SMOKING BILLS

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for banning of smoking and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for banning of smoking and for matters connected therewith.

The motion was adopted

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 1/2 hrs.

PROHIBITION BILL

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for total prohibition and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a

Bill to provide for total prohibition and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The motion was adopted

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

YOUTH WELFARE BILL

[English]

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL (Belgaum): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive policy for the development of the youth in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive policy for the development of the youth in the country”.

The motion was adopted

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: I introduce the Bill.

15.33 1/2 hrs.

HUMAN RESOURCES (UTILISATION) BILL

[English]

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the utilisation of human resources in the best interests of the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the utilisation of human resources in the best interest of the country and for matters con-

nected therewith".

The motion was adopted

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of articles 74 and 163)

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I introduce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri V.S. Krishna Iyer
— Not present,

Prof. Madhu Dandavate— Not present.

PROMOTION OF SECULARISM BILL

[English]

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to strengthen secularism in India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to strengthen secularism in India".

The motion was adopted

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA: I introduce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri V.S. Krishna Iyer — Not present.

RIGHT TO REPLY IN THE PRESS BILL

[English]

SHRI V.N. GADGIL (Pune): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to give members of the public the right to reply to allegations made against them or mis-reporting or mis-representation concerning them in the press.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give members of the public the right to reply to allegations made against them or mis-reporting or mis-representation concerning them in the press."

The motion was adopted

SHRI V.N. GADGIL: I introduce the Bill.

RESERVATION OF POSTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND SEATS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (FOR ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTION OF PEOPLE) BILL - CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take up the following motion moved by Shri Ram Nagina Mishra on the 6th May, 1988, namely:

"That the Bill to provide for reservation of posts in Government services and seats in educational institutions for persons belonging to economi-

[Mr. Chairman]
cally weaker section of people, be
taken into consideration"

SHRI A.J.V.B. Maheshwara Rao.

[Translation]

*SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESHWARA RAO (Amalapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, The Bill introduced by Shri Ram Nagina Mishra to provide for reservation of posts in government services and seats in educational institutions for persons belonging to economically weaker sections of people is really laudable. Its intention is good but to realise this noble objective is indeed very difficult. It is possible only in socialistic countries. The gap between the haves and have nots can be bridged only when we adopt socialistic economy. In a country like ours which is based on mixed economy, it is not possible to wipe out the difference between haves and have nots. Our constitution has provided for reservation to the SC and ST persons keeping their alround backwardness in view. But though reservation was guaranteed under the constitution, it was not implemented properly for the past 40 years. In such circumstances it is nothing but day dreaming to provide reservation for the economically weaker sections and implement it faithfully. A new section is being sought to be created through this Bill. Once again, I repeat, that I am not against such a facility to the economically weaker sections. What I stress is that when we could not implement the reservation policy in the case of SCs and STs as guaranteed under the constitution, how can we think of doing justice to the economically weaker sections by creating reservation facility now. It is practically impossible. I want every one to think about this practical difficulty. In real terms, though we provide reservation for the economically backward, we will not be able to achieve much. As I said earlier, hunger is hunger wherever it may exist. The parags of hunger tease and torment everyone equally, be it a brahmin or a Harijan. But the differ-

ence between the two is that in Harijans in addition to a hungry stomach which craves for food, the social humiliation craves for better justice and honourable place in the society. Hence there is a significant difference in the poverty of a Brahmin and that of a Harijan. It is the humiliation which is more prominent than the poverty among Harijan. Sir, everybody we read about the atrocities that are being perpetrated on Harijans in every part of the country. Only a few moments ago, the House was discussing the atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis. The situation is so worse that Harijans are being denied entry into the temples even today. Ours is a caste ridden society. Politics and caste politics have complicated our society very much. In such a society as ours it is very difficult to do justice to those who are denied of it. Unless the government takes steps to implement the reservation policy strictly, the SC and ST people cannot expect any change in their present condition.

Sir, many brilliant personalities had emerged from the economically weaker sections in the past. A shining example is that of Ramanujam, the famous mathematician. They fought against many odds and achieved distinction. Poverty did not hinder their progress. Late Ramanujam was born in a poor family. He worked hard. He was a genius. He carved a niche for himself in the field of mathematics. Now the entire world regards him as the best mathematician born in this century. His life and achievements should serve as an example for everyone. There are many more such persons who have come from the economically weaker sections. The economically weaker sections have a rich talent which can be unearthed without much effort. The government should provide all possible help to this section of the people.

Sir, the negative policies adopted by the government during the past 40 years led us to a state where a person belonging to upper castes are made to seek reservation. Instead of taking people in the lower rung, to a

* Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Telugu.

higher level, the people who were at higher level were brought down a lower level seeking reservation facility. It is a tragedy. Instead of progress, what we achieved is retrogress. Instead of elevating the people at a lower level, people at higher level were made to fall down. In all respects it is negative achievement. Had the government been serious about establishing a socialistic pattern of society, it would have taken steps to lift the people belonging to lower rung to a higher rung. Had there been an alround development of the country, such kind of disparity would not have cropped up. Now it is being designed to provide for all those whose income is below Rs. 500/- per month. I support this move. More educational facilities and hostel facilities should be provided to the economically weaker sections. More help should be extended to the students by granting scholarships and making education free. The scholarship amount has to be doubled. New housing schemes etc. have to be taken up to help the economically weaker sections. Many facilities that are being given to Harijans should be extended to the economically weaker sections also. Various schemes and programmes shou'd be taken up so as to improve the economic conditions of this section of the people. If we implement a programme to provide employment guarantee programme, it will serve to a large extent to achieve the real objective of this Bill. Such a programme would really help the economically weaker sections.

Sir, before I conclude I once again request the government to take steps to improve the conditions of economically weaker sections and also to implement the reservation policy in the case of SCs and STs. Then only everyone in our society will be happy.

I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and conclude my speech.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): I would like to express my views on the Reservation of posts in Government Services and seats in educational institutions (for economically weaker sections of people) Bill, 1985 which has been brought

forward by Shri Ram Nagina Mishra.

Our constitution makers provided reservation to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes after deliberate thinking. The scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes are economically socially and politically backward. The Hindu Community has provided reservation for them in the services. Keeping in view that they are untouchables. The reservation policy which was provided by the constitution makers should continue further. The constitution makers had given 10 years time limit. We extended it three times by 10 years each time. I feel that we should extend the policy further till such time they become economically strong, make progress educationally and proceed ahead on the path of development. We should continue to provide them reservation upto that time. We should also provide reservation to M.L.As and M.Ps in addition to various privileges being extended to them. I would like to cite some instances of my state. Recently elections were held to Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads. None of the Chairman of the 27 Zilla Parishads belongs to Scheduled castes. Of course, one of the Zilla Parishads is being headed by a scheduled tribe person because the district is predominantly inhabited by scheduled tribes. Apart from that, no chairman in the remaining Zilla Parishads belongs to scheduled castes. Similarly no chairman in the Panchayat Samiti belongs to Scheduled Castes. At the same time the Panchayats under various Panchayat, Samitis have not been headed by a scheduled castes person. What I mean to say is that even today the position is so alarming that once reservation is withdrawn at the most 15 MPs from these communities could enter the Parliament and that too from the areas which are mostly inhabited by scheduled tribes. But people belonging to scheduled castes and tribes are so scattered that it will be difficult for a person belonging to scheduled castes to come elected to Parliament without reservation. What I mean to say is that it is very essential to have reservation.

In the Bill moved by him, Shri Mishra

[Sh. Virdhi Chander Jain] has pleaded for providing 50 per cent reservation in services to economically backward people and 40 per cent reservation to this category at the time of admission to various educational institutions. We can never agree to 50 per cent reservation for economically weaker section and 40 per cent seats in educational institutions for students above higher Sec. grade. This situation has not yet arisen. It is, however, suggested that the percentage of reservation as envisaged in our Constitution for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be maintained. I have deeply thought over the matter. We have undoubtedly formulated an Integrated Rural Development Programme specially for the weaker section of the people. Under this programme some provision for employment has been made in order to bring the people above the poverty line. In order to see that their financial position is good, we provide them with cows and buffaloes, so that they can earn their livelihood. We uplift them by imparting training to them in tailoring and by establishing carpet industry. But inspite of all this, they are unable to get the benefit of the facility of reservation of posts in services. I want that there should be a provision of 10 per cent reservation for those people, who are living below the poverty line both in rural and urban areas, whose annual family income is upto Rs. 5 thousand and who belong to the section other than Scheduled Castes. In addition, our programme known as I.R.D.P. can then also be fruitful. Otherwise we will not be able to implement the I.R.D.P. successfully. They have not been provided with such an employment and their economic condition has not improved. It has been said that we have brought 10 per cent people above the poverty line during the last ten years but the actual position is not so. Therefore, we will have to implement the I.R.D.P. very effectively. If we want to make this programme a success, we will have to make a provision for 10 per cent reservation in services for these people, no matter to which caste they belong, then only their economic condition can be improved and they can be brought above the poverty line. Otherwise we will not be able to bring them

above the poverty line. Whatever be our efforts in this direction, I.R.D.P. can never be successful in any way. Therefore, I am suggesting to the Central Government to get this matter examined and if it is found proper, a provision for 10 per cent reservation should be made. It will be an important step.

