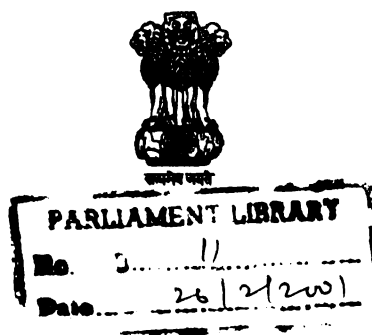


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 10, 1999/Agrahayana 19, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair] .

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleague, Shri Surti Kistaiya.

Shri Surti Kistaiya was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha from 1957 to 1962 representing Bastar Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Kistaiya took keen interest in organising educational and social summer camps, community development projects and National Extension Service Blocks in Bastar district. He also rendered help to research workers of Indian universities and foreigners in anthropological studies.

An active social and political worker, Shri Kistaiya worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society, besides rendering relief during national calamities.

Shri Surti Kistaiya passed away on 22 October, 1999 at Bijapur, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 76.

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

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

11.01 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Q. No. 181. Shri Tilakdhari Prasad Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Sir, before you take up the Questions, I want to say something...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Tilakdhari Prasad says.

...(Interruptions)*

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Loss of Coal India Ltd.

+

*181. SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. has suffered loss during the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the subsidiary-wise break-up of loss suffered by Coal India Limited as on 31.3.1999;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited has fixed responsibility for such loss;

(d) if so, the action taken/being taken against the responsible persons; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to make up the losses?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) As per the consolidated audited accounts, the Coal India Ltd. have not incurred annual loss in any of the eight previous financial years from 1991-92 to 1998-99.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

[Translation]

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has submitted in his reply to the question that there is no loss at all. I would like to tell the Minister that there should have been a report of profits which would apprise us of the profits made by Coal India. I wish to inform the Minister through you that alongwith

* Not recorded.

other Committees a Mishra Committee was constituted for over reporting. Has any action been taken against the officers who adversely commented upon in the report of the said Committee? If no, whether the Minister was aware of it that these officers have got promotions and reached higher posts? Do you propose to remove them from those posts and give them other posts?

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, in reply to the first part of the question put by the hon. Member, with your kind permission, the hon. Member asked about the profits of Coal India Limited. Coal India Limited has eight subsidiary companies, some are making profits and some are making losses. ECL in the year 1998-99 made a loss of Rs. 472.47 crore. BCCL made loss of Rs. 442.34 crore. CCL made a loss of Rs. 149.35 crore. NCL made a profit of Rs. 802.14 crore. WCL made a profit of Rs. 476.58 crore. SECL made a profit of Rs. 676.55 crore; MCL made a profit of Rs. 601.31 crores; CMPDIL made a profit of Rs. 63 lakh. CIL NEC made a profit of Rs. 606.20 crore.

The total overall profit of Coal India Limited in 1998-99 was Rs. 1,451.79 crore. In reply to the other question put by the hon. Member about over the reporting of the Mishra Committee is there. This question will need a separate notice.

[Translation]

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many coal mines are incurring losses due to fire incidents. I wish to know from the Minister whether any effective measures have been taken to stop them?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : What action has been taken on loss by fire?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Sir, the companies are seized of the matter. All that can be done, a great deal is being done, and the matter is being looked into very seriously. Again, a separate notice is required from the hon. Member.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the hon. Minister has not done his homework. We have asked as to how much loss of this loss is because of fire. I think that is a question which he should answer. Why should a separate notice come for it? It is part of the overall question. If the hon. Minister has not done his homework let him admit it and let him say that he will inform the hon. Member later. Even after getting the notes from the official gallery, he is not able to answer the question.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, if you have the information you can say it. Otherwise you can give it to the hon. Member.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : You admit it. Do not say that a separate notice is required.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Sir, I appreciate the suggestion of the hon. Member Shri Madhavrao Scindia. Having said that, I submit that the loss due to fire in BCCL has been quite negligible....(Interruptions)

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the reply given by this Government on 26.2.99 to an Unstarred Question No. 760 mentioned about losses. Now, the Minister is saying that there are no losses. I would like to know from the hon. Minister which statement is correct.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: I would very grateful if the hon. Member could repeat his question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Venkatesh Naik, kindly repeat the question.

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Sir, in the reply given by this Government on 26.2.99 to an Unstarred Question, it is mentioned that the losses were of Rs. 2,300 crore and cumulative losses of Coal India Limited as on 31.3.98 were Rs. 1,114.62 crore. Now, he has said that there are no losses. I want to know from the hon. Minister which one is correct

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: In reply to the hon. Member, I would like to clarify that the Coal India Limited has reserves of more than Rs. 1,500 crore which the question reported. Since the reserves of Coal India Limited are more than Rs. 1,500 crore, all that is being taken into account. Thank you.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, just now, the Minister said that Coal India Limited has made profits to the extent of Rs. 1,151.78 crore. If that be so, though there are some loss-making units of it, why should this loss not be distributed among them? Why has some proposal been mooted to close down some mines in Asansol and Raniganj of West Bengal.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: I would like to make a correction of the question asked by hon. Member, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee that the profit of Coal India Limited was Rs. 1,451.79 crore.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, so far so good.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: The hon. Member asked why the losses of three companies of Coal India Limited could not be offset by other companies. I would like to inform the hon. Member that such a solution was there in the past, but is no longer, sadly, workable because of inter alia certain financial commitments in the implementation of the World Bank project etc; and also in the interest of the health of Coal India Limited in general.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will these units be closed down then?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : In reply to hon. Member's question, I would like to say that the Government is always humane, should be humane, and will always look after public interest and national interest.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the consolidated Statement of Accounts of Coal India Limited does not have a loss. But he has, in his subsequent answer to a supplementary, stated that some of the subsidiaries are making losses. Is the reason of coal imports behind some subsidiaries making losses and for other subsidiaries which are making profits having a loss of profit? It means that they could be making more profit. This has been a very contentious issue and one of the instances cited is of coal dumping by certain countries in India which has led to a problem in our own coal industry. On the other hand, many of the viable projects sitting with subsidiary companies are not being approved in a time-bound schedule and when they are approved, they have to go for reframing because time has lapsed.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether on the question of coal imports, his Ministry is considering revising the policy of this rampant coal imports, which is also leading to dumping by certain foreign countries.

Will the Minister take some special measures to see that the approval of the expansion projects of these subsidiary companies are expedited?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : In reply to the questions put through you, Sir, I would like to say that because of globalisation, import of coal is allowed now. Naturally, it affects our Indian coal companies. Since Coal India Limited, as the hon. Member knows, produces most of the coal of our nation, naturally, it affects us. But this is a part and parcel of globalisation. But Coal India is a golden goose, and we must do our utmost to protect it. It is one of our nation's golden geese.

The hon. Member asked about the subsidiary companies. It is being thought of and certainly is being looked at in a very rational and serious manner.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : What about the coal imports? Will the Minister take up this issue of coal imports, especially dumping by foreign countries in India?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question pertains to the losses being incurred by the Coal India Limited.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : It relates to the loss. I am not talking about exports, but I am talking about the dumping which leads to the loss. When Australia is selling coal, it is affecting our country. It has nothing to do with globalisation.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : As the hon. Members are aware, there is an Anti-dumping Authority in the Commerce Ministry which deals with such matters.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Have you taken up the matter with the Commerce Ministry? Will you get the tariff increased? Nobody is asking you to stop the imports.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, the hon. Minister has informed that some companies are incurring losses while other are earning profits. I would like to know the reasons therefor. I would also like to know whether it is true that registration for loading and unloading of goods is done in the name of Ex-servicemen by the Ministry of Defence and Rongata, a company of CCL, has said that there has been a loss of about Rs. 20 crores as a result of registration of 32 fake companies? Would you please get an inquiry done in this case?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is a specific case.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : 32 companies have been said to be fake. The Government does not give any information about irregularities.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a specific case. I do not know whether the Minister is having any information on this matter. Do you have any information on this case? Otherwise, you can say so.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Well, I do not have any information about this specific case.

To begin with, I would like to certainly answer the first part of the question which the hon. Member put. The following measures have been taken to tackle sale dues of Coal India Limited. The Government of India are reconsidering to securitise all undisputed coal sale dues which were outstanding as on 31st December, 1998 against the Central assistance to State Plan payable to all the State Governments whose State Electricity Boards and power utilities have defaulted.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, the question relates to North-East-West and hon'ble Minister is not replying to it. You have called another Member.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, though we have received a reply from the hon. Minister, I have here the Audit Report of the Committee of Public Undertakings for the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 where it was categorically mentioned that Coal India Limited was facing losses.

It has been categorically mentioned the Report that Coal India Limited had been incurring losses to the tune of Rs. 13.41 crore and Rs. 27.20 crore respectively for

the years 1993-94 and 1994-95. It is an authenticated Report. I have a copy of the Report of the Coal India Limited.

Sir, I would like to be clarified whether the statement showing the profit and loss of the Company, as has been placed before the House by the hon. Minister, is a reflection of the over-satisfaction of the hon. Minister without having gone into the details of the Reports.

Sir, ECL is one of the loss-making concerns and has been incurring huge losses. Seventy one thousand employees of ECL are faced with the threat of retrenchment. I would like to be clarified on the following points. Firstly, whether the Government is in a position to give an economic package for the revival of ECL or not; and secondly, in what way is the ECL going to be modified? What are the proposals for its restructuring? Thirdly whether or not there is any positive proposal for its disinvestment.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Sir, in response to the first part of the question put by the hon. Member I would like to say that my reply is for the composite CIL group of companies. As a holding company, CIL makes profit but the hon. Member is mentioning about separate accounts of individual companies of CIL group.

He has spoken about the ECL. For the information of the hon. Member, I would like to submit, through you, that retrenchment is too strong a word. What was suggested was a VRS and to bring down the age limit to 55 years. The hon. Member is perhaps aware that ECL has probably some of the oldest mines in out nation and has been making tremendous losses and the hon. Member is aware of that also.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, we know that it is making losses but who are the persons responsible for this loss? What are the reasons for its losses? That is the specific question.

Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme

*182. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government have received project proposals from the State Governments under the scheme during the above period;

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

(d) the present position of these project proposals; and

(e) the amount disbursed to each State during the above period for this scheme, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Scheme was operated from 1991-92 to 1996-97. Thereafter, the components of the Scheme were merged with the components of the Project Package Scheme. A statement showing State-wise number of villages covered, including Gujarat, during last three years i.e. from 1994-95 to 1996-97 is enclosed as Annexure - I.

(b) to (d) Since the components of the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme were merged with the components of the Project Package Scheme w.e.f. 1.4.97, no new project under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme has been sanctioned after 1996-97. However, the viable proposals received for release of balance central assistance have duly been considered and central assistance released.

(e) A statement showing year-wise and State-wise details of amount disbursed during last three years under the Scheme is enclosed as Annexure - II.

Annexure - I

Statement showing State-wise number of villages covered during last three years under Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme including Gujarat

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1994-95 Project	1995-96 Project	1996-97 Project	Total Project
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	12	25	37
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	10	6	25	41
4.	Bihar	-	1	-	1
5.	Delhi	-	-	-	-
6.	Gujarat	3	-	1	4
7.	Haryana	-	-	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-
10.	Karnataka	-	-	1	1
11.	Kerala	6	-	3	9
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	7	1	9
13.	Maharashtra	1	-	-	1
14.	Manipur	2	-	7	9

1	2	3	4	5	6
15. Meghalaya	2	-	-	-	2
16. Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-
17. Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-
18. Orissa	3	2	5	10	
19. Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	
20. Punjab	-	-	-	-	
21. Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	
22. Sikkim	-	-	-	-	
23. Tamil Nadu	3	4	-	7	
24. Tripura	3	2	3	8	
25. Uttar Pradesh	5	2	-	7	
26. West Bengal	1	1	-	2	
Total	40	37	71	148	

Annexure - II

Statement showing Year-wise and State-wise amount disbursed during last three years under Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1994-95 Amt. Released	1995-96 Amt. Released	1996-97 Amt. Released	Total Amt. Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	148.50	303.50	452.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	125.00	75.00	312.50	512.50
4.	Bihar	-	12.50	-	12.50
5.	Delhi	-	-	-	-
6.	Gujarat	32.00	-	6.80	38.80
7.	Haryana	-	-	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12.00	-	-	12.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-
10.	Karnataka	10.00	-	11.00	21.00
11.	Kerala	66.41	8.75	23.00	98.16
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11.40	85.00	12.50	108.90
13.	Maharashtra	7.50	-	-	7.50
14.	Manipur	20.50	8.25	65.15	93.90
15.	Meghalaya	6.37	-	-	6.37
16.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
17. Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-
18. Orissa	35.50	29.55	60.00	125.05	
19. Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	
20. Punjab	-	-	-	-	
21. Rajasthan	-	24.75	-	24.75	
22. Sikkim	-	-	-	-	
23. Tamil Nadu	31.00	44.40	-	75.40	
24. Tripura	41.45	49.60	33.95	125.00	
25. Uttar Pradesh	60.00	24.35	-	84.35	
26. West Bengal	11.50	11.25	-	22.75	
Total	470.63	521.90	828.40	1820.93	

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, the handloom industry caters the people of backward castes. About 124 lakh people of are engaged in this sector. Famine is routine in my constituency and people there have no other employment. The poor backward caste weavers have to depend on this industry. The Government has made a Project Package Scheme under which good quality shawls are made by weavers. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will make any provision of marketing servicing centres and design centres?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, the Government has been running the Project Package Scheme since 1997. Under this scheme not only in Gujarat but throughout the country efforts are being made to provide employment to the poor. As far as Kutchh is concerned, whichever schemes come to the Ministry, are processed by the State Government and then we approve them. However, if a scheme for kutchh and Gujarat comes, the Government will positively try to implement it there.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, in the ninth five year plan also, colours and chemicals in small packages and yarn at cheaper rate should be provided to small weavers. They should be provided marketing facilities. I would request the hon. Minister to see that the weavers of Kutchh and Gujarat get a proper work place and environment. There should be a provision of workshed-cum-housing scheme for them so that the weavers could increase their productivity and income.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, the hon. Member has informed that world famous shawls are made in Kutchh. In order to promote this, the Government has always intended to give approval to the schemes pertaining to this area. As I have already told we will certainly try to give their permission for this. For workshed-cum-housing

scheme or to provide thread, a yarn bank is to be started there. Under the Project Package Scheme the various components of the scheme already cover workshop housing and insurance scheme. We sanction them positively. As far as availability of yarn is concerned, if a State Government or a Cooperative Society or any other body desires so and we think that it should be there, then we ask that State to start a yarn bank there. We have set up so many yarn banks. They are in North-eastern States also, and if yarn is not available somewhere we ask them to provide it and individuals can also make arrangements to provide yarn.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Sir, the Minister in his reply stated that this was a new Package Scheme which he had started. However, there are traditional areas where handlooms have been there for the last many centuries. One of the major problems being faced in these centres is that of yarn. Many State Governments have written to the Central Government requesting that yarn banks should be started in their States. Vidarbha is the most famous area for this. The other area is Bhiwandi which has now gone on to other sectors also and that has changed the whole scenario there. Balapur and Malegaon in Akola and Washim Districts are also important areas. I would like to know from the Minister as to why yarn banks are not started in the States which have requested for yarn banks. Secondly, in the new textile policy for the years 2000-2004 which will come on 1st January, 2000, what provisions have been made to protect the handloom sector?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, the Project Package Scheme is not a new one. This is being implemented since 1997-98. So far as yarn banks are concerned, whenever a State Government submitted its request for opening up of yarn banks in various places in that State, the Government took a positive stand. We have already opened yarn banks in many places.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Sir, I said that it was not there in Vidarbha area. That is a community of more than three lakh weavers.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : If the Government of Maharashtra submits a proposal to start yarn banks at Malegaon or elsewhere, we will definitely try to start them.

The other part of the question was as to whether the handloom sector will be covered in it or not.

Sir, so far as the second part of his question is concerned, the new Textile Policy covers the entire handloom sector. Our Government is very keen to safeguard the interests of the handloom weavers.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : In reply to this question, he has laid a statement on the Table of the House in which it has been shown that during the financial year 1995-96, Bihar Government has been sanctioned Rs. 12.10 lakh while nothing has been provided in 1996-97. Moreover nothing has also been mentioned in the next financial year. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that so far as the population of the country is concerned Bihar stands at second position and the number of weavers in Bihar is more than thirty per cent....

(Interruptions) I would like to know what is the position of the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme? Has any monitoring been carried out in this regard and whether any effort will be made to make this scheme a success by providing special amount to Bihar keeping in view the population of the State?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, so far as the question of Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme is concerned, we have sanctioned all the proposals received in this regard. This scheme has been closed in March 1997-98. During Ninth Five Year Plan, we have launched PPS scheme. The matter of Bihar.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you have any information about the scheme which he has referred to ?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : I will certainly say something about PPS. I have cleared most of the PPS scheme justified by the Government... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No further clarification will be allowed. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, the State Government is not paying attention..... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, I want to clarify the position of the Government.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Member has said that the State Government is not functioning properly what action will be taken by the Government in this regard. I would like to submit that all these schemes are meant for poor handloom weavers. The Government want that all these be forwarded to us. We have never refused to sanction funds for such schemes... *(Interruptions)* But I would like to say that the State Government is quite sincere to implement it... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, please do not interrupt now.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: The State Government is not sincere, therefore, the Central Government should do something directly in this matter... (Interruptions) You should do something for the weavers of that State... (Interruptions) The weavers of Bihar are on the verge of starvation... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given you a supplementary.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, several State Governments have not furnished utilization certificates... (Interruptions) Therefore, second and third instalments have not been released... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

Shri Prabhunath Singh, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a supplementary about the Seven-Sister States, viz., Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. In the North-East, handloom industry is one of the India's main cottage industries. Women of that area work very hard to earn

their livelihood. Today, the handloom products of the North-East are being exported all over the world. Thereby, we are earning a good amount of foreign exchange also.

But if you see the Statement showing State-wise number of villages covered during the last three years under Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme, you will find that in regard to Arunachal Pradesh, the total number of villages covered is 'nil'. In regard to Assam, the total number of villages covered is 41, and we are not satisfied with it. In regard to Manipur, the total number of villages covered is only 9. In regard to Meghalaya, the total number of villages covered is only 2. In regard to Mizoram and Nagaland both, the number of villages covered is 'nil'. And, in regard to Tripura, the total number of villages covered is only 8.

Here, the hon. Minister has taken a plea that 'there is no proposal from the State Government.' But I want to submit to the hon. Minister that theirs is not only an executive Ministry, they have also to sponsor and promote.

Sir, during Shrimati Indira Gandhi's time, a Special Handloom Board was contracted for the North-East. She used to tell me, 'as a Member of Parliament, you go and take it up' and it was started. But now, it is dying.

One of the points is yarn bank, as has been mentioned by Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar. Will the hon. Minister take a attitude of proportional governance and take special care of the North-Eastern region? Will the Government open a bank of yarn in Guwahati for the whole of North-Eastern States?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The Government is taking keen interest to develop and to expand this handloom activity in the North-Eastern region. So far as this project package scheme is concerned, since 1990-91 till 1999-2000, we have sanctioned for Assam 345 schemes for which we have already released Rs. 33 crore.

So far as Nagaland is concerned, we have sanctioned 138 schemes for which we have already released Rs. 12.90 crore.

For Andhra Pradesh, we have sanctioned 20 schemes and released Rs. 272 crore. There is no scheme for Meghalaya.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you give the total schemes sanctioned for North-East?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The North-Eastern region is in special category because only 25 per cent of the shares of the project package are to be given by the State Government. But so far as Nagaland Government is concerned, we have not yet received the utilisation

certificate. But so far as Assam is concerned, the scheme is going on. We will look into the suggestion of the hon. Member.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: What about yarn bank?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The Government of Tripura has asked the Central Government to open yarn bank. We have already opened it. If there is a demand from Assam Government, we are ready to open it in Assam.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in reply to part 'a' and 'b' of the question, the hon'ble Minister has said that the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme was closed in 1997 and it has been merged with the project package scheme but even after that, no new scheme has been sanctioned and it has been mentioned therein that the viable proposals received for release of central assistance will be considered. I would like to know the number of such proposals received and considered by the Central Government during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99, and action taken to release the remaining amount of central assistance.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I would like to lay on the Table of the House all the applications received from the State Governments.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: In Tamil Nadu, many of the villages are depending upon the handloom industry. Actually, the people are dying without jobs and yarn is also not available for them. Furthermore, the product is also not marketed. Therefore, I would like to know whether any project sent by the Government of Tamil Nadu is pending with Ministry of Textiles; and, if not, whether the ban which was imposed on 1.4.1997 has been lifted and new proposals can be sent from my Sivaganga Constituency, particularly Tirupattur, Karaikudi and Emeneswaram as they are traditional handloom based villages.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as this scheme is concerned, I appreciate the attitude of the Government of Tamil Nadu because it has spared so much funds for this handloom activity. The Government of Tamil Nadu, I think, is in the third rank. We have already received 356 applications and we have already allotted Rs. 12 crore. The hon. Member has said that schemes have been submitted to the Government of India. I will definitely look into the schemes and it will be certainly sanctioned.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I wanted to know whether new proposals can be submitted.

Loans to Cyclone affected People in Orissa

*183. **SHRI N.R.K. REDDY:**
DR. S. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special short-term loans through nationalized banks to cyclone affected people of Orissa for purchase of cattle, agricultural implements, etc. for the purpose of growing crops and restart their own small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the guidelines/directives issued to public sector banks to provide such loans immediately to cyclone affected needy people of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL**): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Loans to Cyclone affected People in Orissa

(a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has issued standing guidelines to all public sector banks to be followed for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities. Such guidelines have been issued to enabled banks to take uniform and concerted action expeditiously to provide financial assistance to agriculturists, small scale industrial units (SSI), artisans, small business and trading establishments affected by natural calamities without waiting for RBI instructions in each case. These guidelines envisage inter-alia:

1. Conversion of short-term production loan into medium-term loans.
2. Re-scheduling/postponement of existing term loans.
3. Provision of additional need-based crop loans/working capital.
4. Relaxation in security and margin norms.

After the super cyclone in Orissa on 29th October, 1999, a top level team of bank officials was sent to the State on 5.11.1999 to assess the situation and work out in detail the action plan and reliefs that were to be extended to the affected people in consultation with the State Government. A special meeting of State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) was held at Bhubaneswar, Orissa on 18-11-99 which was attended by senior official of the State Government and the Banks. The committee laid down the following action plan to provide relief and financial assistance by banks to farmers and small scale industries:

1. Immediate disbursement of rabi crop and seasonal vegetables loan to all affected and eligible farmers.

2. Re-scheduling of existing loans and to sanction fresh loans to the affected borrowers.
3. Sanction of consumption loans.
4. Weavers, craftsmen, traders and small business and SSI units to be looked after by providing need based fresh finance.
5. Loans to be given for construction and repair of houses.

In view of large-scale loss of land and property and the acute public distress caused by the cyclone the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended additional relief to the persons affected, as a special case. A copy of the guidelines issued in this regard is given in enclosed Annexure.

Annexure

Reserve Bank of India
Rural Planning and Credit Department
Central Office, Mumbai

RPCD. No. PLFS/292/05.04.02/1999-2000

Dated 3rd December, 1999

Shri Sharda Singh,
The Chairman and Managing Director,
UCO Bank,
(Convenor of SLBC, Orissa State)
Head Office,
10, Biplabi Trailokya Maharaj Sarani,
Calcutta - 700001.

Dear Sir,

Relief measures to the persons affected by the Super Cyclone in Orissa

Please refer to your letter D.O. No. CMD/ORISSA/99-2000/2 dated 22 November 1999 forwarding therewith a copy of the minutes of the special SLBC meeting held on the 18th November 1999 to consider a package of assistance to be provided to the cyclone affected persons of Orissa.

2. Reserve Bank of India has since examined the proposals made by the SLBC Convenor bank after the deliberations at the said special meeting. In view of the large scale loss of land and property in certain districts of Orissa and the acute public distress caused by it, it has been decided that besides the existing relief measures, banks may provide the following additional relief to the persons affected by the Super Cyclone, as a special case. It may be clarified that the relief measures indicated below are applicable to the affected persons in

the four districts i.e. (i) Jagatsingpur, (ii) Kendrapara, (iii) Cuttack and (iv) Puri and may also be extended to other blocks affected by the Super Cyclone so notified by the State Government.

- (i) **Enhancement of consumption loan:** The existing limit of Rs. 1,000/- for Consumption loan may be raised up to Rs. 2,000/- per eligible beneficiary. This facility may now be extended also to 'non-wilful defaulters' provided the extent of such default is limited to Rs. 10,000/- Additional consumption loan up to Rs. 3,000/- (thereby aggregation the limit or consumption loan up to Rs. 5000/- as suggested by the SLBC), if considered necessary, may be shared by the State and the Central Government in agreed proportion. As a measure of further concession, such consumption loans may be granted even though the Orissa State has not constituted a Risk Fund as envisaged in our existing instructions on the subject.
- (ii) **Relaxation in the definition of default under SGSY:** Banks in the effected region may, as a special case, extend credit under SGSY to the affected eligible non-wilful defaulters owing dues upto Rs. 10,000/- as against the earlier limit of Rs. 5,000/-
- (iii) **Alternate certificate in the absence of Record of Right (Patta) :** In the absence of Record of Right (Patta), the decision to accept alternate certificate of the officials of the Revenue Inspector/ Tehsildar/ village agricultural worker in support of right/land holding should be left to the discretion of the banks operating in the area. This relaxation/discretion should, however, be exercised by the banks in the affected districts notified by the State Government.
- (iv) **Waiver of margin under Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme:** In term of IECD circular letter No. (HF) 40/03.27.25/97-98 dated 16 April 1998, banks are free to evolve their own guidelines on the stipulations on margin, security and repayment schedule in the matter of direct lending for housing to the borrowers with approval of their Boards. This provision may be brought to the notice of the banks operating in the affected area.
- (v) **Financing of defaulting borrowers :** In view of the extraordinary circumstances, banks may reschedule/ rephase dues both in respect of short term and term loan instalments and grant fresh finance also to non-wilful defaulters provided the extent of default does not exceed Rs. 10,000/- as aforesaid. For this purpose the definition of 'wilful defaulter' as defined in the IRDP manual (i.e. person who intentionally and deliberately fails to fulfill his obligation) should be accepted. A person who is not a wilful defaulter as above should be termed as 'non-wilful defaulter'.
- (vi) **NPA definition to be modified:** As regards modification of NPA definition, further communication will follow.