Secondly, I would like to point out that under the existing reservation policy, we find that if there is Scheduled Caste I.A.S. officer, his son also becomes an I.A.S. officer. A separate class of such people has come into existence. A class of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has come into being. But the economic condition of other Scheduled Caste people has not improved; they have not got employment till now. There is a class of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes the people belonging to which mostly becomes I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers. They all become high officers. The members of their families, specially take advantage of this policy but the people of other classes are not getting any benefit. I have observed in Rajasthan that the Bhil people are very poor. But there is not a single I.P.S. or I.A.S. officer among them. Meena is a Scheduled Tribe. Majority of I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers belong to that tribe. The condition of Bhil Scheduled is very bad. None of the members of that tribe could attain a higher post. We have to see how their economic condition can be ameliorated and how the economic and social conditions of the Scheduled Tribes who are very backward can be improved.

It has to be specially seen that how those communities among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which have lagged behind those who have attained social and economic prosperity can be brought at par with the latter. There are some classes which are lagging behind both educationally and socially. Such classes should be provided with some special facilities in the field of education and training so that the people belonging to them are also able to become I.P.S. and I.A.S. officers. They may get higher education and attain higher posts. We have to create such a condition.

We have taken many steps for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I just talked about I.R.D.P. Similarly we have launched the Desert Development Programme, R.L.E.G.P. and Hill Areas Development Programme to improve their economic condition. Along with bringing about improvement in their economic condition, we should also try to remove untouchability from our society. Such a type of education should be imparted in the educational Institutions which can remove the conservative ideas from the minds of children of conservative people. The feeling of discrimination in the mind of a man against a man should be ended. We will have to create such an atmosphere by bringing about changes in our educational system, so that untouchability is removed. No one should be considered low from social and economic point of view. The people belonging to the weaker section may be able to hold higher posts, may advance and feel that they enjoy equal position in the society and are inferior to none.

We have to create such an atmosphere in the society and in order to do so we should implement some time-bound programme through which we should eradicate poverty from the country during the next few years. We will have to solve the problem of unemployment in our country.

With these words on the Bill presented by Ram Nagina Mishra ji, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to this Bill is about to expire. How long do you want to continue?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: One hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With the leave of the House time is extended by one hour.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for this opportunity given to me to take part in his

debate. I am also thankful to Shri Ram Nagina Mishra for having brought this Bill to provide for reservation of posts in Government services and seats in educational institutions for persons belonging to economically weaker persons and sections of people.

The main purpose of my participation in this debate is to bring to the notice of this august House and also to the notice of the Government, a particular community, a total community which has been handicapped by economic backwardness; but they have been for some reasons listed as the general caste. The Manipuri community with its cultural background and attainments which is considered the most powerful, the most majority community in the Manipur State is in the general caste. It is neither a scheduled caste nor a scheduled tribe and in the context of that State, it is a very justified position. But in the context of the national scene, the Manipuri community stands as a small community, backward educationally and economically. But they have to compete with the rest of India, with the rest of the general castes in matters of public service commission competitions, say IAS, IPS or any All-India Service and also in the matter of State Service and appointments in the State Government, where the State Government is the only employment agency. There are no railways there, there are no big industries or even medium scale industries worth the name, only the Government offices and educational institutions run by the Government, they are the only employment agency. Here the competition is between the general caste and the other backward classes, which are though small, well protected by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes protection facilities. The result is that in the Government offices, Public undertakings, in the Secretariat, in all the departments there, the scene is very unbalanced. The upper strata of jobs like those of Commissioners and Secretaries in the Secretariat is dominated by, up to 90 per cent, the Scheduled Castes and Tribes with the so called majority community just manning the lowgrade posts and the lower state of the posts.

[Sh. N. Tombi Singh]

In this context, I would like to request the Government of India, particularly the Home Ministry to take note of this situation and to provide statutory protection to such a community. I have no idea of other communities in the other parts of the country, because our country is a vast country and there may be other such communities badly handicapped. Manipuris are in Assam, Manipuris are in Tripura and in some pockets of Bengal also they are also there, and here in Mathura also there are some pockets of Manipuris. The Manipuri community as a whole knows this protection.

I remember once when I came here as a member of the Fifty Lok Sabha, our late lamented Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi once asked me, "Are you from a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe?" and I replied "I do not belong to either of them". Then she said, that in many ways, I had to wait, jokingly, and also truthfully.

In some respect we do not differ much from the rest of the tribes there. The only historic background is that in that small State in the past we were the dominant community and our merger with the rest of the country took place only in 1949, on October 15th. Before that we were considered a ruling community, a very powerful community. In that context we did not also ask for inclusion in any of the protected classes. Now it is already too late because 38 years have passed and the Constitution has been functioning for 38 years.

16.00 hrs.

Then the Constitution was framed, we were yet to be merged with the mainstream of India because our merger with the Indian union took place only on 15th October 1949. So, naturally neither the Constitution framers take it seriously nor did we take it seriously. We wanted Manipuri language to be included in the Eighth Schedule and our demand is hanging fire even now. Sir, our language is as rich as other languages which are there in the Eighth Scheduled now. That

is a different story. What I would like to say is that some statutory provision should be brought forward to protect such communities, otherwise the whole community will be suffering because of this lamentable and pitiable disparity. There is no way out to solve this disparity in the absence of adequate statutory provisions.

As you know Sir, there has been of late upsurge and insurgency in Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and in the hill areas of Manipur. Even the security forces themselves found it difficult to subdue a kind of insurgency, which is known an urban insurgency and which is prevailing in Manipur community area, namely the Manipur valley.

The educated young boys and girls do not get any facility to compete with the rest of India and with their counterparts of the Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes. There might be many reasons for this. But the main reason for the educated unemployed in the urban areas in Manipur resorting to extremism and terrorism is the lack of employment facilities in the absence of statutory protection. They have put forward a number of slogans to justify their demands. This kind of upsurge could be subdued and controlled if we could provide statutory protection to these educated unemployed persons, who in many ways do not differ from their counterparts of scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to bring this to the notice of the Home Ministry and request that necessary protection measures should be brought forward early.

Sir, suggestions have been made that executive orders could be issued from time to time that some preference may be given to such communities. I feel this kind of protection measures would not be sufficient. Only a suitable amendment to the Constitution to this effect or a Bill to just categorize this kind of communities will meet the requirement. There may be other communities also in this country which require this kind of statutory protection. Statutory protection is necessary to protect this community from the present handicap.

Although it is a private member's Bill, it has got tremendous impact and relevance in the present day society because all our development measures have not been able to reach the weaker sections, particularly in the backward areas. Even in the advanced society, say in a brahmin family, so called advanced community, there are economically poor people. When it is applicable to the total community, this measures should be very special.

Sir, this problem is tremendous and I hope the Government will take necessary measures to remove this handicap.

I thank Shri Ram Nagina Mishra for having brought forward this Bill and I support this Bill.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): I am grateful to you for permitting me to say a few words on the Bill brought forward by my hon. colleague, Shri Ram Nagina Mishra. I am grateful to Shri Mishra that he has provided us an opportunity to debate whether we should continue with the present policy of reservation of SCs & STs or we should make some changes in it so that poorer sections in higher castes may also have the scope of reservation.

Mr. Mishra and other colleagues of mine have already pointed out that the poorer sections of the people are not confined in SC & ST community only, but they are there in higher class society also and, therefore, some reservation or some facility should be provided to the poorer sections of the people whether they are in the SC & ST community or in higher class society. But this is a matter of debate. Of course, I agree with Mr. Mishra that our Government's policy is to uplift the down-trodden masses in the society in whichever class they are. Here I would like to point out one thing. Even after 41 years of independence and reservations both in educational institutions and in services, what is the percentage of SC & ST

people who have been provided with employment or imparted education? It is hardly 2 per cent. In such circumstances, should we go beyond this policy of reservations for SC & ST by withdrawing it and giving it to the poorer sections of people, it is a matter of debate. In engineering, medical and other colleges we make some reservations for SC & ST people. But how many SC & ST people avail of this facility? Our experience is that because of their poverty, they are not able to avail the of this facility. If we lift this reservation policy, do you think that these poor people be able to get their children educated? I think, they will not. In employment also we find that even the reservation quota is not filled because of the fact that not many educated persons are available in these communities. So by lifting the reservation policy we will not be able to implement our motto or policy to uplift the down-trodden people among the lowest classes. On the other hand, if we make reservations for poorer people in whichever class he is, then for limited number of posts, there will be a heavy rush. Now what we find is that for one post, thousands, even lakhs of people are anxious to get it. So, unless we mobilise our resources and create more employment potential, if we go on making reservations for more and more people, it will be of no use. Very humbly I would submit before this august House that it will be nothing but distribution of poverty.

[*Translation*]

What I mean is, these steps have now been taken to disperse poverty.