(vii) *Moratorium for agricultural loans: As a special case banks may not recover either principal or interest from the affected farmers for a period of two years and reschedule the amounts not collected during the two years for a period upto 7 years. It may be clarified that the total period of rescheduling including the initial moratorium period should not exceed nine years.*

3. Incidentally, we invite your attention to our circular RPCD No. PS/BC. 6/PS. 126-84 dated 2 August 1984 and advise that the provisions thereof also cover grant of financial assistance to non-farm sector such as small scale industrial units, artisans, small business & trading establishments etc. affected by the Super cyclone in addition to farm sector.

4. We shall be glad if you will please initiate immediate steps to extend relief measures as above in the affected districts. The progress in this regard should be closely monitored at periodical intervals by the Steering Committee of SLBC ? DCC and a report forwarded to us in this regard.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(B.R.Verma)
Chief General Manager-in-Charge.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Sir, I would like to know the difference between declaration of a calamity as a national calamity and deeming a calamity as a national calamity. Since the Government of India has deemed it as a national calamity, why should the Government not declare the total amount given to Orissa as a grant? Why has cyclone relief not been extended to Andhra Pradesh also?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, we have clarified in this House a number of times that as far as natural calamities are concerned, there are two kinds of funds which deals with natural calamities. There is a State Natural Calamity Relief Fund and a National Fund for Natural Calamity Relief.

According to the recommendations of Tenth Finance Commission which deliberately did not define a national calamity but made a provision for a National Fund for Natural Calamity Relief, all calamities of rare severity are dealt with also by the Government of India through this National Fund for Natural Calamity Relief. The Prime Minister made it quite clear that from the beginning we are treating the calamity in Orissa as a national calamity of rare severity. All the special assistance which have been made available to Orissa under this category have been provided because we have treated it as a national calamity of rare severity.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Generally, when natural calamities occur, in some States, the banks, without waiting for instructions from the Government of India or the State Government, will take some measures like conversion of short-term loans into long-term and medium-term loans and postponement or rescheduling of loans. They generally give assurances to the Collector concerned or the farmers. But in many States, this is not implemented. Last year, when there was a cyclone in Andhra Pradesh, the banks concerned actually agreed to this rescheduling but they did not implement it in many districts. So, I would request the hon. Minister to instruct the banks to strictly implement the rescheduling. They are implementing it without waiting for security in respect of some farmers only. This is the problem of the farmers. The Government should give strict instructions to all the banks concerned.

I had asked the hon. Minister about the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. It has damaged Andhra Pradesh also. I would request the hon. Minister to release funds to the Andhra Pradesh Government.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this question is totally related to Orissa. I do not link Andhra Pradesh is involve here. But the Government will definitely consider it sympathetically.

As far as Orissa is concerned, the Government is very serious. It has taken a number of measures. Not only rescheduling of loans is done, but also moratorium is made; a moratorium for agricultural loan is given for two years. So, the total number of years for repayment of loans will be nine years now. We have estimated the loss also. Up till now, the Government of India has given deferment on repayment of loans for Rs. 104.51 crore, NFCR - Rs. 500 crore, Advance CRF - Rs. 10.62 crore, Advance share in taxes - Rs. 200 crore, ways and means - Rs. 100 crores, Advance Central Assistance - Rs. 150 crore, which in all totals to Rs. 1065 crore.

So, we took a number of measures keeping the super-cyclone in mind. The Government is very serious on this point and we do not want to leave anything to chance. So, we are on the job. The hon. Member wants to know the measures that we have taken. We have already given them in the circular. The lead bank is UCO Bank which is responsible for giving assistance. State level Bankers' Committee meeting was held, then State and Central Government meeting was also held. We know that because of that cyclone, more than 10000 lives were lost, lakhs and lakhs of hectares of land were damaged and lakhs and lakhs of animals had died and so, we do not take it very lightly. I have particularly mentioned about Orissa. The Government is taking it very seriously.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a very specific question regarding the super-cyclone in Orissa, the loan and assistance from

the public sector banks. The Minister has given a reply and from that reply, I want to put one or two supplementary questions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can put only one supplementary and not two.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : I will put it as part (a) and part (b).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put them.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Yes, I am putting them.

In this hour of distress after the killer super cyclone of October, 1999, in Orissa, the distinctions between poor and non-poor have evaporated and every body is equated to only one level. My question is this. The hon. Minister in his reply mentioned that full freedom has been given to banks to grant loans. A mention was made about the State level Bankers' Committee, guidelines of the Reserve Bank, etc.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put the supplementary question. There is no time now and a number of Members want to put questions.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : I am putting the question from his own answer.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put the question straightway.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : The question is very serious, the situation in Orissa is also very serious and I am a new Member. I think, you will take a sympathetic consideration because of all these things. It is a question on which a half-an-hour discussion should be allowed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then we can go for the half-an-hour discussion immediately after one supplementary.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Sir, he said that the banks are free to evolve their own policy. In that case, no banks will grant any loan. He did not make any mention as to whether the banks will require no encumbrance certificate or not. At this hour of distress, no encumbrance certificate should be demanded by the banks. This is part (a) of my question.

Part (b) of my question is regarding wilful and non-wilful defaulters. If that distinction comes in, no bank will give any loan or assistance to the distressed people in that far-eastern area in distress and devastation.

Lastly, part (c) of my question is regarding record of rights. They have now made an alternative arrangement to give certificates, that is, it can be given by Revenue Inspector and the village agricultural workers. In this case,

the distressed people will have to grease the palms of the village level officers to get the certificates. I therefore say that it must be given by the representatives of the people. If they are given a free hand, nobody will get the loans from the nationalised banks.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would answer the last part of the question of the hon. Member. Since it is a super cyclone, the records are not available. We have authorised the revenue authorities to simply issue the certificates. Through these certificates they can get all the facilities which would be provided to those people who are affected by the cyclone. I am afraid that this right cannot be given to the village panchayat people and people's representatives. It is because we are not the executive authorities. The executive authorities are appointed by the Government. If the people's representatives start working as executive authorities, then there is no need for any official. Please excuse me for saying this. In this cyclone, nearly twelve lakh families have been affected. Up to 7th December, we have disbursed loans worth Rs. 4 crore by way of crop loan and term loans. Crop loan is Rs. 121 lakh; Agricultural loan is Rs. 48 lakh etc.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can sent all these details in writing to the hon. Member.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Are these loans disbursed by the nationalised banks?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Yes, these loans were disbursed by the nationalised banks.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the hon. Prime Minister has declared that it would be treated as a national calamity of rare severity. Has the Government of India declared this super cyclone a national calamity, in which case, I think, all these loans will become grant.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I would like to clarify that there is no provision for any such declaration as such. Absolutely, there is no instruction whatsoever that after such a declaration all the loans would become grants. I would humbly request that we should not get into semantics on this issue. We have said that it is a national calamity of rare severity and we are treating it as such. We are making all the assistance available to the State of Orissa because it is a national calamity of rare severity.

As far as the bank loans are concerned, I would like to supplement what has been already said on behalf of the Government. We lost no time on this issue. On the 5th of November, I personally ensured that a high level team of bankers led by the Chairman of the UCO Bank went to Orissa and discussed the issue with the Chief Minister, the Finance Minister, the Chief Secretary and other officials and on the 16th of November, we had a SLBC meeting to set out the future course of action.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, is it a fact that the Ninth Plan has made an allocation of only Rs. 750 crore to meet the national calamity? Is this amount sufficient to meet disasters of various kinds, like flood, cyclone and drought? It is said that this amount is going to be raised from Rs. 750 crore to Rs. 2000 crore.

For the first time, the cyclone which has affected the State of Orissa has affected my constituency also which is in Andhra Pradesh. Five lakh coconut trees have been uprooted and another five lakh coconut trees have been partially damaged. But there is no instruction from the Reserve Bank of India to the local banks to give loans. So far, these banks have not given any loan for growing coconut trees again in my constituency. So, this facility should be extended to my constituency also which is in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I had an occasion to clarify some of these matters yesterday in the House when we were discussing late evening, the Supplementary Demands. It is true that under the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, for the first time a National Fund for Calamity Relief was set up at the national level. It was joint fund where 75 per cent of money was supposed to come from the Government of India and 25 per cent was supposed to be contributed by the State Government. A corpus of Rs. 700 crore was suggested. That corpus was created. That corpus has got exhausted in the first three years of the life of the Finance Commission. This corpus has now to be augmented. There is a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Union Agriculture Minister consisting of various Chief Ministers. That Committee is supposed to meet and take decision in this matter.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, I would like to say that as far as banks are concerned there are instant instructions from 1984, repeated in 1998 as to how the banks should help cyclone affected or any calamity affected people or region. So, those instructions are very clear. If there is any problem in regard to any specific district or many specific case in Andhra Pradesh and if it is brought to my notice, we will certainly take care of that. But, as far as Calamity Relief Fund is concerned, we know that the State Government has to approach the Ministry of Agriculture which then sends a team. The team goes there and comes back with a report. Then Chief Minister sit and decide how much of that should be met from the National Calamity Relief Fund.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : In such cases, do you not think that all the loans should be write off and further loans should be given interest free because either in some of the families there is nobody to repay the loan or some of the families are not capable to repay the loan for another three to four years? In such cases, I think it is justified to

write off loans already given previous year and to give further loans interest free at least for three years.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : My colleague has already said that we have made very liberal provisions for re-scheduling, from two years, we have now added another five years. It has now gone on to seven years. As far as the question of writing off is concerned, this is an issue which will be taken up later with the State Government and wherever it is necessary, we will not hesitate to do so.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Sir, all that glitters is not gold. The notification of RBI has left many things to be decided by the State Government, but the State Government is limping. So, kindly take note of a few facts. I would request the hon. Minister, through you, that in the notification ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kindly ask question; otherwise, the Questions Hour will be over.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Please give me a minute.

In the notification, only four districts have been indicated and the other six districts affected by the cyclone and two districts affected by floods have been left to be notified by the State Government. This may be corrected.

Secondly, at page 2, regarding consumption loan, the proportion has to be agreed upon between the State Government and the Central Government. Kindly do not leave it to the State Government. Please take steps yourself.

HUDCO has assigned about Rs. 500 crore of loan. It may be immediately distributed. The Finance Minister is requested to take steps immediately.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : As far as the number of districts is concerned, we are going strictly by the recommendation of the Orissa Government. There is no other way in which we can proceed in this matter. We have to depend on the State Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Why do you not exempt the loans of poor farmers? It was campaigned in public by the BJP that the loans of poor farmers will be exempted. Why do you not come forward with a statement that the loans of cyclone-affected poor and marginal farmers will be exempted? That will perhaps be the most important thing.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, as far as the consumption loans are concerned, it has been raised already from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2000 and it is being distributed. As far as the additional Rs. 3000 are concerned, — because we agreed to raise it to Rs. 5,000— there the Orissa Government was supposed to move in the matter.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What about the loans of the marginal farmers which is being campaigned by your party there? If you are in a position to exempt loan of the marginal farmers, then say it here.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I would venture to say that as far as the role of the banks in Orissa is concerned, it has been extremely satisfactory. The banks have gone into this question in a big way. They are doing their best. But in respect of the actual beneficiary and what treatment has to be given to the actual beneficiary, we have no machinery except the machinery of the State Government. We have to necessarily go by their identification of the beneficiary.

Sir, though you did not permit Shri Dasmunsi to ask that question, yet I would like to respond, with your permission. In response to the question which Shri Jalappa had asked, I have already said that at present we are tackling the immediate needs of the people. If in course of time we come across cases where we feel that loans will have to be remitted, I have already said in response to the earlier question, that the Government will not hesitate to do this. So, that is where we stand.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Weak Public Sector Banks

*184. **SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:**

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector banks declared weak and showing sign of distress as per the report of the working group headed by Shri M.S. Verma;

(b) the factors responsible for sickness of these banks; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Government for recapitalisation of weak banks during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Public sector banks declared weak as per the Report of the Working Group headed by Shri M.S. Verma are Indian Bank, UCO Bank and United Bank of India. The banks showing signs of distress are Allahabad Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, Union Bank of India and Vijaya Bank.

(b) The major factors responsible for weakness in the three banks as per the Working Group's Report are

(i) high level of NPAs (ii) high cost of operations and (iii) low productivity and low profitability.

(c) Details of recapitalisation assistance provided by the Government during the last three years to the above three weak banks are as under:

(Rs. Crores)

Name of the Bank	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Total
Indian Bank	-	1750	100	1850
UCO Bank	54	350	200	604
United Bank of India	338	-	100	438
Total	392	2100	400	2892

Conference of Chief Ministers

*185. **SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:**

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conference of Chief Ministers and State Finance Ministers was held in New Delhi on November 16, 1999;

(b) if so, the major decisions taken in the meeting;

(c) whether the States have decided to exempt 25 commodities from sales tax;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some of the State Governments have not agreed to this proposal especially Gujarat State; and

(f) the reasons therefor and the number of State Governments which agreed to implement the decisions taken in the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following major decisions were taken:

(i) All the States and Union Territories will implement uniform floor rates as recommended by the Committee of State Finance Ministers with effect from 1.1.2000.