[*English*]

Because if we go on making reservations for more and more people to be educated, without creating more educational institutions, then it will bear no fruit.

16.11 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Very small percentage of people can get

[Sh. Chintamani Jena]
education from the existing institutions. So; the whole thing should be thought about. Unless we mobilise our resources, we should not think of withdrawing the reservation from SCs/STs and extending it to the poorer sections of the society.

In this connection, it is really heartening that our present Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, with his foresight and realising the problem that our country is going to face, has introduced the New Education Policy which can provide vocational training in many ways so that self-employment can be provided to the students who will get education under the new system. Similarly, for giving good education to the poorer sections of the people in the rural areas, *Navodaya Vidyalayas* are going to be set up. The children of SCs/STs can be educated in *Navodaya Vidyalayas* which will provide them self-employment, in future. Besides, we know that the present government, under the leadership of our dynamic Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, has created so many employment potentials. My other hon. friends have already spoken about this, so, I will not consume much time on this issue. Through RLEGP, NREP, IRDP and similar other schemes, more and more employment potential is being created. So, I would request my friend Mr. Mishra not to insist on passing this Bill because this is not the proper time for this. We know that in 1980, when the period of reservation was going to be over, the Janata Government did not take any action to extend the period. It is only after the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi came to power that she had extended the time by ten years. So, this is the attitude of our Government and our Party. Therefore, I would say that none else than the Congress (I) Government is thinking seriously about the upliftment of the poorer sections of the society. This I can say with courage and boldness. So, I would say that this is not the proper time for this Bill to be passed. Just now this House was debating about the atrocities on Harijans and Tribals. What trans-

pired from the speeches of the hon. Members from various parts of the country is that the atrocities are still going on.

Even if there are all sorts of protection of the Government to these people, because of their poverty, because of their lack of education, they would not be getting so much of protection as we thought earlier. So, this is not the time to bring this Bill and get it passed so that the percentage of reservations will be extended to the poorer sections of the society. It is necessary no doubt, but this is not the time. Rather, I must say that this type of reservations could be effected after 10 years so that some sizeable sections of the people in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes could be uplifted in the meanwhile and thereafter we will think of extending reservations to the poorer sections of the society belonging to upper classes. With these words, I thank you very much.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI LAKSHMAN MALICK (Jagatsingh Pur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the House is debating the Bill moved by Shri Ramnagina Mishra in the last part of the Budget Session. Many hon. Members have expressed their opinion on this Bill. I have read this Bill carefully and I have listened to all Hon. Members who have spoken on this Bill so far. Now we have to think as to what made hon. Members Shri Mishra to move this Bill. We have to correctly assess his intention. While moving his Bill Shri Mishra has said that the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes have achieved some benefit out of the reservation facilities provided to them. But there are some sections of the people who are not getting reservation facilities. The SC & ST, whether they are rich or poor are getting the benefit out of the reservation facilities. Some of them are able to improve their standard of living. The rich people belonging to SC & ST are getting richer. But there is another section of the people living in the same society. They are not SC & ST. Many of them are poor. As no

* Translation of the speech was Originally delivered in Oriya

facility is available for their economic upliftment they are getting poorer day by day. These two classes of people are being created in our society, the richer and the poorer. Shri Mishra has expressed his deep concern for the poorer people. In this Bill he has expressed his sympathy for the weaker section of the society. He wants that the reservation facility be provided for the weaker section of the society also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request to the hon. Member to think about the situation during the pre-independence days. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, felt very much when he came across the Harijans and Adivasis. He felt the need of the upliftment of these down trodden people. After the country achieved Independence he could not remain with us for a long time. But the constitution maker Dr. Ambedkar on consultation with Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and other prominent leaders made a provision on the constitution to provide reservation for SC & ST. Smt. Indira Gandhi laid much emphasis on the implementation of reservation policy. She took every possible step for the upliftment of these people. Therefore, we know why and how the Reservation facilities have been provided for SC & ST. As I said on the begining, quite a good number of people belong to SC & ST have got the benefit of reservation facilities. Through different schemes and programmes a large chunk of allocation has gone to the states in order to provide benefit to the SC & ST. But it is regrettable that the benefit does not reached all the SC & ST. They have not come upto the desived level. Therefore it is necessary that the reservation facilities be continued. All sections of the people should see that SC & ST are able to make all round progress. If the SC & ST remain backward, the society cannot be called a fufledged society. So, the Hon. Members belonging to different party and different school of ideology should see to it that the schemes meant for SC & ST are effectively implemented.

Sir, 40 years have passed since we achieved Independence. It was expected that by providing reservation facility we can

bring the SC & ST at par with the other section of the society. But it is unfortunate that the dream of the constitution makers have not become successful entirely. The SC & ST people living in the far flung areas are still passing the days in great misery. It is a matter of great concern for all of us. I thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi who is very particular about all sections of the people in our country. He had convened a meeting of all the SC & ST Members on this 10th August. The Chief Ministers of all the States were invited to that meeting. In that meeting he invited suggestions from all the SC & ST Members and Chief Ministers as to how the interest of SC & ST can be protected on every respect. He asked how reservation of posts can be filled by SC & ST candidates only. He asked the Chief Ministers as to how reservation facility could be provided to them on the educational institutions. He under lined the need to educate all the SC & ST. He also said that the programmes pertaining of to SC & ST should be effectively implemented. Many Hon. Members expressed their opinion on the present condition of SC & ST. They gave some valuable suggestions. I do not want to discuss the present situation of the country. Everybody is aware that the country is passing through crisis. In such a situation it is our collective responsibility to think for the upliftment of SC & ST. Our Prime Minister is very much concerned for them.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not say a word about the atrocities on Harijan & Adivasis. The House was discussing this issue only a few minutes ago. You know the Sentiments expressed by all sections of the House on the recent shameful incidents that took place in some parts of the country. Therefore it is very necessary to provide protection to SC & ST at all spheres. As I said, a meeting was convened by the Prime Minister on 10th August last. It was decided that programmes would be drawn up at the state level for the all round development of SC & ST. Due protection would be given to them at any cost. We will have to identify the lacunae of our reservation policy and steps should be taken to rectify them. Now a word

[Sh. Lakshman Mallick]
about the different centrally sponsored scheme. As you know Sir, the fund allocated for those schemes are being misutilised and misappropriated by the middle men. Due to the apathetic attitude of the bureaucrats the schemes are not being implemented effectively. Then how can the SC & ST people will get cent per cent benefit out of those schemes? It is also unfortunate that the fund is sometimes being diverted to other department. Therefore all these irregularities should be stopped forth with.

Sir, Shri Ram Nagina Mishra has brought this Bill with a noble intentions. But it may create doubt in the minds of the SC & ST people. They may think that the reservation facility may be withdrawn. Therefore by adopting Bill we should not unnecessarily create this impression that reservation facility may be withdrawn. Therefore by adopting Bill we should not unnecessarily create this impress among those people.

Lastly, Sir, I am equally concerned for the weaker section of the society. I too want that they make equal progress. The poor people belonging to all section of the society should get justice. They should make progress in every sphere. If we want that, we have to see that the programmes introduced for the weaker section of the society are properly implemented. Each five years plan leaves behind huge backlog of unemployment. Whether they are SC & ST or other weaker section of the society, all should be provided with employment. The employment generation schemes should be effectively implemented and it will benefit all section of the people in our society.

I would once again like to say that though the Bill has been moved by Shri Ram Nagina Mishra with noble intentions it will not crate noble impression among all section of the people. Therefore, I request Shri Mishra to withdraw his Bill. With these words I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHNADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I express my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important Private Members Bill. I congratulate Mr. Ram Nagina Mishra for introducing this Bill thereby giving the opportunity for this House to discuss this important Bill.

You are aware that several thousands of students all over the country as well as the educated youth are very much engaged in this very discussion whether this reservation policy as it is implemented right at the moment should be continued for ever or should there be a change. That is the discussion that is going on throughout the country.

I broadly agree with the objects and reasons with which this Bill is introduced by the hon. Member.

Every sentence is true. I also agree with the criterion of Rs. 6000/- annual income that has been suggested by the hon. Member. In fact, our Government of India also is taking the limit of Rs. 6,000/- per annum income as the poverty line and under the IRDP and several other programmes, the beneficiaries should be within this Rs. 6,000/- income and in our State of Andhra Pradesh also, our Government is giving the benefit of Rs. 2/- per kg rice scheme or the permanent housing and subsidised cloth scheme only to those poorer sections with an annual income of Rs. 6,000/-. I also agree with this aspect. I feel that this is not the right time to do away with the present reservations. I feel this because even though the social and economic conditions of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes have changed to some extent but we have to agree that they have not changed to the extent to which the change should take place and a very classic illustration is that, even after 40 years of independence, in spite of constitutional safeguards, the mere fact that some Harijans could not enter some Hindu temples in some parts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh is an indication of the state of af-

fairs. Of course, after all, the entire country's attention is drawn towards that issue. A good thing has taken place at Nathdwara where, the Harijans are allowed into the temple. It is a good thing. But it took many days.

Even now unfortunately a great sage Puri Shankaracharya is supporting that Harijans should not be permitted into the temples.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Why do you use the adjective great?

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: I do not know why the Government is not taking action against that man.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Why do you use the adjective?

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: It is causing lot of hear-burning to all Harijans in the country.

The conditions of the tribals is still worse. It is only after the Naxalite movement has started in parts of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal that they have realised the seriousness of the problem. They were living in sub-human and inhuman conditions. They were exploited and afterwards Government has taken several measures. I do appreciate. But, even now, there is a lot more to be done for the betterment of Scheduled Tribes people. It is no wonder that all these schemes are only on paper. Practically much benefit is not reaching those tribal people in parts of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh because of which they are frequently meeting. Even the legislators and Members of Parliament are also expressing the view that a separate tribal State may be formed comprising these tribal areas so that ultimately they can better take care of themselves. The actual position is that they are not very sure that this Government will deliver the goods for their uplift.

Sir, this matter of introducing the reservation had a long background. You are aware that there were days when Harijans were not allowed to walk with chappals in the villages. There were days when they were not permitted to draw drinking-water from the well in the villages. They were not allowed to stay in the villages and were asked to stay in very far off places so that even the breeze should not reach these upper caste people. If anybody tried to learn education, then his tongue was cut. Such were the brutal days. Of course, they were by-gone days. There were such days. Even before Mahatma Gandhi took up the cause of Harijans uplift, when Shri Raja ji was the Chairman of Salem Municipality, in those days, he took the decision to make available the public water system to the Harijans. At that time, the upper caste people found fault even with Shri Rajaji. Keeping this long background, in those days even when the British were there, this reservation policy had come into being. In the year 1984, for the first time, the British Government had given an order giving preference to people belong to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community in the matter of jobs. When the progress was reviewed in 1942, it was found that not much progress was made and that policy did not actually help a good number of people belong to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community. In August, 1943, the British Government reserved 8 1/3 per cent to Scheduled Caste people. In 1946, it was enhanced to 12 1/2 per cent and after our Constitution came into being, now the Scheduled Caste people are given 15 per cent and the Scheduled Tribes, 7 1/2 per cent.

Sir, in the Constitution, under Article 340, actually people belonging to other weaker sections — backward class people — are also eligible to get this benefit of reservation along with the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. But, unfortunately, their case was neglected. In the year, 1935, Kaka Kalelkar Commission submitted its report. Similarly, the Mandal Commission, appointed by the Janata Government, also submitted its report after touring the

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

entire length and breadth of this country. It has made indepth study into this problem of identifying the backward class and made some suggestion. It submitted its report in 1980. But, unfortunately, a decision has not yet been taken.

Sir, in some State Governments, there is reservation to backward class people, poor people in the matter of jobs and reservation of seats in the Educational Institutions. For example, in Andhra Pradesh, our Government is giving 25 per cent reservation. In Bihar, it is 26 per cent. In Karnataka, it is 40 per cent. In Kerala, it is 40 per cent. In Tamil Nadu, it is 31 per cent and in Maharashtra, 10 per cent reservation is there in the matter of jobs. But unfortunately in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam, this facility is not given to the backward class people. Our Andhra Pradesh Government, some time back, has taken a decision to reserve 33 per cent of the jobs which can be done by women alone in a better way than men, for women candidates. Therefore, the stage has come where we have to take a fresh look.

Unfortunately, what is happening is that, this facility of reservation in jobs is going to the children of the officers, IAS and other big officers drawing salaries in some thousands of rupees per month and sometimes of MLAs and MPs, to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but whose parents are already socially, economically and educationally forward. This is causing a lot of heart-burning. While the poor people belonging to the same caste coming from rural areas, because their children could not get so many marks, are denied the opportunities, the children of the officers are getting the opportunities. So, a fresh look should be taken. I suggest to the Government to come with some amendment so that the 15 per cent reservation to the Scheduled Castes may continue, the 7 1/2 per cent reservation to the Scheduled Tribes may continue, for some more time. We have no objection to that. But let that facility go only to those children whose parents have

an annual income of less than Rs. 6,000 per family. This amendment should be brought. Otherwise, a lot of heart-burning is taking place and in the University campuses also there is a lot of dissatisfaction.

Even in the matter of scholarships, the Government is giving more amount to the ST boys whereas a lesser amount is given to the BC and EBC boys. Making such a discrimination at that tender age among the student community is causing a lot of anxiety and friction, many a time resulting in law and order problem and unrest in campuses. This type of discrimination should not be there. You calculate what is the minimum requirement of a student to pursue his or her education and you give that amount, whether the person belongs to the SC or ST or BC community.

Reservation in promotion in service is really harmful and is causing a lot of damage. Suppose two persons have joined the service at the same time and you promote the one belonging to the ST just because he belongs to the ST irrespective of merit or efficiency or seriously in service and he goes over the shoulder of his other colleague, that is killing the individual initiative of a large number of officials as well as employees. Can't you do away with this? If there are two persons having the same service and the same efficiency, you may give preference to the person belonging to the SC or the ST.

I would also suggest that Government should come forward with an amendment to the Constitution to provide a certain percentage of reservation to BC and EBC also, to some extent, depending upon the income—for those with an annual income less than Rs. 6,000. I suggest to the Government: during the coming 1991 census, kindly take into account all aspects, the social, economic and educational condition of the entire population, and based upon that census which will give a clear picture about their position, how far those people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, have made a progress, you decide. Of course, because of our

NREP, RLEGP, IRDP, and other programmes, definitely some changes are coming. Their conditions are improving. But let the census be the criteria to determine whether we can do away with the present Bill of reservation basing upon the caste along or we can make an amendment where the reservations should be confined to taking upon the economic status as the criteria irrespective of whichever caste one belongs to. I request the Government to certainly take the census operations in such a way so that it will really help in coming to a correct decision, a wiser decision. Even the Framers of our Constitution, fathers of our Constitution did not wish reservation to be a permanent phenomena. They did not wish it a permanent feature. So, I request the Government to make necessary amendments taking upon the census figures and statistics. With these words, I thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words on the Bill moved by Shri Ram Nagina Mishra. I have listened to the speeches made by some hon. Members on this Bill. Some of them have expressed the fear that the reservation facility provided to S.C. & S.T. will be withdrawn if this Bill is passed. But this is a wrong impression. As I understand, Shri Mishra has no such intention. This Bill seeks to provide reservation to the weaker section of the society on services and in the educational institutions. It is the duty of the government to improve the condition of the weaker section of the society. But the government is not able to remove the poverty of the people. Even if the Bill is passed it cannot provide reservation to the weaker section of the society in services. Because there are certain lacunae in this Bill. Firstly, the S.C. & S.T. people are also weaker section of the society. Many of them are poor. So the weaker section and the poor people are not clearly defined on the Bill. Secondly it is mentioned in the statement and objects of Reasons that 50% of seats should be reserved for the weaker section of

* Translation of the speech was Originally delivered in Oriya.

the society. As provision has been made in the constitution 50% of seats to the maximum can be reserved for S.C. & S.T. Then what percentage remains after giving 22% of 1/2 seats to S.C. & S.T. and 50% to the weaker section? Thirdly, 85% of the total population on the country are poor. Then how can he says that 40% of seats be reserved for the poor and weaker section on the educational institutions. The number of poor people in the society exceeds the S.C. & S.T. population. So, the government can not accept the suggestions of the hon. Member Shri Ram Nagina Mishra. It is a fact that Shri Mishra has high lighted the problems of the weaker section on the House, through this Bill. Is the government since, only thinking about the upliftment of the poor people? In this context, I would like to refer to the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of S.C. & S.T. to this House on 1982. One of those recommendations was to identify the poor people in the country for that the Committee had suggested that of a family diary or family panjika be issued to every people on the country. The details of property earned, the sources of his income, his landed property etc. were to be found place on that Panjika. The name, number and the occupation of each family member were also to be mentioned therein. But it is regrettable that the government did not accept those recommendations. Then how can the government adopt the Bill of Shri Ram Nagina Mishra? Why the government did not accept the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of S.C. & S.T.? What is the reason behind it? It is very simple. The government is in the favour of capitalisam. Now also, systematic attempt is being made to set up a capitalist government. If the government is really interested to set up a socialistic pattern of society, it should first of all fix ceiling on property. Only one member of a family should be provided a job, one family should have only one House. The people having more than one House should be surrender their surplus houses to the government. If the government really implements these suggestions, I will say that this government has an attitude

[Shri Anadi Charan Das]
to set up a socialistic pattern of society. But this government has really sympathy for the weaker section of the society.

Sir, the Bill of Shri Ram Nagina Mishra is a misleading one. It has created mixed reaction and controversy among the S.C. & S.T. as well as people on general including the weaker section of the society. Though it is said that Shri Mishra has moved his Bill with a noble intention, but the S.C. & S.T. Members feel that this is an indirect attempt to cut their throats.