(ii) The offer or grant of any new incentive based on sales tax for industries shall be discontinued from 1.1.2000 by all States.

(iii) VAT will be implemented by all the States and Union Territories from 1.4.2001.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) All the decisions were taken unanimously

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

***186. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:**
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have plans to create new model to administer the strategic sale of its profit-making companies by taking such PSUs out of their administrative ministries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether for this purpose, the Disinvestment Commission is going to be vested with additional powers to oversee the sale of equity;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the sale of controlling stake in PSUs will be done either by inviting open bids or by directly negotiated deals with the interested parties; and

(f) if so, the details in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Modalities and approaches to disinvestment have evolved over time and can be expected to evolve further. However, no specific plan for creating a new model has been worked out.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

Target for Collection of Tax

***187. SHRI C.N. SINGH:**
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed by the Government for collection of taxes during the current financial year;

(b) whether the fixed targets are likely to be achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check tax evasion; and

(e) the likely figure of fiscal deficit and the measures taken/proposed to be taken to rein the fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) As per the budget estimates, the target for collection of direct taxes is Rs. 59235.10 crores and for indirect taxes is Rs. 117013.00 crores.

(b) The Government is making all possible efforts to achieve the targets.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

(d) The steps taken by Government include vigil by tax/enforcement agencies, effective gathering of information on possible evasion, surprise checks, surveys and searches, enforcing the provisions regarding compulsory and audit of accounts, rationalisation of tax rates and structures, simplification of procedures, and punishing tax evaders under relevant statutory provisions.

(e) The fiscal deficit (excluding small savings loans to States) during the current financial year (upto end of September, 1999) is Rs. 79955 crores. To rein in the fiscal deficit, Government is taking action to improve collection of tax and non-tax revenues, and to contain growth of expenditure.

[Translation]

Bank loans for Agricultural Sector

***188. SHRI J.S. BRAR:**
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down to provide loans to various sectors through public sector banks and financial institutions;

(b) the amount of loan provided by public sector banks and financial institutions to industrial, commercial and agricultural sectors, separately, during each of the last two years;

(c) the share of the banks and financial institutions in such loan separately;

(d) whether there is constant decline in the loan provided by banks to farmers and agricultural sector; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government of provide sufficient loan to agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) As per the extant guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), public sector banks are required to lend 40 percent of their net bank credit to the priority sector which comprises agriculture, small scale industry, small business and retail trade, small road and water transport operators, professional and self-employed persons, housing, education loans, etc. Sub-targets of 18 percent of net bank credit and 10 percent of net bank credit have been stipulated for lending to agriculture and the weaker sections under priority sector respectively. In so far as the financial institutions are concerned, no guidelines have been issued by RBI in regard to the dispensation of credit to various sectors and the matters relating thereto.

Financial institutions extend financial assistance based on their considered commercial judgment, prudential norms on exposure and asset classification and RBI guidelines on the subject after consideration of cases at prescribed appropriate levels.

The lending of scheduled commercial banks to Priority Sector including agriculture, industries (Medium and Large), Wholesale Trade and other sectors for the last two years, as reported by RBI, is given below:

Loans outstanding of Scheduled Commercial Banks

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Sector	March 1998	March 1999
1. Priority Sector	99507	114611
Of which: Agriculture	34869	39634
Small Scale Industries	43508	48483
Other Priority Sectors	21130	26494
2. Industry (Large and Medium)	117530	130516
3. Wholesale Trade	13217	13985
4. Other Sectors	57544	66104

The data information system of RBI does not generate sector-wise dispensation of credit by Financial Institutions in the manner asked for. However, the total outstanding credit of financial institutions is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Loan Outstanding of Financial Institutions	1998	1999
IDBI	50,282	53,865
ICICI	37,001	46,318
IFCI	19,553	20,353
SIDBI	12,835	14,094
NHB	2,469	3,093
IIBI	2,186	3,422
TFCI	744	843
Exim Bank	3,538	3,746

(d) and (e) The total amount of loans provided by the Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks during the last two years for agriculture sector is given below:

(Rs. Crore)

Type of Loan	1997-98 (Provisional)	1998-99 (Estimated)
Production Credit (Crop Loan)	19,434	23,577
Investment Credit (Term Loans)	12,264	14,477
Total Agricultural Loans	31,698	38,054
Growth rate over previous year	20%	20%

It may be seen from above that the agricultural loans to farmers from all agencies have been registering a growth of 20% during 1997-98 and 1998-99 over that of the previous years. In order to further enhance the flow of credit to agriculture sector RBI and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have taken a number of steps. Some of these are:

- Introduction of cash credit facility for meeting composite credit requirements of farmers having a good track record;
- Introduction of the Kisan Credit Card Scheme for agricultural borrowers;
- Banks have been advised to open specialized agricultural branches to take care of financing of high tech. agricultural projects;
- RBI has introduced simplification of loan applications, delegation of powers to branch managers, introduction of composite cash credit limits to farmers, introduction of new loan products, cash disbursement of loans, discretion to banks on matters relating to margin/security requirements for loans above Rs. 10,000 and dispensing with 'No Due Certificates' as a compulsory requirement; and
- Any shortfall in the target of lending to agriculture has to be contributed to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) which has been established with NABARD for assisting State Governments and State-owned Corporations in quick completion of on-going projects relating to rural infrastructure.

[English]

Non-banking Financial Companies

*189. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-banking financial institution/planting companies/agro based investment companies/chit fund companies functioning in the country as on May, 31, 1998 and as on date;

(b) the names and number of such companies which have disappeared within this period duping innocent investors of their hard earned money;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such companies to help investors to get their money back;

(d) whether the Task Force set up by the Government on non-banking financial companies has recommended sweeping changes in regulation and operation of these companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not conducted any census of the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) operating in the country. Following the prescription of the requirement of compulsory registration in accordance with the RBI Act as amended in 1997 the total number of applications received by RBI from NBFCs for issue of Certificate of Registration was 37,478 as on May 31, 1998.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reported that vide their press release dated November 23, 1997 and their public notice dated December 18, 1997 they had directed entities under Collective Investment Schemes to file the details of their schemes with SEBI. Till July, 1998 a total of 595 entities had filed information with SEBI. Till October 31, 1999, SEBI has received information from 642 entities.

Chit Funds are regulated by the Chit Funds Act, 1982 which stipulates that Chits shall be commenced or conducted after obtaining previous sanction of the State Government within whose jurisdiction the chit is to be commenced or conducted. Information regarding the chit funds in operation is not compiled by the RBI/Central Government on a regular basis. However, as per RBI's records there were 1101 chit fund companies functioning as on March, 1996.

(b) As per particulars made available by SEBI in August, 1999, eighty six companies were not traceable at their registered offices. Of these 19 companies listed in the enclosed Statement would seem to be finance companies.

(c) For regulating and supervising the activities of NBFCs, RBI has put in place, a comprehensive regulatory and supervisory mechanism. Company Law Board (CLB) has been authorised under the RBI Act to adjudicate the claims of depositors with specific powers to direct the defaulting companies to make repayments. CLB has evolved a procedure for the purpose and the Regional Benches of CLBs have been directing defaulting companies for making repayment of deposits. If an NBFC fails to honour the order of the Company Law Board the Reserve Bank can launch prosecution proceedings against it. The Reserve Bank has appointed Nodal Officers at its Regional Offices for instituting prosecution proceedings in such cases. RBI has also constituted Co-ordination Committees at four metropolitan centres to oversee the implementation of CLB orders by NBFCs.

(d) The Task Force set up by the Government of India has recommended a number of changes in legislative and regulatory framework of NBFCs.

(e) The recommendations of the Task Force include, *inter-alia*, further refinement and improvement in the existing legislative and regulatory framework, review of the minimum capital requirement of Rs. 25 lakhs for registration, apprising the State Governments regarding approval and rejection of applications for Certificate of Registration, higher CRAR for NBFCs seeking public deposit without credit rating, review of prudential norms, easing of the flow of bank credit of NBFCs, review of particulars to be given in the advertisements, setting up of a Depositors' Grievances Redressal Authority, speedy winding up and liquidation of NBFCs, attachment of assets of fraudulent NBFCs by Notification, constitution of Special Courts to deal with the assets of the notified parties, appointment of a custodian type authority by RBI on the lines of Special Courts in securities scam, deposit taking by unauthorized NBFCs and unincorporated financial intermediaries made a cognizable offence and ban on issue of advertisements soliciting deposits by unincorporated bodies, etc.

RBI has issued detailed direction on December 18, 1998 in order to implement some recommendations of the Task Force. The requirement of minimum (Net Owned Fund) for new companies NOF has been raised from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 200 lakhs effective on and from 21.4.1999. State Governments have been provided with lists of NBFCs who have been granted registration and those who have been refused registration. The ceiling on bank lending to NBFCs except Residuary Non-Banking Finance Companies (RNBCs) registered with RBI has been removed in May, 1999. Since the implementation of some recommendations, action has also been initiated to enact a separate legislation for NBFCs.

Statement

List of Companies

Sl.No.	Name of the Company
1.	Maa Leafin & Capital Ltd.
2.	Digital Leasing & Finance Ltd.
3.	Vipul Securities Ltd.
4.	AVR Securities Ltd.
5.	Cilson Finance & Investments Ltd.
6.	Chirau Finance Investment & Leasing Ltd.
7.	ICP Securities Ltd.
8.	Lakshya Securities & Credit Holdings Ltd.
9.	Tactful Investment Ltd.
10.	Kalyani Finance Ltd.
11.	Rajgarh Investments Ltd.
12.	Status Management Services Ltd.

Sl.No.	Name of the Company
13.	Zed Investments Ltd.
14.	Moon Holdings & Credit Ltd.
15.	Arrow Securities Ltd.
16.	Spil Finance Ltd.
17.	Esskay Telcom Ltd.
18.	Frontline Financial Service Ltd.
19.	Efcon Securities Ltd.

Tenth Finance Commission

*190. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission on devolution of required funds from Central Revenues including excise to the States;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The Tenth Finance Commission had recommended an alternative scheme of sharing of resources between the Centre and the States to be introduced with effect from 1st April, 1996. To implement the Government decision on this recommendation, the Constitutional (Eighty-Fifth Amendment) Bill, 1998 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 14th July, 1998. The Bill was referred by the Hon'ble Speaker to the Standing Committee on Finance for examination, which was returned by the Committee to the House in February, 1999. However, the Bill lapsed due to dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha. Proposal for re-introduction of the Bill is under consideration of the Government.

Misuse of Export Promotion Scheme

*191. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have found instances of frauds in the hundred per cent export oriented unit scheme and duty drawback scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether to curb the misuse of such export promotion schemes, the Government are contemplating legislative and non-legislative changes; and

(d) if so, the extent to which such frauds can be checked through such measures?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) No major incidents of fraud have come to the notice of the Government in the operation of the Export Oriented Units Scheme.

According to information furnished by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), which administer the duty drawback scheme, the number of cases of fraud under the Duty Drawback Scheme that have come to the notice of the Government, in which the exporters claimed concessions that were not admissible to them, during the last 3 years, is as under:

Year	No. of cases
1997-98	10
1998-99	25
1999-2000 (upto Oct. '99)	23

The Government constantly reviews the functioning of the various export promotion schemes with a view to plugging the loopholes which come to light in the operation of such schemes, and for taking other corrective steps. Deterrent action is also taken in cases of misuse of the provisions of the schemes and against infringements of the policy under the relevant laws.

Sick Textile Mills

*192. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textiles mills closed during 1998-99 due to sickness;

(b) the reasons of sickness; and

(c) the steps proposed to tide over the crisis in the textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) 93 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (non SSI) were reportedly closed during 1998-99.

(b) The sickness of textile mills can be attributed to a variety of reasons, viz. technological obsolescence, financial crunch, lack of modernisation, mismanagement, labour unrest, increase in cost of inputs, recession in demand etc.

(c) The Government has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, SICA, 1985 and established the BIFR with a view to timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by

BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies, change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions.

With BIFR as on 9.9.99, there were 421 textiles mills registered with it. Out of which, 67 miles have been sanctioned rehabilitation scheme, 52 mills have been declared non-maintainable, 104 mills have been recommended for winding up, 123 mills were under enquiry, and rest were at different stages of investigation/enquiry.

For enabling the modernisation and technological improvement, Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textile and jute industries, which is in operation since April 1, 1999, for five years i.e. March 31, 2004. The scheme seeks to facilitate the availability of loans from financial institutions with reimbursement of 5 percentage points on interest availed of by the industries. The principal objective of the scheme is to meet the modernisation needs of the textile and jute industries to enhance their viability, and competitiveness in the domestic as well as international markets. Any textile units, which is eligible as per the normal lending norms of the concerned financial institutions and fulfils the benchmark criteria of the scheme, can avail of funds under the scheme.

In order to improve the viability and competitiveness of textile industry, efforts are on to rationalise fiscal duty structure in consultation with industry and other concerned organisation.

Quantitative Restrictions

*193. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced to lift the ban on import of 2000 items at the Colombo SAARC meeting recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the neighbouring countries thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) During the SAARC Summit held in Colombo in July, 1998, the Prime Minister announced that India will lift Quantitative Restrictions maintained for Balance of Payments reasons on a preferential basis for SAARC countries with effect from August, 1, 1998. Accordingly, vide Public Notice No. 25 dated 1.8.1998, import restrictions on 2307 items were lifted for imports from SAARC Member Countries for

goods produced and originating from these countries in accordance with the Rules of Origin under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA). This initiative by India has been widely welcomed by SAARC countries as it would substantially increase the opportunities for them to access Indian markets and increase their exports.

Licences for Fireworks

*194. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Explosives has issued fireworks licences to wholesalers in the country in violation of the laid down norms and procedures;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make enquiry into the matter and cancel the licences that do not comply with the laid down rules and regulations;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of such licences issued in Delhi; and

(d) the number of firework accidents which took place in the country during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) 53 fireworks accidents were reported to the Department of Explosives during the years 1996-97 to 1998-99. The major reasons for these accidents were accidental friction/impact on firework composition; negligence on the part of workers during manufacture and electrical short circuits and falling of burning rockets in the fireworks shops.

Non-Performing Assets

* 195. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI AJIT SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Non-Performing Assets of banks/ Financial Institutions assessed during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons for such increase in amount of Non-Performing Assets of banks and Financial Institutions;

(c) the number of cases filed with Courts and Debt Recovery Tribunals to get back this amount of banks during each of the last three years;

(d) the amount recovered during the above period;

(e) whether the Government propose to publish the names of such bank loan defaulters, as precautionary measures;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the corrective steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The gross & net NPAs of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) for the last three years are as under:

Year	Gross NPAs	% To Total Advances	Net NPAs	% to Net Advances
31.03.1997	43577	17.84	20284.73	9.18
31.03.1998	45653	16.02	21232.18	8.15
31.03.1999	51711	15.89	24211.49	8.13

The Net NPAs of Financial Institutions (FIs)

Institution	1997		1998		1999	
	Total NPAs	% to Total Loan*	Total NPAs	% to Total Loan*	Total NPAs	% to Total Loan*
IDBI	4365	10.27	5101	10.14	6490	12.05
ICICI	2243	7.84	2834.6	7.66	3623	7.82
IFCI	2213	13.97	2663	13.62	4231	20.79
IIBI	200	19.28	286.66	13.12	480	14.03
TFCI	28	4.63	53.84	7.24	106	12.57
SIDBI	306	2.52	263.67	2.05	193	1.37
Exim Bank	NA	-	512.65	14.49@	406.61	10.65@
NABARD	196	0.98	330.57	1.45	1094	4.18

* Net of provisioning and write off.

* Source Respective FIs.

* The figures presented above are subject to verification by RBI.

@ Includes claims settled by ECGC pending appropriation and Reserve for exchange fluctuation.

(b) An account can become NPA for various reasons including internal factors such as deficient credit appraisal, non compliance with the terms of sanction while disbursing, inadequate supervision, diversion of funds by borrowers and wilful default in repayment or inefficient management of the unit financed. There may also be external factors such as non viability or sickness of the unit due to change in technology, demand pattern, Govt. policy etc., non completion of project due to cost and time overruns and non availability of raw material, labour problems, natural calamities, environmental factors such as pollution, ecological damages etc. responsible for an account turning into NPA.

(c) and (d) The number of cases and amount involved and position of recoveries through Debt Recovery Tribunals in respect of Public Sector Banks are as under:

	April 1996- June 97	July 1997- March 98	April 1998- March 99
Number of cases filed with DRTs	2896	4407	5674
Amount involved (Rs. in crores)	2871.63	4074.97	4959.31
Number of cases settled	760	1226	1503
Amount recovered (Rs. in crores)	70.42	68.11	178.78

(e) and (f) Under the current provisions of law, disclosure of information about the borrowers of banks and financial institutions is prohibited except in cases where suits have been filed. Accordingly, RBI has put in place a scheme to collect details about borrowers of banks and FIs with outstandings aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above and classified as "doubtful" or "loss" and accounts where suits are filed as on 31st March and 30th September each year and to disseminate this information (on floppy diskette to the banks and FIs for their use while considering, on merits, the request for new or additional credit limits by defaulting borrowing units and also by the directors/proprietors/partners named in the list either in their own name or in the name of other units with which they are associated. RBI has been publishing only the list of borrowers with outstandings (of Rs. 1 crore and above) against whom suits have been filed by banks and FIs, for recovery of their dues. Copy of the list has been placed in the Parliament Library.

(g) Banks have been advised to make efforts to reduce NPAs as also to check incidence of fresh NPAs by adopting well defined loan recovery policy, policy on compromise/negotiated settlement, through SACs and DRTs and improvement in credit management. Banks have also been advised that Banks's Board and Top Management should monitor the performance in this regard regularly.

[Translation]

Import/Export

*196. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of export and import made by the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the export of readymade garments has decreased during the current year as compared to the last year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the basis on which big exporters are nominated to the various committees under the Ministry of Commerce?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total value of exports and imports made by the country during each of the last three years are as follows:

(In US \$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports
1996-97	33470	39132
1997-98	35006	41484
1998-99*	33641	41886

* The figures are provisional.

(Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics)

(b) and (c) As per the provisional disaggregated data available from DGCI&G for the period April-August, 1999-2000, export of readymade garments was valued at US \$ 1874 million which is 13% higher than of the corresponding period of last year.

(d) The nomination to the Board of Trade are made with a view to giving representations to a cross section of trade and industry, which includes leading exporters and industrialists of the country as also economists and persons from the media.

[English]

Impact of Import of Mulberry

*197. **PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the State Governments particularly from Andhra Pradesh Government to reduce mulberry imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantity of mulberry imported during each of the last three years including current year, till date;

(d) whether any study has been conducted on the negative impact of imports of ungraded raw silk during 1998-99; and

(e) if not, the details of steps being taken to strengthen the domestic base of raw silk for both internal consumption and export purposes?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) The import of silk is in the restricted list. However, to provide quality silk to the exporters, the facility of importing mulberry raw silk under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) is available. In addition to meet the shortfall in demand, Government in October 1999 vide Public Notice dated 8th October 1998 permitted import of mulberry raw silk by certain designated agencies.

Representations were received from Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka requesting the Government to review this decision. Government rescinded the above Public Notice vide notification dated 30th October 1999 and permitted import of only Grade 2A and above mulberry raw silk under Special Import Licence (SIL) with the condition that the C.I.F. (Cost, Insurance and Freight) value of the surrendered silk shall be three times C.I.F. value of the imported goods to meet the requirement of superior grade silk. Subsequently, in order to closely monitor the import of mulberry raw silk, the Government vide their notification dated 8th July, 1999 have now permitted import of Grade-2A and above mulberry raw silk only through canalisation by the following organisations:

- (1) National Handloom Development Corporation
- (2) Handloom & Handicrafts Export Corporation Ltd.
- (3) State Handloom Development Corporations
- (4) Other State Corporations dealing with handlooms, powerlooms and silk.

In the light of the decisions taken by Government the quantity of ungraded raw silk imported into the country during 1998-99 was negligible. No. study has, therefore, been conducted on the negative impact of imports of ungraded raw silk during 1998-99. The total quantity of raw silk imported during the last three years is indicated below:

Year	Quantity
1997-98	2346 tonnes
1998-99	2827 tonnes
1999-2000 (upto August 99)	1522 tonnes

(e) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of silk. These include schemes for extension of R & D, training, infrastructural and extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units and implementation of certain development/incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk. During IXth Plan period the Government have approved 36 catalytic development schemes for the silk sector to be implemented through the Central Silk Board. In addition, CSB takes up specific projects in collaboration with State Governments like the National Sericulture Project and Action Plan for North Eastern States. Presently with assistance under Japan International Cooperation Agency, CSB is implementing a project for propagation and popularisation of bivoltine sericulture, which is aimed at production of superior grade silk.

Non-plan Expenditure

*198. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-plan expenditure of the Government is increasing rapidly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have been imposing some cuts in its non-planned expenditure over the years;

(d) if so, whether any result as contemplated has been achieved of those cuts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Government have identified the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The non-plan expenditure during the last five year is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Items of Non-Plan Expenditure	Actuals 1995-96	Actuals 1996-97	Actuals 1997-98	Revised Estimates 1998-99	Budget Estimates 1999-2000
1. Interest Payments	50045	59478	65637	77248	88000
2. Defence Expenditure	26856	29505	35278	41200	45694
3. Subsidies	13372	16364	19487	24683	23838
4. Grants to States & UT Governments	5967	6230	4416	4534	8159
5. Police	3082	3855	4903	5628	5899
6. Pensions	4277	5094	6881	10054	10131
7. Loans & Advances to States & UT Govts.	10538	10606	15817	23897	121
8. Other Non-Plan Expenditure	17764	16341	20572	26297	25040
Total Non-Plan Expenditure	131901	147473	172991	213541	206882

(b) The rapid growth in non-plan expenditure is attributable to growth in interest payments due to continuing high level of fiscal deficit, increase in Defence expenditure, subsidies, expenditure on internal security and increase in the salary and pension consequent upon revision of pay and allowances and pensionary benefits as a result of Government's decision on the recommendations of the Vth Central Pay Commission. The expenditure growth is also due to larger budgetary support to State Governments and sick public sector undertakings. Budget Estimates 1999-2000 show some reduction in non-plan expenditure over R.E. 1998-99. This is due to revised system of accounting of collections under Small Savings Schemes and investments thereof.

(c) During 1998-99, the Government had imposed 10% mandatory cut on non-salary secretariat expenditure i.e. on TA, Office Expenses, POL, OTA/Honorarium etc. Similar instructions have been issued imposing 10% cut on non-plan, non-salary expenditure i.e. on TA, Office Expenses, POL OTA, honorarium etc. during the current year 1999-2000 also. The growth under these items has been restrained.

(d) It is Government's constant endeavour to restrain non-plan non salary expenditure and it is difficult to relate any savings to specific measures.

(e) It may be seen from the composition of non-plan expenditure that bulk of it is of a committed nature and cannot be reduced in short term.

Losses in Banks

*199. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some nationalised banks have been suffering heavy losses constantly for the last several years;

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

(c) the profits/losses incurred by each nationalised bank during each of the last three years and during 1999 so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make these banks profitable and to check the wasteful expenditure in the banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Two nationalised banks have been suffering net losses constantly for a few years. The losses suffered/incurred during the last three years by the two banks are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of Bank	Net Losses		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
01.	Indian Bank	389.09	301.50	778.50
02.	UCO Bank	176.23	96.22	67.77

In case of Indian Bank, provisions for non-performing assets (NPAs), additional provisioning done on account of short provisioning done by the Bank for NAPs during the previous years, provisioning for investment on account of increase in the YTM (Yield to Maturity) and payment of arrears on account of wage revision were the significant

reasons for the losses. While a high level of non-performing assets have contributed to the losses of these two banks, other reasons include, *inter alia*, high administrative and operational expenses, high cost of deposits, low productivity, large number of loss making branches and non-adoption of technological updating to the required extent.

(c) A Statement showing bankwise profit and loss position of Nationalised Banks for the years 1996-97 to 1998-99 is enclosed. The audited figures of profit and loss are prepared by the Banks as on 31st March of every year i.e. the date on which the accounts of the Bank for the year are finalised.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to improve the performance of the weak banks as indicated below:

(i) UCO Bank and Indian Bank prepared a three-year (1997-98 to 1999-2000) Strategic Revival Plan for their turn-around based on the diagnostic studies conducted by the consultants. As the performance of the banks under the plans was not satisfactory, the banks submitted MoU/Performance Obligations and Commitments (POC) for 1998-99 to the Reserve Bank of

India indicating targets under various parameters. Both the banks constituted committees to review their progress under the plans. The performance of these banks is being monitored by Govt./RBI.

(ii) The two banks have entered into MoU with their respective Unions/Associations with a view of ensuring involvement of the staff in developmental efforts, redeployment of staff, clearing of arrears and elimination of restrictive practices.

(iii) Steps are being taken by these banks for reduction of their NPAs, increase in fee-based activities, redeployment of staff, reduction of loss making branches, improvement of MIS and computerisation etc. As part of cost reduction, and undertaking branch rationalisation, UCO Bank closed its loss making London branch and merged the two branches in Singapore. Steps have also been initiated to reduce operating cost, improve operational efficiency and supervisory control.

(iv) A Committee appointed by RBI on weak banks has submitted its report on improvement in the functioning of these banks. The report is under examination by RBI in consultation with Government.