Sir, it has been said that reservation facility was originally provided for 10 years. Subsequently it was extended by another 10 years and in this way it is extended. Is it a mercy on S.C. & S.T.? But what about government services? The constitution has made the reservation in government service. You cannot withdraw this facility. If it would have been mentioned in the Bill regarding withdrawal of reservation on government service it would have different repercussion. Therefore, I would like to say that this Bill will not help the weaker section too. Shri Mishra should have been brought a comprehensive Bill if he really wants the upliftment of weaker section. I request Shri Mishra to withdraw his Bill and with these words I conclude my speech.

16.45 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: MEMORANDUM OF
SETTLEMENT ON TRIPURA**

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(S. BUTA SINGH):** Sir, Hon. Members of this august House would be very happy to know that a 'Memorandum of Settlement' has been signed today ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am allowing only the Minister to go on record ... (*Interruptions*) ... Order, please. Except the

Minister's statement, nothing will go on record.

S. BUTA SINGH: Hon'ble Members of this august House would be very happy to know that a 'Memorandum of Settlement' has been signed today with the Tripura National Volunteer (TNV) which brings to an end the insurgency and violence in Tripura. This 'Memorandum of Settlement' has been signed by the Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Home Affairs on behalf of the Government of India, Chief Secretary, Tripura on behalf of the Government of Tripura and Shri B.K. Hrangkhawl and five of his colleagues on behalf of TNV. This Agreement has been signed in Delhi in the presence of Governor of Tripura and the Chief Minister of Tripura. Copies of the Memorandum have been placed on the Table of the House.

To recapitulate the events leading to this settlement, Shri B.K. Hrangkhawl, President, TNV addressed a letter to the Governor of Tripura in May, 1988 intimating that keeping in view the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's policy of solution of problems through negotiations, the TNV has decided to abjure violence as a means of resolution of Tripura's problems and to sit together with the representatives of the Government of India, for a peaceful solution of the problems. He also acknowledged Tripura as an integral part of India and his commitment to a solution of all the problems within the framework of the Constitution of India. The bye-laws of TNV were amended so as to conform to the laws in force. The Government of India have, therefore, cancelled today the notification declaring TNV as an 'Unlawful Association' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

As the House is aware, the policy of the Government of India in regard to holding talks with the extremist groups operating in the North-East is that they should fulfil two pre-conditions, namely, such talks should be held within the framework of the Constitution of India and that violent activities must cease. Since these two pre-conditions were

fulfilled, talks were started with the TNV delegation at the initiative of the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the talks culminated in the 'Memorandum of Settlement'.

I am sure the Hon'ble Members would join me in complimenting Shri B.K. Hrangkhawal and his colleagues in the TNV for having shown wisdom, courage and statesmanship in choosing the path of peaceful talks to solve their problems. This reflects their genuine concern for the welfare and development of the tribals and their conviction that today, there exists a climate in Tripura where the State Government is appreciative of and responsive to the real needs of the tribals and is genuinely committed to their welfare. In this context, it has to be acknowledged that the extremist activities in Tripura were embedded in tribal discontent. The Government of India have always been alive and most sympathetic to the problems of the tribal people. With the assumption of office by the new Government in the State of Tripura in February this year, the tribals themselves became partners in the running of the Government of the State. In the changed atmosphere, the TNV realised that their objectives could be achieved through the democratic political process and that the welfare of the tribal people would be advanced by the members of the TNV joining the mainstream of society. The Governor of Tripura and the State Government were quick to respond to their offer of talks and recommended the same to the Central Government. The Central Government, committed as it is to the cause of tribal welfare, constituted a negotiating team under the leadership of Shri P.P. Shrivastav, Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry and formal talks commenced. The State Government was also associated with the talks. These were held in a very cordial atmosphere and with a spirit of understanding and of give and take on both sides. I would take this opportunity to place on record our appreciation to the TNV leadership and our delegation for having concluded the talks in a most satisfactory manner and in a record time.

The Memorandum of Settlement on Tripura envisages the following steps by TNV:

- (a) The TNV undertakes to take all necessary steps to end all activities and to bring out all undergrounds of the TNV with their arms, ammunition and equipment within one month of signing of this Memorandum. Details for giving effect to this part of Settlement will be worked out and implemented under the supervision of the Central Government. The TNV further undertakes to ensure that it does not resort to violence and to help in restoration of amity between different sections of the population.
- (b) The TNV undertakes not to extend any support to any other extremist groups by way of training, supply of arms or providing protection or in any other manner.

It has been provided in the Memorandum that the Central Government will take steps for the resettlement and rehabilitation of underground TNV personnel coming overground. In order to allay the apprehension of the tribals about the infiltration of foreign nationals the Memorandum provides that Government will take steps to prevent further infiltration from across the border by strengthening arrangements on the border; construction of roads along vulnerable sections of Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura and vigorous action against such infiltrators under the law. With a view to satisfying the aspirations of the tribals of Tripura for a greater share in the governance of the State, the Memorandum provides that the Government will introduce an amendment to the Constitution and to the Representation of the People Act, 1950 providing for reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes in the Tripura Assembly at the present level. Incidentally, this step would be in keeping with

[S. Buta Singh]
the Constitution (Fifty seventh Amendment)
Act, 1987.

In addition, I would like to mention the following salient features of the Memorandum:

- (i) The Government will take measures for effective restoration of alienated lands to the tribals including review of the applications rejected earlier and prevention of fresh alienation, provision of soil conservation and irrigation facilities in tribal areas and strengthening of the agricultural credit system and also provide an appropriate agency with adequate tribal representation
- (ii) Tribal majority villages which now fall outside the Autonomous District Council area and are contiguous to such areas will be included in the 'Autonomous District and similarly placed non-tribal majority villages may be excluded from Autonomous District.
- (iii) All India Radio will increase the duration of tribal programmes in Tribal languages of Tripura and additional transmitting stations would be provided to cover the remote areas of the State.

Measures for long term development of Tripura will also be taken. These include intensive skill-formation programmes for the tribal youth to improve their prospects of employment including self-employment in various trades; special intensive recruitment drives for police and para-military forces in Tripura with a view to enlisting as many tribal youth as possible; and sympathetic consideration of demands relating to self-employment of tribals. 2,500 Jhumia families will be rehabilitated in five centres or more in accordance with model schemes based on agriculture, horticulture etc., with a view to

weaning them from Jhum cultivation. The scheme would also provide for housing assistance. In the Autonomous District Council area of Tripura, rice, salt and kerosene will be given at subsidised rates during the lean months for a period of three years. Conscious efforts will be made for effective implementation on of the Sixth Schedule so far as it relates to Tripura.

As would be seen, the thrust of this Settlement has been on safeguarding the interests of the tribals. Long term normalcy and harmony would depend on the rate of economic development and equitable distribution of its benefits to the people. I fervently hope that the Memorandum will prepare the tribals of Tripura, who have endured hardships, to become equal partners in progress and face the challenges of development. I am sure that this Memorandum, while reflecting the aspirations of the tribals, would act as a catalyst for strengthening the relations between tribals and non-tribals and make them equal participants in the progress of our country.

This Settlement is bound to have a salutary effect in the sensitive North Eastern Region. The Government appreciate the understanding, patience and cooperation extended by the Chief Minister, Tripura and the State Government of Tripura during the talks. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention the signal contribution made by the Government of Tripura in bringing about this Settlement. He has been instrumental in preparing the ground for the talks and steering the course of negotiations. I am sure, the Hon'ble Members would also join me in complimenting them and the two delegations for their achievement in arriving at a negotiated settlement. On our part, the Government of India and the Government of Tripura will spare no effort to implement this Settlement.

I earnestly hope that like the Memorandum of Settlement on Mizoram, which has been successful in eliminating extremist violence in Mizoram, this Settlement will also bring to an end the chapter of extremist

violence in Tripura and pave the way for all-round development of Tripura, and for amity and goodwill among the various sections of the heterogenous population of Tripura.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): We want a discussion on the statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give it in writing. We will see.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): We have given notice. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will consider.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): I ask you that there should be a discussion on this Memorandum of Understanding. We have given notice. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told you to give it in writing. Then I will consider...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, as a special case, I am allowing Prof. Madhu Dandavate to introduce the Private Members' Bills.

16.58 1/2 hrs.

**PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION
(AMENDMENT) BILL
(Omission of Section 6)**

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the

Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I introduce the Bill.

16.59 hrs.

AGRICULTURISTS' LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of Section 4)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I introduce the Bill.

16.59 1/2 hrs.

INDIAN FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of Section 3, etc.)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I introduce the Bill.

RESERVATION OF POSTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND SEATS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (FOR ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTION OF PEOPLE) BILL—CONTD

[*English*]

ME. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is already 5 o'clock. The Minister has to intervene and the mover has also to reply. Besides, there are some Members who want to speak on this. If the House agrees, we will extend the time for this Bill by another hour.

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We extend the time for one more hour.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMMODI LAL JATAV (Morena): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you giving me time to speak on the Bill presented by hon. Mishraji.

I want to tell Mishraji that he has proposed to abolish reservation for Harijans and Adivasis. First of all, I want to ask him to see whether Harijans and Adivasis have been provided with all the facilities. If his reply is in the affirmative, I shall urge the Government to do away with the reservation for such people. also want to know from Mishraji whether reservation quota for Harijans has been fulfilled in his region? How many Harijans there are Collectors, S.Ps, Engineers and doctors? If the reservation quota has not been completed then...

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: It is no

where stated that reservation should be abolished. You should modify your statement.

SHRI KAMMODI LAL JATAV: He has pointed out my mistake, I shall like to be excused for the same.

Most of the information which I have got is about my own region. At many places whether it is an educational or other institution, the quota reserved for Harijans has not been completed. I have seen many times that the posting orders issued to Harijans at Adivasis the name as given on the cover is Ram Parkash whereas inside it is Om Parkash. The name of the village as given on the cover is 'Hara' whereas inside it is 'Vana'. Such orders do not reach the people in time. In many cases such orders reach them late and when they go there along with these orders they are told that the orders have lapsed. In this way too, the reservation quota is not completed.

Sometime back when atrocities on Harijans were being discussed here I had stated that Harijans do not get the full amount of the scholarship which is granted to them and they have to face a lot of difficulty in this regard. What I mean to say is that the Government should pay more attention to the matter of scholarship.

Mr. Mishra has since clarified the position, with these words, I support the Bill and conclude.

[*English*]

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): Sir, with due respect to the Hon. Member, Shri Mishra I differ from this Bill. The concept, the philosophy of the Bill is for the betterment of the poor classes of the country but we all know the reality. The poor classes are exploited by the upper class people; both economically and socially. Unless we give them better opportunity of job which will give a feeling of economic security to them, we will not be able to uplift that class. Our learned Members in the

Constituent Assembly had a long debate on this point and later on when the Constitution of free India was drafted this fact was incorporated in Article 15 which says;

"Nothing in this article or in Clause (2) of article 29 shall prevent the state from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizen or for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

This was added in the constitution first Amendment Act, 1951, in order to further strengthen this argument.

Despite all the industrial revolution and the mass literacy programme, the mental attitude of the people towards the harijans and adivasis has not changed. Though there is poverty in other classes also but feudalism is there in our society. They are the persons who are ruling over the harijans and adivasis. That is why Shri Gajendra Gadkar, the Supreme Court Justice, in one of the judgement said;

"Class according to the dictionary meaning shows the division of society according to status, rank or caste in the Hindu social structure, caste unfortunately has an important bearing in determining the status of the citizen"

This is the reality, Sir. So, although the Government has the moral obligation and social obligation for the upliftment of the poor classes of the country, the situation is that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes brothers mentally have an insecurity feeling. For pretty long time they have been deprived of their economic, social and constitutional rights. So, more attention should be paid towards them. This was the main concept before the Constituent Assembly and this has been incorporated in the constitution.

Sir, today we are discussing about the atrocities being committed on harijans. We have heard the anguish and anger of not only the harijans but of members belonging

to other class also. These people are suffering from a sense of insecurity. We have to provide them a sense of security.

The other point is that until and unless they become the owner of the land, they will not be benefited. For these speedy land reforms measures should be implemented. Until and unless we increase the percentage of job for them, they will always be deprived of the economic advancement. I do agree that this bill is brought with good intentions and we have a duty towards economically weaker sections. I also realise that today, people are getting rather emotionally disturbed over this issue of calls. But apart from all these things, in the larger interests of our moral and constitutional commitments, we should give top-most priority to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Any Bill or anything which hampers their progress or comes in the way of their development should not be encouraged. Therefore, I request the hon. member to withdraw this Bill for the present. From constitutional point of view also, it is possible so implement the provision of this Bill, only if there is a constitutional amendment. Otherwise, simply through a Bill of this nature, the provisions cannot be implemented. Therefore Sir, from all these points, I feel that this Bill should be withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Please give me three minutes Sir,

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry. We have already extended the time for this Bill twice before. You can speak on the next Bill. Please sit down. Mr. Kurup also wanted to speak. He was also not given a chance.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker: Sir, I am sorry some other members are unable to express

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their views. I do hope that there will be another opportunity for them to express their views.

Sir, the debate has ranged over a very vast ground. But as hon. members would have noticed, there is no unanimity of view whether in today's conditions, you can introduce economic criterion as a sole measure of providing reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the people.

Sir, I do not wish to trace the history of reservations in this country. It is well known that it was the Congress and the Government of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru which first recognised the need for providing constitutional sanction for reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes. In fact, hon. members will remember the famous communal G.O. in the then State of Madras which was struck down by the courts. It was then realised that in order to support reservations, particularly in educational institutions, it would be necessary to amend the Constitution and that is how the Constitution First Amendment Act, was passed.

Sir, the Government of India has always been extremely sympathetic to the cause of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the people. In fact reservation for Scheduled Castes today is 15 per cent and for Scheduled Tribes, it is 71/2 per cent. We also recognise that weaker sections can belong to other sections of the community. We recognise for example that the handicapped are a weaker section in society and that is why we have provided three per cent reservation for handicapped - one per cent for the orthopaedically handicapped, one per cent for the visually handicapped and one per cent for the handicapped in hearing. We recognise that ex-servicemen who spend many years in the prime of their youth in the defence of this country and who are discharged when they are fairly young and when they have a long life ahead of them, are a weaker section and

that is why we have provided reservation for ex-servicemen also.

There are many other sections of the community who are weak. Women are the biggest weaker section in this country. In fact, the Prime Minister has expressed this view on more than one occasion. Among Scheduled Castes, among Scheduled Tribes, among the backward communities, among the minorities, it is the women who are a deprived and weaker section. Among women, widows and women who have been deserted by their husbands are a weaker section. We have provided special relaxations for such weaker sections. Therefore, the commitment of this Government to advance the interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections is beyond doubt. In fact, I do not think that any other Government can match the record of the Congress Governments which have been in office since independence in the matter of protecting Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections.

The provision of an economic criterion may appear to be an attractive policy but we must examine its implications more closely. Is economic prosperity a measure of advancement in society? Is our society so organised that there is a clear distinction between the rich and the poor and all those who are rich can be considered as advanced and all those who are poor are considered as backward? If our society is stratified only on the basis of prosperity and economic conditions, the answer to the earlier question would be yes. But our society is differentiated on many other considerations and many other parameters; perhaps there is no society in the world which is so differentiated as Indian society. We are differentiated by religion. We are differentiated by caste. We are differentiated by language. We must do everything possible to remove these factors which differentiate society. In a society which is so differentiated, it will be very difficult although seemingly attractive to introduce an economic criterion and measure advancement and backwardness solely on the basis of whether one falls on this side of the

line or that side of the line. There are many hundreds and thousands of families who belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who have acquired a measure of economic prosperity but that does not mean. They are not discriminated against in society. That does not the mean. They have shed all the stigma and all the disadvantages which are attached from the fact of their being born in a caste and are condemned, so to say, to live and die within the framework of a caste.

Members made reference to people who have gained jobs in Government, who have earned a measure of economic prosperity. But their position in society is not determined only by economic advancement but it is determined by a host of factors, many of which are historical, traditional which have been with us for centuries and which cannot be wished away.

As far as backward classes are concerned, the position varies from State to State. There are States which have a very small percentage of reservation for backward classes. There are States which a very high percentage of reservation. For example, in the State of Tamil Nadu, as much as 50 per cent of the seats in educational institutions and in services are reserved for the backward classes. Together with an 18 percent reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 68 per cent of the seats in educational institutions and in services are reserved in Tamil Nadu. There are States like Karnataka, Kerala which have a very high percentage of reservation. There is also a new concept of compartmental reservation which is practised in Karnataka.

Kerala some years ago introduced an economic criterion. Karnataka also has an economic criterion for backward classes. Therefore, I think it would be unwise to introduce any kind of a national standard and apply it on a procrustean basis to all the States. The best course would be to allow this matter to be left to the wisdom of the State, and for each State to follow a pattern or a policy which has the widest measure of

support in that State, and which meets the aspirations of the people of that State. I do not think it would be right for Parliament to adopt a law and say: 'This shall be the law for the whole country.' There are States in the North-East where the bulk of the population belongs to the scheduled tribes. There are States like Madhya Pradesh and Bihar where a large proportion of people belongs to the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes. I think these are matters which are best left to the State Governments concerned, because they would be more responsive to the needs of their people, they will understand the needs of the people better, and they will understand the communities and castes and the varying degrees of progress made by each community and each caste.

Our endeavour is to move towards a goal, an ideal where every man and every woman can say that he is truly equal to every other man and every other woman; and every selection and every preference is based solely on merit. But that is the goal; that is the ideal.

As many hon. Members have pointed out, we have not reached that goal; we have not reached that ideal, and until we reach that goal and until we reach that ideal, we must practise the principle of affirmative action and protective discrimination for the weaker sections. The policy embodied in the Indian Constitution in Article 15 (4) and 16 (4) is a reflection of the principle of protective discrimination, the principle of affirmative action. In fact it is the Indian Constitution which is the forerunner to many other legal systems in the world in the matter of protective discrimination and affirmative action. It is a tribute to the genius of the founding fathers of the Indian Constitution.