Statement
Profit/Losses of Nationalised Banks for three years

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Name of the Bank	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Op. Profit	Net Profit	Op. Profit	Net Profit	Op. Profit	Net Profit
Allahabad Bank	184.26	64.30	227.49	129.21	233.68	135.00
Andhra Bank	87.55	35.70	155.25	75.25	156.52	90.04
Bank of Baroda	776.43	276.53	806.05	458.73	945.30	421.44
Bank of India	580.00	360.02	697.18	364.51	705.00	201.14
Bank of Maharashtra	103.37	47.26	124.10	56.29	134.91	51.89
Canara Bank	654.20	147.40	672.52	203.02	957.41	225.06
Central Bank of India	299.59	150.83	360.71	174.89	298.75	146.25
Corporation Bank	245.95	125.13	302.85	166.87	305.96	192.03
Dena Bank	194.04	72.91	273.61	105.04	216.01	110.09
Indian Bank	-138.36	-389.09	-209.50	-301.50	-163.24	-778.50
Indian Overseas Bank	129.45	104.51	154.34	113.06	142.96	55.34
Oriental Bank of Commerce	300.70	180.25	337.38	210.00	386.05	230.12
Punjab & Sind Bank	56.63	20.00	100.07	65.09	91.73	60.45
Punjab National Bank	620.00	238.00	801.11	477.35	821.27	372.12
Syndicate Bank	98.65	66.96	135.40	82.66	186.06	142.58
UCO Bank	-72.76	-176.23	15.04	-96.22	38.38	-67.77
Union Bank of India	341.32	215.68	349.53	250.10	309.98	160.22
United Bank of India	-54.97	-113.64	164.31	9.62	46.40	14.70
Vijaya Bank	34.77	18.96	63.75	23.31	116.14	30.23
Total Profit for Nationalised Banks	4706.91	2124.44	5740.89	2965.00	6092.51	2638.70
Total Loss of Nationalised Banks	-266.09	-678.96	-209.50	-397.72	-163.24	-846.27
Net Profit/Loss for Nationalised Banks	4440.82	1445.48	5531.19	2567.28	5929.27	1792.43

Amount Collected through Sale of Equity

*200. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected from sale of Government equity in the Central Public Sector Undertakings during 1997, 1998 and 1999;

(b) the percentage of this amount utilised for bridging fiscal deficit; and

(c) the percentage utilized for restructuring and Voluntary Retirement Schemes in each year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The amounts received through disinvestment in the Central Public Sector Undertakings during the year 1996-97 to 1998-99 is as follow:

Year	Amount received (Rs. in Crores)
1996-97	380
1997-98	902
1998-99	5371

(b) and (c) The amount raised from disinvestment is credited to Consolidated Fund of India.

Foreign Investment in Long Term Projects

1730. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to earmark a portion of foreign investment for long term projects such as Sethusamuthiram Project and Southern Peninsula Water Grid; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHAB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Foreign investment is routed through foreign nationals/NRIs/OCBs and FII in all sectors including the services sector, except whether the existing and notified sectoral policy does not permit Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) beyond a ceiling. FDI can be approved either through the Automatic Route under powers delegated to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), or by the Government as the case may be.

The proposal of Sethusamudram Ship Canal Project is at a preliminary stage and final decision for implementation of the project will be taken only after conducting the feasibility studies on the project. No foreign investment has been earmarked for the project.

No foreign investment is also earmarked so far for the Southern Peninsula Water Grid.

Cultivation of Jute

1731. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total land in Tripura, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and other States which are covered by cultivation of Jute/Mesta during each of the last three years;

(b) the total amount of assistance provided by the Union Government to the various States during the above period for research, input supply and development work for Jute and Mesta;

(c) the action taken by the Government to provide adequate remunerative price to the growers;

(d) whether the Jute Corporation of India has been asked for effective purchase of Jute and stop the withdrawal of purchase centres from the market; and

(e) the performance of the Corporation during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The total area under cultivation of Jute/Mesta during last three years is given below:

Figures in '000 HEC

States	1997-98 (July-June)	1998-99	1999-2000
Tripura	7	09	2
Assam	99	91	83
West Bengal	6.52	6.21	5.19
Bihar	1.35	1.24	1.28
Other States	1.82	1.55	1.73
Total	10.75	10.00	9.05

(b) The total amount of assistance provided by the Union Government on research, input, supply and development work for jute and mesta is given below:

Funds Released (Rs. in lakh)

States	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	26.00	44.00	12.50	12.00
Assam	82.00	9.50	88.20	20.00
Bihar	-	2.00	7.40	-
Meghalaya	8.00	1.00	51.00	5.00
Orissa	42.00	66.00	68.00	12.00
Tripura	19.00	43.50	-	5.00
Uttar Pradesh	13.27	35.00	-	5.00
West Bengal	114.00	189.00	180.90	55.00
Research (ICAR)*	403.89	986.52	1280.93	-

* As funds for research are not released statewide rather they are released to research institutions, hence statewide figure is not possible to be given.

(c) Government of India announces minimum support price for raw jute every year to ensure a minimum return to the Jute growers. MSP has been rising every year and it has been raised from Rs. 650 per quintal (1998-99) to Rs. 750 per quintal for the current season i.e. 1999-2000.

(d) Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI) intervenes and carries out MSP operations whenever the market prices touched the MSP level. Open market price in upcountry markets and local markets have usually remained higher than the MSP since 1998-99. However, in some isolated pockets market price touched the MSP when JCI intervened and carried MSP Operation till prices increased above MSP level. Procurement under MSP have been small. There is no proposal at present to wind-up any purchase centre.

(e) The performance of the JCI during last three years are as under :

Year	Production	Production & Procurement Figure in '000 B/S (180 KG)			Purchase Centres	Proc. % of prod.
		Sub.	Com.	Total		
1996-97	10200	0	22	22	173	Negligible
1997-98	10900	985	0	985	175	9
1998-99	8300	0	45	45	165	1
1999-2000 (upto 3.12.'99)	7800	14	86	100	171	1.3

Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited

1732. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a company named Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited had been incorporated under Companies Act, 1956, to take over the new Note Press Project from Reserve Bank;

(b) if so, the date of its incorporation;

(c) the reasons for which such a company has been floated in violation of Section 24 and Section 25 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934;

(d) the names of shareholders of the company and the location of its registered offices or likely to be set up; and

(e) the category-wise Salary, Allowances and perks of the officials of this company in comparison with the official of Reserve Bank of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Company named Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Pvt. Ltd. had been incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India for taking over the New Note Press Project from the Reserve Bank.

The Company was incorporated as Private Limited Company on 3rd February, 1995. It became a Public Company by virtue of the provisions of Section 43-A(2) of the Companies Act, 1956, from 5th March, 1997.

(c) Under the provisions of Sections 17(15) and 17(16) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Reserve Bank of India is empowered to make and issue bank notes subject to the provisions of the Act and generally to do all such matters and things as may be incidental to or consequential upon the exercise of its powers or discharge of its duties under this Act.

Section 24 and Section 25 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 only deal with the denominational value of the Bank Notes and the mechanism for approval of design, form and material of the Bank Notes. These Sections do not prohibit the Reserve Bank of India from the setting up of Note Printing Press under its control. Therefore, the setting up of Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited, as a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India for taking over the New Note Press Project is not violative of the provisions of Section 24 and Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934.

(d) The names of Shareholders are as under:

(i) Reserve Bank of India : 7,99,99,999 shares

(ii) Managing Director, One Share

Bhartiya Reserve Bank

Note Mudran Limited-

Nominee of Reserve Bank of India.

The location of the Registered Office of the Company is IIIrd floor, RBI Building, 10/3/8, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore - 560 001.

(e) The category-wise Salary, Allowances and perks of the officials of Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited as compared to Reserve Bank of India is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited		Reserve Bank of India	
Category of Officers	Scales of Pay (effective 1.1.1996)	Category of Officers	Scales of Pay (effective 1.11.1992)
1. Assistant Manager	Rs. <u>7200-225</u> -11700 (21 years) 1 20	Assistant Manager	Rs. <u>4475-300</u> -4775- <u>325</u> -8025-EB- <u>325</u> -9650(17 years) 1 1 10 5
2. Deputy Manager	Rs. <u>8800-300</u> -14800 (21 years) 1 20	Manager	Rs. <u>4825-325</u> -8400-EB- <u>325</u> -10350(18 years) 1 11 6
3. Manager	Rs. <u>11000-350</u> -16600 (17 years) 1 16	Assistant General Manager	Rs. <u>7150-325</u> -10075-EB- <u>325</u> -11050 (13 years) 1 9 3
4. Assistant General Manager	Rs. <u>13200-400</u> -18000 (13 years) 1 12	Deputy General Manager	Rs. <u>10125-325</u> -11750 (6 years) 1 5
5. Deputy General Manager	Rs. <u>15600-450</u> -20100 (11 years) 1 10	General Manager	Rs. <u>11175-325</u> -12800- <u>350</u> -13500 (8 years) 1 5 2
6. General Manager	Rs. <u>20200-525</u> -24400 (9 years) 1 8	Chief General Manager	Rs. <u>12575-325</u> -12900- <u>350</u> -13600- <u>400</u> -14400-(6 years) 1 1 2 2
Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited		Reserve Bank of India	

Dearness Allowance

Dearness Allowance is payable to compensate the Price Index above Consumer Price Index (CPI) 306.35 (Base year 1982 - 100) to which the pay scales relate to, with effect from 1.1.1996. The method/periodicity of calculations is on the pattern applicable to Central Government employees.

Dearness Allowance

Dearness Allowance payable to the officers, only when the quarterly average Consumer Price Index is above CPI-1148. the rates of Dearness Allowance for every rise or fall of 4% over 1148 points of the All India Working Class Consumer Price Index (Base year 1960-100) shall be as follows:

Pay	Rate of Dearness Allowance for every 4 points
(i) Upto Rs. 4800/-	0.35% of Pay
(ii) Rs. 4801/- to Rs. 7700/-	0.35% of Rs. 4800/- plus 0.29% of pay in excess of Rs. 4800/-
(iii) Rs. 7701/- to Rs. 8200/-	0.35% of Rs. 4800/- plus 0.29% of difference between Rs. 7700/- and Rs. 4800/- plus 0.17% of pay in excess of Rs. 7700/-
(iv) Above Rs. 8200/-	0.35% of Rs. 4800/- plus 0.29% of difference between Rs. 7700/- and Rs. 4800/- plus 0.17% of difference between Rs. 8200/- and Rs. 7700/- plus 0.09% of pay in excess of Rs. 8200/-

House Rent Allowance

Payable except to those who have been provided with residential accommodation by the Company; the rates are:

Bangalore : 15% of Basic Pay

Mysore : 7.5% of Basic Pay. However, till a decision is taken by Govt. of India on categorization

House Rent Allowance

House Allowance will be paid @ 13% (rounded off to the next higher rupee) uniformly for all centres subject to a maximum of Rs. 700/- per month. In respect of non-transferable categories of officers in Gr. A (Assistant Manager grade) the payment of House Allowance at all centres will be Rs. 525/- per month.

Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited	Reserve Bank of India
<p>of Mysore as per the Fifth Pay Commission Report classification, HRA will be payable at 15% on the basis of existing classification.</p> <p>Salboni : 5% of Basic Pay</p> <p>City Compensatory Allowance (CCA)</p> <p>Bangalore : Rs. 65/- , Rs. 95/-, Rs. 150/- or Rs. 240/- depending on Basic Pay</p> <p>Mysore : Rs. 25/-, Rs. 35/-, Rs. 65/- or Rs. 120/- depending on Basic Pay</p> <p>Salboni : No CCA payable.</p> <p>Provident Fund</p> <p>12% pay plus Dearness Allowance contributed by officer and matching 12% contribution by the Company.</p> <p>Pension</p> <p>Governed by Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.</p> <p>Reimbursement of Conveyance expenses</p> <p>Vehicle owners and non-vehicle owners at prescribed rates.</p> <p>Medical Facilities</p> <p>(i) <i>Outdoor treatment:</i> Fixed Annual Monetary limits fixed for various cadres payable on declaration basis ranging from Rs. 2100/- to Rs. 2700/- Dispensary facilities at Sites Offices for consultation purposes.</p> <p>(ii) <i>Indoor Medical facilities :</i> Generally to take treatment in approved hospitals; 100% reimbursement of admissible claim for employees; reimbursement of 75% of admissible claim for family and dependant parents.</p> <p>Advances</p> <p>No advances like Festival Advance, Vehicle Advance, House Building Advance or Consumer Articles Advance.</p> <p>No leave Salary allowance Advance.</p>	<p>Local Allowance</p> <p>Local Allowance will be paid @ 6% of Pay (rounded off to the next higher rupee uniformly for all centres subject to a maximum of Rs. 350/- per month)</p> <p>Family Allowance</p> <p>Family Allowance will be paid @ 5% of pay (rounded off to next higher rupee) uniformly to all officers subject to a maximum of Rs. 330/- p.m.</p> <p>Provident Fund</p> <p>10% of Basic Pay contributed by officer and matching contribution by the Bank in respect of those opted for Contributory Provident Fund.</p> <p>Pension</p> <p>Those who have opted for Pension governed by Reserve Bank of India Pension Regulations, 1990.</p> <p>Reimbursement of Conveyance expenses</p> <p>Vehicle owners and non-vehicle owners at prescribed rates.</p> <p>Medical Facilities</p> <p><i>Dispensary facility:</i> In addition of Dispensary facility, can consult any general medical practitioner and take outdoor treatment; Reimbursement of Rs. 1200/- per annum on declaration basis.</p> <p><i>Indoor Treatment:</i> Treatment from approved hospitals; 100% reimbursement of admissible claim.</p> <p>Advances</p> <p>Interest-free festival Advance; Interest bearing advances such as Vehicle Advance, Computer Purchase Advance, Consumer Articles Advance, Furnishing of Residence of Officers Advance, Housing Loans.</p> <p>Leave salary Advance available.</p>

Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited

Leave Travel Facility available once in two years; for visit home town; once in block of 4 years once set of visit to home town can be converted for visit to any place in India.