I deeply appreciate the sentiment and spirit behind hon. Member Mr Ram Nagina Mishra's Bill. Needless to say that there is no unanimity that we have reached a stage where we can adopt the sole yardstick of an economic criterion. The debate has thrown up many ideas. In fact, only a couple of days

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ago, the Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the members belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Some very interesting ideas in the matter of reservation have come up. In the Ministry of Personnel, we are examining some of these ideas. We are concerned that there should be de-reservation of vacancies for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. We think that this is an easy way-out for an unsympathetic administrator not to recruit enough members of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities. We are looking into this matter. Some other ideas have also come up in this meeting. These matters are engaging our attention; and I shall certainly keep in mind the views expressed by hon. Members during this debate in the matter of protective discrimination for the weaker sections.

I am grateful to Hon. Member Shri Ram Nagina Mishra for initiating this wide-ranging debate. I would appeal to him that after having heard the views of hon. Members, he should withdraw these Bill. Thank you.

17.25 hrs.

[*Translation*]

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Salem-pur): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have presented this Bill in this House for providing reservation for the economically weaker section of the people. No where in the Bill, the reservation policy has been opposed. There is, however, a simple indication that those people whose economic status has improved during the last 40 years and who are now in a position to get their wards admitted in good educational institutions should be deprived of this facility. Because, it is the children of these very people who fall in the reservation category and the people of villages do not fall in this category. The aim with which this reservation policy was formulated has not been fulfilled. I am thankful to my friends because many of them have taken keen interest in it and expressed their views

whole-heartedly. Two kinds of feelings have been observed. First is that a mere improvement in economic status is not sufficient. Secondly, the question of social and religious recognition has also come up. We all know as to what was our religious atmosphere before independence and what kind of behaviour was meted out to Harijans. We remember that at time untouchability prevailed to the extent that a brahmin did not use to eat the food prepared by another brahmin. Nobody ate food prepared by anyone else. So far as Harijans are concerned, they were settled outside the village. They were not allowed to fetch water from the well nor could they go to school for education or sit on a cot. We have witnessed even that day when Harijans used to eat grains segregated from the cow-dung after drying it. I would request my colleagues to thank the Congress party. The credit for this goes to Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress party, who removed untouchability and thus provided an equal status to Harijans. We remember that when struggle for freedom was going on, the Britishers tried to divide our country in the name of caste by saying that Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress party belong to Hindus and by recognising Shri Jinnah, as the leader of Muslims and Shri Ambedkar, as the leader of Harijans. Mahatma Gandhi went on a hunger strike and maintained that Harijans are a part of our Hindu religion. Then Shri Ambedkar agreed and Mahatma Gandhi led everyone. It takes some time to uplift a backward society. Today, the Congress party has given the highest honour and status to Harijans. They have been given facilities by providing for reservation. There will not be even a single Harijan child who is not getting a scholarship in the educational institution. The scholarship continues to be given by the Congress Government even if the Harijan child fails 3 or 4 times. Not only this, an amendment has also been made in the code of Criminal Procedure by the Congress party. If any caste Hindu abuses a harijan or slaps him, then it is considered a Government case and investigation is conducted, though in case of others, the police cannot make any investigation under Rule 323. It is the Congress party, who is respon-

sible for this. Today, it is the principle of the Congress party and the policy of our leaders to work for the upliftment of harijans. The ill-feeling which was prevalent for so long has been brought to an end. Earlier the harijans were not allowed to sit near others but today if you go to attend any marriage or function, you will find them feasting with others. Equality prevails to the extent that nobody says he is a harijan or a Muslim. What a vast difference between the past and the present! Earlier the harijan used to eat foodgrains segregated from cow-dung but today no one in the country can say that he is starving. When there was a famine during the British days, lakhs of people in Bengal had died. But last year when some parts of our country were struck by famine, not even a single person died. The credit for this goes to the Congress Party who arranged to have sufficient foodgrains in stock for distribution every where. Now such elder persons are not here to testify that there used to be neither motor vehicles nor cycles for marriage parties. It was only the very affluent people who used to utilise motor vehicles, which were known as '*hawa gadia*' at that time. But today if there is a marriage in a harijan's house, even he hires a motor vehicle and throws a party and uses tables and chairs. The wide gulf has ended now, the status of harijan has improved and he has come to enjoy equal status in the society. While looking at the bad side, we should also look at the good side. It has been said about this Bill that a great injustice is being done to the harijans especially by the Hindus. I dare say that earlier people did not even let the harijans touch them. The statement made by the Shankracharya of Puri regarding harijans was condemned by a number of Hindu institutions and by everyone else. It was opposed saying that he has gone mad. The Shankracharya of Kanchikot gave a statement against the Shankracharya of Puri and said that the Harijans are a part of Hindu religion and that we do not believe in untouchability. He even said that he would undertake a *padyatra* and propagate that the harijans have a right to enter the temples. But is the statement of the Shankracharya of Kanchikot being publicised today? Every-

one has criticised the Shankracharya of Puri. The Shankracharya of Jyotirmath has said that the Shankracharya has not given a correct statement. Every one has maintained that harijans are a part of us and we do not believe in untouchability. All the contradictions in Hindu religion and the menia of untouchability are now vanishing. Changes take place in the society with the changing time. I dare say that the harijans do not get the same treatment today as earlier. They enjoy an equal status in the society today. So far as economic condition is concerned, I agree with the hon. Minister that a person who is economically well off is respected in the society. A harijan who is in a good position and living in a good house is not hated by anyone but one who does not have enough to eat, wear or live is despised by all. In my Bill, a provision has been made and it is my suggestion to the Government that the poor and the ill-fed harijans living in villages should be benefitted by this reservation policy and those who are economically well off and stand at the same footing along with landlords and big people should be deprived of this facility. This is not a wrong intention. The intention of this Bill is that everyone should be benefitted equally by the provision of reservation. Suppose, one of our friends gets the benefit of 3.5 reservation and his economic condition and status also improve; but that is not the end of it because there are many other people in villages who are waiting. I am quite sure that unless some restrictions are imposed on reservation, the harijans living in villages will not be able to get any benefit of this policy. They will be benefitted only when we bring some changes in this policy. If 25 out of 100 posts are reserved and you receive 100 applications then the son of an I.A.S. Officer, I.P.S. Officer, Collector, Police Officer, M.P., M.L.A. or a Tehsildar with better educational qualifications is covered under the reservation, whereas the son of a harijan in the village will not get its benefit. Therefore, no matter how long you go on extending this policy of reservation, the harijans living in villages will not be benefitted.

Sir, it is not only a matter of harijans.

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living in towns, but also of those living in villages. The high school standard children of those living in towns are better than the high school standard children of those living in villages. No comparison can be drawn between the two. Today, the people living in urban areas get service whereas those living in rural areas do not get it. This is also a very serious problem towards which the hon. Minister will have to pay attention. Besides, educational institutions and services, a provision will also have to be made to distinguish the people living in the urban areas and those living in rural areas. Otherwise, only those living in the urban areas will get jobs and those living in the villages will not be able to get an opportunity to enter any service. Therefore, you will have to consider this problem deeply.

Sir, keeping in view the prevailing religious complex in the society and the way a few persons are sticking to conservatism about Harijans, we will have to remain a bit patient on this subject. There should be no restriction on anyone to visit any place but at some places the conservative people create hindrances. This conservatism is age old and not a product of today. The statement given by the Shankracharya of Puri about harijans is the impact of the power he wields. There have been such pundits of Puri who behaved similarly even with the Adi Shankracharya whose mother's body was not allowed to be given the last rites. Later on the same Shankracharya got the status of God.

Today, I am quite happy to see that Hindu religion is quite becoming progressive to bring Harijans to its fold. All except a few people, consider harijans as their own part and treat them as brothers. Therefore, I would specially request my conservative friends that they should not be angry and should look at this matter with the feeling of co-ordination.

The Hon. Minister said just now that while deciding the prosperity of a person, alongwith economic status, the social and

religious status should also be taken into consideration. I am reminded of a tale of Lord Rama's time when famine visited this country in those days too. Rama's Guru Vishvamitra also could not bear the pangs of hunger and he too had to enter the house of a *chandal* in desperation to eat flesh. It is written:

Bhubhukshit kim na karoti papam
kshira janani nishkaruna bhawanti.

This means that a hungry person is capable of committing any crime. He can do anything and everything.

Sir, there is no other reason behind the motion which I have presented to this House. We do visit villages and I want to allay the doubts of all my colleagues of the ruling Party as well as the Opposition that there is no such intention behind my proposal that there should be de-reservation for Harijans. This becomes clear to all of you.