Retirement Travel Facility (RTF) available

Reimbursement of Newspaper subscription (one general or financial newspaper) reimbursement and cost of Visiting Cards and briefcase at prescribed rates/ intervals.

Reserve Bank of India

Leave Fare Concession to place of domicile once in two year available; if no availing visit to domicile Leave Fare Concession for visiting places upto specified distances available.

Retirement Travel Facility (RTF) available

Reimbursement of subscription to one general and one financial newspaper; reimbursement of cost of Visiting Cards and Briefcase at prescribed rates at prescribed intervals.

Book Grant Scheme: Reimbursement of cost of books having relevance to work area at prescribed annual limits.

Jute Packaging Act, 1987

1733. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any study to pack cement and fertilizers in Jute bags and HDPE/PP bags;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) further steps taken to implement the jute packaging materials (compulsory use in packing commodities) fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) IIT Kharagpur has been engaged for conducting a study regarding cost advantages of packaging in jute bags vis-a-vis HDPE/PP bags.

(c) The existing order in force requires for mandatory packaging of 100% foodgrains, 100% sugar and 20% fertilizer (urea) in jute bags. Monthly reports are obtained from individual units and compliance position is monitored. In case of slippage, notices are issued and followed up.

Incentives to NRIs

1734. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Non-Resident Indians investment in the country during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to give greater investment incentives to NRIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The

NRI investment approved during each of the last three years is as follows:

Year	Investment approved (Rs. in millions)
1996	21906.97
1997	18171.79
1998	7503.39
1999 (upto July)	1904.94

(b) The general policy and facilities for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as available to foreign companies are fully applicable to NRIs as well. In addition, Government have extended some concessions specially for NRIs and OCBs (Overseas Corporate Bodies), predominantly owned by the NRIs. These include (i) NRIs/OCBs investment is permitted in the real estate and housing sectors upto 100% (ii) NRIs/OCBs investment in domestic airlines sector is permitted upto 100% (iii) NRIs/OCBs are permitted to invest upto 40% in the banking sector, (iv) NRIs can invest beyond 24% in Small Scale Industries in the first instance provided they do not have a stake in any other industrial undertaking; and (v) NRIs/OCBs can invest upto 100% in industries/items included in high/priority industries included in Annexure-III of the Manual on Industrial Policy and Procedures.

Misuse of Funds by Bank of Rajasthan

1735. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has rapped the Bank of Rajasthan for misuse of funds and have inspected the books of that bank;

(b) if so, the specific cases of misuse of funds and the action taken thereon along with outcome of the inspection; and

(c) the manner in which the situation is compared with other private banks and the number/details of private banks in which similar instances of misuse of funds have come to light?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that in February, 1997 a penalty of Rs. 20 lacs was imposed on the Bank of Rajasthan Ltd. for violating RBI guidelines on bill discounting scheme, purchase of cheques, advances against the shares and packing credit advances. RBI has also issued orders in October, 1997 for removal of two of the Bank's Directors for irregularities such as large scale diversion of bank's fund sanctioned by way of loan for the benefit of the concerned/company in which they were directly or indirectly interested. The Bank of Rajasthan Ltd. was also prohibited from appointing any person either by election or co-option or otherwise on the Board of the Bank without the prior permission of RBI.

(c) As reported by RBI, Vysya Bank Ltd. was imposed a penalty of Rs. 20 lacs in February, 1997 for violation of RBI instruction on bill discounting scheme/bridge loan and advances against shares. A penalty of Rs. 5 lacs was imposed upon United Western Bank Ltd. for violation of instructions of bill discounting scheme. A moratorium has also been imposed upon Sikkim Bank Ltd. following deterioration in the financial position of that Bank. RBI has also issued orders removing Managing Director of Sikkim Bank Ltd.

Rubber Processing Centre in Kerala

1736. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal/memorandum from Kerala Government to set up Rubber Processing Centres in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Government of Kerala, however, had requested for seed capital of Rs. 15 crores for establishing Rubber based industries in the State. The Government of India has not accepted the proposal.

[Translation]

Handover of NTC Mills

1737. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to handover all the mills functioning under National Textile Corporation to the States concerned to make them financially viable, without putting any additional burden;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the State Governments on the above said proposal of the Union Government;

(d) whether the Government of Bihar have sent any proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) Minister of Textiles had written to the Chief Ministers of all States where NTC mills are located, offering waiver of the loans given by Government of India/NTC (HC) and interest thereon as well as the amount of VRS already paid to the workers who had accepted voluntary retirement. In addition, Government of India expressed its willingness to discharge the liabilities of these mills towards arrears of statutory dues of the workers. None of the State Governments has sent a positive response. The Government of Bihar have declined the offer.

[English]

Import and Export of Gold and Silver

1738. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the quantity of Import & Export of Gold and Silver during the last two years country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

IMPORT OF GOLD & SILVER

(Qty. in Kgs.)

Silver			Gold (Non Monetary)		
Country	1997-98	1998-99	Country	1997-98	1998-99
Argentina		3020	Australia	953	14636
Australia	15185	79267	Austria		100
Belgium	2312	12194	Baharain IS		170

Country	1997-98	1998-99	Country	1997-98	1998-99
Brunei		1000	Belgium	19	738
Canada	50519	51361	Canada	15	
China P RP	8611	26034	Chinese Taipei	3	319
Czech Republic		5900	China P RP	72	95
France	2020	4045	Czech Republic		1616
German F Rep.	6296	22978	Denmark	20	1
Hong Kong	663	142819	France ,		2604
Italy	2687	2473	German F Rep.	911	2693
Japan	142	2697	Greece	5	
Kazakhstan	37993	26770	Hong Kong	263	5136
Malasia		1000	Israel	2	
Mayanmar		50	Italy	105	283
Mexico	9708	38679	Japan	78	1068
Norway		1000	Korea RP		23306
Oman	1	-	Kuwait	110	92
Pakistan		5	Malaysia	9	88
Peru		6646	Netherland	116	282
Poland	4292	16321	Nigeria		53
Romania	3535	990	Oman	67	-
Russia	7568	130132	Poland		143
Rwanda		20	Russia		11295
Saudi Arab	992	6392	Saudi Arab	786	1856
Singapore	19925	28802	Singapore	909	5479
South Africa	2009	19588	South Africa	11882	111456
Sweden	4008	11881	Sri Lanka	15	
Switzerland	1048591	887773	Swaziland		58
Tajikistan		985	Sweden	251	912
Thailand		5	Switzerland	179580	233713
U Arab Emits.	467864	284313	Thailand	32	57
U K	406947	733687	Turkey		1
USA	350658	318161	U Arab Emits.	30280	60102
Yugoslavia		1000	UK	34518	76013
			USA	4446	83557

EXPORT OF GOLD & SILVER

(Qty. in Kgs.)

Silver			Gold (Non Monetary)		
Country	1997-98	1998-99	Country	1997-98	1998-99
Belgium	1	1	UK	1	
Malaysia	60				
Newzealand	3				
Singapore	50				
Switzerland	40				
U Arab Emits	411	2774			
U K	20				
USA	20				

Source: DGCIS, Calcutta

Note: These figures exclude the quantity of gold & silver imported through personal baggage

Export Promotion Council

1739. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the Export Promotion Councils;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been set up for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the functioning of Export Promotion Councils?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the significant changes that have taken place in the international trading environment in recent years, it was felt necessary to restructure the EPCs' in order to improve their functioning and make them more effective. Moreover, with emergence of new sectors of export importance, criteria need to be laid down regarding establishment of new EPCs'.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Sub-committee consisting of three senior officers of the Ministry was established in July, 1998 for the purpose. Based on the report of the Sub-committee model bye-laws/articles of association are being finalised.

(e) The above steps are expected to improve the functioning of existing EPCs.

Demand of Ban on Silk Waste Export

1740. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Spun Silk industry has demanded a ban on silk waste export, as several countries are importing Indian Silk waste at higher prices resulting in closure of 12 of the 17 Spun Silk Mills in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bale out the domestic spun silk industry from the present crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, representation has been received from the Indian Spun Silk Mills Federation for imposing a ban on export of silk waste. Representation has also been received from reelers' association for permitting export

of silk waste without registration. Presently the export of silk waste, not carded or combed, is permitted subject to valid registration certificate by the Central Silk Board (CSB).

CSB has been asked to monitor closely the availability and prices of silk waste. Government is closely watching the situation.

Revival of Azam Jahi Mills

1741. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to revive the Azam Jahi Mills in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to revive and modernise the mill; and

(c) the details of proposals sent by the workers union in this regard alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth turning positive within the stipulated period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

(c) According to available information no concrete proposal except the request for revival of Azam Jahi Mills by workers or by Co-operative Society of workers has been received.

Central Assistance to Maharashtra

1742. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a total central assistance of Rs. 91.41 crores is due to the Government of Maharashtra under the Scheme recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission for disbursement of grants to urban local bodies in Maharashtra State; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said assistance is likely to be given to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Out of the total grant of Rs. 132.95 crores recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission for the Urban Local Bodies of Maharashtra, grants amounting to Rs. 99.71 crores have been released so far. The balance will be released after the State Government complies with the guidelines for the utilisation of local body grants.

Implications for Domestic Textile Industry

1743. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any textile agreement has been approved by India and European Union recently; and

(b) if so, its implications for the domestic textile industry and about its capability to face import competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

Performance of Ongoing Projects

1744. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of major ongoing projects during the 8th Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of target set and achieved, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of action plan in operation for exploitation/harnessing the mineral resources in Maharashtra for the current year and the Ninth Plan period;

(d) the details of major projects cleared during 1998-99 and the current year with estimated investment proposed during the Ninth Plan as well as in the private sector; and

(e) the details of fresh initiatives taken during the last three years or under consideration to encourage private sector investment in mining sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of BHEL

1745. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) during each of the last three years with figures of profit and loss;

(b) whether any special schemes have been launched to revive the units of BHEL at various places to make optimum utilisation of its plants and machinery, including manpower; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) BHEL is a profit making company since 1971-72. It is paying dividends continuously since 1976-77. The major performance indicators during the last three years are as follows:

(Rupees in Crores)

	1996-97	1997-1998	1998-99
Turnover	5755	6471.3	6794.6
Profit before Tax	864	1021.7	932.3
Profit after Tax	463	719.5	544.6

(b) and (c) BHEL has 14 manufacturing units located in different parts of the country. Operations of these units are reviewed at regular intervals and steps are taken to ensure optimal utilisation of the equipment and manpower. While profit making units are further strengthened, special attention is paid towards units that are not performing as expected in regard to marketing, diversification, new products, value addition, updation of technology, improvement in yield, cost economy, etc.

T.W.R.F.

1746. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the workers rendered jobless due to lay off or closure of textile mills and powerlooms in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make easy the functioning of textile mills and powerlooms and to provide more facilities to this industry;

(c) whether the Union Government have extended any financial assistance to the State Governments for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) In pursuance of the Statement of Textile Policy, 1985, Government have set up the Textile Workers Relief Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to protect the interest of workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure or partial closure of textile mills in the private sectors only, in the country, including in Tamil Nadu. The objective of the TWRFS is to provide interim relief to the eligible workers only for a period of 3 years on a tapering basis, 75% of wage equivalent in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year.

(b) Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textile and jute industries, which is in operation since April 1, 1999, for five years i.e. March 31, 2004. The scheme seeks to facilitate the availability of loans from financial institutions with reimbursement of 5 percentage points on interest availed of by the industries. The principal objective of the scheme is to meet the modernisation needs of the textile and jute industries to enhance their viability, and competitiveness in the domestic as well as international markets. Any textile units, which is eligible as per the normal lending norms of the concerned financial institutions and fulfils the benchmark criteria of the scheme, can avail of funds under the scheme.

With regard to powerloom sector, Government has set up 43 Powerloom Service Centres and 17 Computer Aided Design Centres in different parts of the country to impart training to powerloom weavers. In addition group insurance scheme for powerloom workers has been introduced by Government in association with LIC.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Doesn't arise.

Damage by Super Cyclone In Orissa

1747. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of textiles and Spinning mills affected in Orissa by the severe and super cyclones of 17th/18th and 29th/30th October, 1999 and the amount of loss and number of workers affected thereby;

(b) the measures taken to revive those small and big textile and spinning mills and rehabilitate the affected workers; and

(c) the time by which the revival and rehabilitation work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) In the State of Orissa, there are 16 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (non SSI) as on 31.3.99. Out of which, there is one NTC mill, a PSU of the Government of India. This NTC mill located in Cuttak, is closed and has been affected by severe and super cyclones during October, 1999. The need for rehabilitation is being assessed by the NTC. For the rest, the Ministry of Textiles does not have provision of funds for such proposes.