I want to clarify the objective of introducing this Bill. Other castes also have poor people. To name a few, Muslim weavers, washermen, Kahars and Nata who roam from village to village. People belonging to these communities are as poor as Harijans. Poor people can be found even in the caste Hindus. These days plenty of refine foodgrains such as wheat, rice, gram and pulses are available in villages for which our Government is deserved to be congratulated. There was a time when refine foodgrains were not available in abundance and poor people had to eat coarse grains such as 'Sama', 'toto' and 'tangun'. Once, long long ago, I happened to visit to an area where I met an aged Brahmin carrying a bundle of unripe 'tangun' over his head brought from his field to eat after extracting the grains. When I asked him as to how he was, he told his miserable condition that he and his family had no food to eat and no clothes to wear, the ladies could not step out of the house due to 'Purdah' and he was feeling shy to tell anyone of his miserable condition which had forced him to bring the

unripe 'tangun' to satisfy his hunger. Sir, I was in tears when I listened to his tale. So there are poor people even in the caste Hindus. Administrative policy says that a king is one who takes care of all of his subjects. All the down-trodden people have to be uplifted. When one out of five patients is well cured of his illness by administering 'Makardhwaj', should the Government is not duty bound to give at least glucose and fruit juice to remaining four who are still suffering. This is exactly what is happening to the caste Hindus. They too need to be uplifted, you ought not let them to go to hell. That is why I am making a demand that the laws are required to be amended to provide livelihood to the persons belonging to higher classes.

Sir, if the Government feels that amendment in laws would mean a loss of votes for the ruling party, let me assure them that this fear is unfounded. The ruling party will certainly get more votes if it makes the poor villagers understand that how some people of their own class have become richer by taking undue advantage of the reservation facility. That the Government wants to provide the benefit of reservation to those who really deserve it. Today the Harijans and Adivasis say that it was due to the efforts of Late Dr. B.R. Ambedkar they are getting benefits now. Without him the Congress Government would not have done anything for them. In villages, the people belonging to Harijans worship Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as God. But in fact, the benefactors of these people are the Congress Party and Mahatma Gandhi. In their absence, these people would never have got the benefits they are enjoying now. When I visit villages, the people belonging to caste Hindus such as Brahmins, Thakurs and Agrawals say to us that we are Congressmen who pay heed to Harijans only and have little care for them. Members of the L.A.S. and I.P.S. belonging to Harijans community say that Baba Saheb Ambedkar has done everything for them. The hon. Minister should give this matter serious thought. If people who are starving are not provided relief, how long will they tolerate it?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot make a second speech. You only reply to the points raised in the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: That is what I am doing. It is necessary to reply to the points just raised regarding religious feelings. As against the Shankaracharya of Puri, the Shankaracharyas of Kanchi Peeth and Jyotir-math and other Dharmacharyas have held Harijans as a part of the Hindu religious system. Hence there is no restriction on their entry into temples. Should the Government take notice of the utterings of one mad Shankaracharya or should it notice what three other Shankacharyas are saying?

SHRI VIR SEN (Khurja): The hon. Member should not call the Shankacharya mad.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: It is not me who calls him mad. The entire Hindu religion and other Acharyas have labelled him mad. The Government would do well to put him in jail. What is the harm in jailing a madman?

This is my aim in introducing this Bill. In the 40 years since Independence there has been gradual increase in the reservation quotas. There is no objection to reservation being increased but those who have already availed of this facility should not be permitted to do so further. Only those persons should be provided its benefit who are yet to get the fruit of this facility. Suppose there is Harijan collector who has two peons, one a Harijan and the other a Brahmin. The ward of the Brahmin peon would have to pay fees for schooling but the ward of the collector would get a scholarship. Will it not create bickering?

So I would like to submit that the high placed persons like collectors, etc. who do not deserve reservation facility should not be given this facility. It is the under-privileged

[*Sh. Ram Nagina Mishra*]

Harijans who should be given this facility. This is the Bill's objective.

Reservation should be given to the persons belonging to poor communities such as 'Dhobi' (Washerman), barbers, 'kahar', Bhus, Bhounr, Julaha etc.

Our Government and all of us belong to Congress Party. The Congress Party has adopted socialism as its goal in its party constitution. It is the Bible for us. Socialism is a system in which castes have no place. At present, disparity is being created in the name of castes. People should not be classified on the basis of castes but on the basis of their economic status. Those below the poverty line should be given the facility of reservation.

SHRI VIR SEN: They will not be selected due to poverty.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: The hon. Member wants that Harijans and poor classes be given reservation facility. Harijans constitute the single largest group of poor in the country, so they will be largely benefited. What my hon. colleague said is the same as what I said earlier.

The hon. Minister is a learned person. According to him, the party is discussing ways and means to uplift those who are below the poverty line. Our Hon. Prime Minister is also ceased of the matter. There are some castes in our country which are not getting the benefit of reservation. The hon. Minister has promised to look into it.

May I have an assurance from the hon. Minister that he would hold talks with the leaders of the party and the hon. Prime Minister so as to explore the possibility of amending the law? I will make one or two points more after his submission to this effect.

Sir, I am satisfied with what the hon. Minister has said. He is our leader and we are sure he will introduce a Bill in future for

the benefit of the poor. I thank the hon. Minister for promising to look after the welfare of the poor. Therefore, I withdraw the Bill.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already explained.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have already stated that we will consider it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: I withdraw it.

[*English*]

I beg to move for leave to withdraw Reservation of Posts in Government Services and Seats in Educational Institutions (For Economically Weaker Section of People) Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Reservation of Posts in Government Services and Seats in Educational Institutions (For Economically Weaker Section of People) Bill."

The motion was adopted

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: I withdraw the Bill.

The Bill was, by leave withdrawn.

17.52 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL
(Amendment of article 311)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We go to the next item.

Shri Suresh Kurup.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this Bill concerns the feelings of 12 million Central and State Government employees of this country. This is not the first time that this type of Bill is being discussed in this House. Earlier also, Shri Janga Reddy had introduced a Bill of this nature and was discussed in this House.

Sir, as everyone knows, the Supreme Court in its judgement dated 11th July, 1985 in the Union of India Versus Tulsi Ram Patel, upheld the validity of proviso (b) and (c) of the Constitution over-ruling its own judgement in the Chellappan's case. In this Tulsi Ram Patel's case, the Supreme Court has categorically stated that natural justice principles are completely excluded from the purview of the second proviso and the punishment under that proviso will have to be imposed *ex parte*.

As you know, the State Government and Central Government employees organisations have been consistently demanding the removal of article 310 which says that a Central Government or State Government employee holds office during the pleasure of the President or Governor. Article 311 (1) says:

"No person who is a member of a civil service of the Union or a State shall be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to that by which he was appointed."

Article 311 (2) says, that an employee cannot be removed, dismissed from service or reduced in rank, except after an inquiry in which he has been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.

Part (a) of this proviso says:—

"(a) where a person is dismissed or removed or reduced in rank on the ground of conduct which has led to his conviction on a criminal charge; or"

My Bill deals with (b).

"(b) where the authority empowered to dismiss or remove a person or to reduce him in rank is satisfied that for some reason, to be recorded by that authority in writing, it is not reasonably practicable to hold such inquiry; or"

"(c) where the President or the Governor, as the case may be, is satisfied that in the interest of the security of the State it is not expedient to hold such inquiry."

Clause (3) of this Article 311 says:—

"(3) If, in respect of any such person as aforesaid, a question arises whether it is reasonably practicable to hold such inquiry as is referred to in clause (2), the decision thereon of the authority empowered to dismiss or remove such person or to reduce him in rank shall be final."

My Bill asking for the amendment of the Constitution deals only with this part (b) of the second proviso to Article 311, and also to Clause (3) of this Article. It is only limited to them.

There are State Government and Central Government employees and their unions have been consistently demanding that Articles 310 and 311 (2) (a), (b) and (c) should be removed from the Constitution.

The Supreme Court verdict gives unbridled powers to the bureaucrats to dismiss and remove civil servants from the Government service without any formal inquiry.

Accordingly we incorporated these Articles in our Constitution from the 1935

[Sh. Suresh Kurup]
Government of India Act which was forced upon this country by the colonialists.

As you know, the pleasure doctrine is imported into this country from England. The pleasure doctrine says:—

"An employee of the British crown holds his office at the pleasure of the Queen or the King of England."

Here the words "Queen and King" are removed and the words "President and Governor" are inserted. That is all.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and of all the responsible authorities to the fact that even at the time of freedom movement, when this 1935 Act was imposed upon us, the Indian National Congress have vehemently opposed the Clauses of this 1935 Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue your speech next time. Mr. Jai Prakash Agarwal to introduce the Bill.

17.58 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL
(Amendment of Article 16)

[English]

JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India

The motion was adopted

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.59 hrs.

STATEMENT GIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH S.Q. NO. 198 DATED 9TH 1988 RE: TAPPING OF TELEPHONES

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Bir Bahadur Singh to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): Sir, in connection with Starred Question No. 198, dated 9th August, regarding tapping of telephones, I had placed a list on the Table of the House on 9th August itself.

Some more information regarding a few telephone numbers have come to my notice which I am laying on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 6398/88]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 16th August, 1988.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 16, 1988/
Sravana 25, 1910 (Saka)*