[Translation]

Setting up of Weaving Centres In Bihar

1748. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given approval for setting up of textile industry and weaving centres in any

district of Bihar during the last three years and during the current financial year, till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such centres are likely to be set up in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Weavers Service Centre is already functioning at Bhagalpur in Bihar.

Export of Minerals

1749. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of minerals exported from the country during each of the last three years, state-wise;

(b) the names of the countries to which these minerals were exported alongwith the names of the minerals exported;

(c) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase this export during the last three years alongwith the steps likely to be taken during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Sir, Country-wise export details of minerals exported during the last three years, alongwith destinations and value thereof are given in enclosed Statement. State-wise details are not maintained by DGC&S/agencies involved.

(d) In-addition to fixing of targets for each year based on the previous year performance, the following steps have been taken by the Government to increase export of Minerals:

(i) New markets have been identified to make up for the shortfall in exports to Japan and South Korea and increase market share in the growing Chinese market.

(ii) Product range has been enlarged to suit the market demand.

(iii) Enhancing competitiveness by cost reduction and through greater emphasis on quality.

(iv) Using leverage of high grade ores to promote and develop exports of low and medium grade ores.

Statement*Country-wise Export details in respect of Minerals*

Qty. in Million Tonnes ; Value in Rs. Crores (Million US\$)

Minerals Exported	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99 (Prov.)		Major Countries
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	
Iron Ore	27.82	1708.44 (480.69)	29.50	1769.65 (476.16)	21.49	1599.52 (380.20)	Australia, Belgium, Chinese Taipei, China PR, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Pakistan, Romania, U.K.
Mica	0.03	25.01 (7.05)	0.05	40.04 (10.77)	0.04	43.55 (10.35)	Belgium, China PR, Germany, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, U.K., U.S.A.
Coal	0.47	82.60 (23.27)	0.54	88.37 (23.78)	6.88	133.66 (31.77)	Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal.
Processed Mineral	N.M.	1203.43 (339.00)	N.M.	1251.00 (336.60)	N.M.	989.40 (235.18)	Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chinese, Taipei, China PR, Denmark, Germany, Hongkong, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Srilanka, U.A.E., U.K., U.S.A.
Other Ores & Minerals	N.M.	1144.42 (322.37)	N.M.	793.46 (213.50)	N.M.	982.13 (233.45)	Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Chinese Taipei, China PR, Germany, Hongkong, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, U.A.E., U.K., U.S.A.

N.M. - Not maintained.

Source : DGCI&S.

*[English]***Jeevan Surabhi Insurance Policy**

1750. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of return(s) received by the person insured/assured under 'Jeevan Surabhi policy with Profits' is hundred percent tax free;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the relevant section/clause of Income Tax Act along with salient features of the policy/scheme;

(c) the details of other such schemes/policies of LIC under which the amount of return received by the person insured/assured is hundred percent tax free; and

(d) the measures, if any, taken or proposed to be taken to popularise such schemes and also to introduce more such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c)

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that any sum including the sum allocated by way of bonus on such policy received under a life insurance policy which includes policy under 'Jeevan Surabhi Plan' is not included in income as per the provisions of Section 10(10D) of Income Tax Act, 1961.

However, any sum received under Sub-Section (3) of Section 80 DDA or under a Keyman insurance policy and any periodical payment which arises from an annuity/pension type of policies taken from LIC will be included in the income for the purpose of Income Tax.

Jeevan Surabhi Plan is a money-back policy plan with a provision for increasing the risk cover during the term of the policy. The policy provides for periodical payments on survival upto the end of the specified periods. On death at any time during the term of a policy, the basic sum assured alongwith the vested bonuses will be paid. At the end of each 5 years, the risk cover increases by 50% of the basic sum assured payable only on death during the term which may be for 15, 20 or 25 years. On survival upto the date of maturity, the vested bonus will be paid only in respect of basic sum assured.

(d) To popularise insurance, LIC brings out pamphlets, circulars and write-ups. In addition to educating their

intermediaries numbering approximately 6 lacs, LIC also launches campaign through Press, Radio and Television media.

LIC has been introducing new plans every year during last 4 to 5 years to cater to different segments keeping in view their social and economic needs.

Interest on House Building Advance

1751. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the rate of interest charged on House Building Advance to Government servants in view of overall reduction in interest rates by banks and other financial institutions engaged in lending money for the house building purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The rate of interest on House Building Advance were recently revised in 1997 and these rates are already subsidized rates. There is no proposal under consideration of Government to reduce the rates of interest on House Building Advance to Government servants.

HBA for I.T. Purpose

1752. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present limit of repayment of H.B.A. in a financial year for Income tax purpose;

(b) the date of ceiling last revised;

(c) whether in view of the high cost of flats/houses etc. the Government have any proposal to enhance the said limit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Under section 88 an assessee, being an individual or an HUF, is entitled to a tax rebate of 20% of sums contributed towards various saving schemes, life insurance etc. subject to an overall limit of Rs. 60,000/- (Rs. 70,000/- in case of contribution to schemes relating infrastructure sector) It also includes repayment of HBA upto a maximum limit of Rs. 10,000/-.

(b) The ceiling of Rs. 10,000/- has not been revised since the insertion of the provision by Finance Act, 1990.

(c) to (e) The Government considers those limits in the context of the overall ceiling of investment which qualifies for rebate under the Section. The ceiling of the overall investment permissible under the provision is considered as part of budget exercise every year. The amount permissible for deduction of repayment of housing loan is also examined in the context of other saving instruments that are allowed rebate. Both the aspects receive consideration at the time of the annual budget exercise.

Development of Poultry Farms

1753. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD has undertaken any study to provide credit for further development of poultry in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it had undertaken a study by constituting a Working Group on "Poultry farming-current status and sustainability in highly concentrated areas". Based on the field observations and extensive discussions held with poultry farmers, bankers, government officials and others, the Working Group had made certain recommendations pertaining to the development of poultry. The main recommendations of the Group are given below:

- i. The bio aspects have to be adhered to while appraising the projects;
- ii. Fixation of repayment as well as grace period to be on realistic cash flow analysis and financing banks may adopt a flexible approach;
- iii. Banks may consider extending separate credit limits for working capital wherever necessary;
- iv. Cost of land may be incorporated in the project cost and value of land upto 10% of total project cost could be considered as margin money;
- v. Additional term loan/demand loan as well as working capital limit on short term basis may be sanctioned in the event of natural calamities, disease outbreaks, etc. and existing loan may be rescheduled/extended, wherever necessary;
- vi. Banks may consider provision of captive feed plants for all the poultry projects having more than 10000 birds;

- vii. In cases of new projects banks may satisfy themselves the entrepreneur has adequate experience and/or training in the poultry farming;
- viii. Banks may encourage proposals for brooding and growing operations at a different place subject to financial viability;
- ix. Poultry units upto 10000 birds may generally be considered on a cluster basis.

NABARD has issued a circular to all scheduled commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks and co-operative banks in May, 1999 for taking appropriate action.

[Translation]

Loan to Professionals

1754. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided loans to professional graduates like doctors and engineers for setting up their own business; and

(b) if so, the details of loans provided to such professional graduates during last three years in Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that banks provide loans to professionals like Medical/Engineering graduates/Diploma holders, Journalists, Cost Accountants, Lawyers, Solicitors, Architects, Surveyors, Construction Contractors, Management Consultants or persons trained in any art or craft and is holder of degree/diploma from Government recognised institution or to persons who are considered by banks as technically qualified as skilled in the field in which they are employed and who fulfill the eligibility criteria. These advances are given to the professional/self employed persons category under priority sector.

The details of loans to professionals/self employed persons disbursed by scheduled commercial banks in Delhi for the last three years are as under:

Loans disbursed

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

Year (as at the end of June)	No. of accounts	Amount
1996	2951	1743
1997	1747	1149
1998	863	1191

[English]

Foreign Assistance for the Development of Crops of Spices

1755. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government have submitted a scheme to the Union Government with regard to obtain foreign assistance for the development of crops of spices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Industrial Backwardness

1756. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the development of industrially backward rural areas in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up new industries in the backward/tribal areas of the country;

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

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to remove the backwardness of the country speedily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) Following are the schemes being implemented by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the development of industrially backward areas in the country :

1. *Growth Centre Scheme*: Under this scheme 71 growth centres are proposed to be developed throughout the country which would be provided with basic infrastructure facilities like power, water, telecommunication, sewage, effluent

disposal etc. enabling them to attract industries. The growth centres approved by the Government of India are to be developed by the State Governments with Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores per centre (Rs. 15 crores in the case of North Eastern region). So far a total of 68 centres have been approved with a total Central assistance of Rs. 289 crores approximately. The scheme introduced during 1988 has been extended to the 9th Five Year Plan period.

2. *Transport Subsidy Scheme:* This Scheme was introduced in July, 1971 to promote industries in hilly, remote and inaccessible areas. The scheme is applicable to the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, the North Eastern States, Sikkim, Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, Darjeeling district of West Bengal and eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh comprising Almora, Chamoli, Dehradun, Nainital, Pauri Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Tehri-Garhwal and Uttarakashi. Under the scheme, subsidy ranging from 50% - 90% is admissible on transport costs incurred on movement of raw materials and finished goods from designated rail heads/ports upto the location of the industrial units and vice-versa for a period of five years from the date of commencement of commercial production. Total amount released under the scheme since its inception is Rs. 511.88 crores.

The scheme was last extended upto 31.3.2000. However, in respect of North Eastern region it will remain operative till 31.3.2007.

The following three schemes have also been introduced in the Ninth Plan for accelerating industrialisation in the North-Eastern region.

(1) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme:

Under this scheme a subsidy @ 15% of the investment in plant and machinery subject to maximum of Rs. 30 lakh would be admissible to industries located in the growth centres and to new industrial units and/or their substantial expansion in other identified areas in the North East region. The Scheme was notified on 1.6.1998.

(2) Central Interest Subsidy Scheme:

As per details of the scheme notified on 19.2.99 Interest subsidy @ 3% on the working capital loan would be made available to new industrial units in the North Eastern region for a period of ten years after the unit goes into production.

(3) Comprehensive Insurance Scheme:

This Scheme notified on 14.7.99 envisages insurance benefits of 100% premium to all industrial units set up in the North Eastern regions after 24th December, 1997. The insured party shall pay initial premium which shall be reimbursed by the nodal insurance company out of a revolving fund maintained by the company. Funds for this revolving fund shall be contributed by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. The Scheme will remain effective for a period of 10 years i.e. 13.7.2009.

The office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries), Ministry of Small Scale Industries & Agro and Rural Industries are also implementing the following two schemes for development of backward areas :

- (1) *Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme (IID):* The Scheme introduced in 1994, envisages to develop infrastructure facilities for small industries to facilitate location of industries in rural/backward areas. Under the scheme 52 IID centres have been sanctioned in various States.
- (2) *National Programme of Rural Industrialisation (NPRI):* With effect from the current year i.e. 1999-2000, a National Programme of Rural industrialization has been launched to set up 100 rural clusters every year under the supervision of Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO). Of the 100 clusters selected for the current year 50 have been taken up for development by KVIC, 25 by SIDBI and the remaining 25 by the SIDO, NABARD and State Governments concerned.

(d) to (f) The primary responsibility of industrial development and development of industrially backward areas including tribal areas rests with the State Governments. The Central Government supplements such efforts through schemes like the Growth Centres, the Transport Subsidy, the Integrated Infrastructure Development etc. in order to attract entrepreneurs to set up industrial units in the backward areas of the States. However, in the present liberalised economic environment, industrial sector stands largely de-licensed and the investment decisions may be based on the commercial perceptions of the entrepreneurs.

Sale of Bonds of NALCO

1757. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sold the bonds of NALCO below the market price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have suffered a loss of Rs. 36 crore as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the reasons for selling the bonds below the market price; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the responsible authority/officials for this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VARMA) : (a) and (b) NALCO's bonds were sold at their face value. Since the bonds were not quoted in the market before they were sold, the question of them being sold below the market price does not arise.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Exemption from Income Tax

1758. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to give exemption to the Members of Legislative Assemblies and Members of Legislative Councils from Income-tax as has been given in the case of the Members of Parliament;

(b) whether some States alongwith Madhya Pradesh have requested in their letters addressed to the Prime Minister, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Finance Minister in 1998 for exempting the salary and allowances of the M.L.A.s/M.L.Cs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Delhi for exemption of allowances of the MLAs and MLCs.

(c) Besides daily allowance, exempted by virtue of provisions of Section 10(17)(i), all allowances not exceeding Rs. 2,000/- per month in aggregate received by any person by reason of his membership of any State Legislature or of any committee thereof, as notified by the Central Government, are exempted under Section 10(17)(iii) of the Income-tax Act. The necessary notification to that effect for members of all State Legislatures and of any committee thereof, is being issued shortly.

[English]

WTO Meeting

1759. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the next meeting of WTO will commence on November 30th 1999 in Seattle, USA, to work on New International Trade agreements;

(b) if so, whether wood products was also part of the Agenda of the meet;

(c) whether there is a proposal to reduce or eliminate tariff barriers on the trade of wood products;

(d) if so, whether the Government had pressed for removal of wood products from the Agenda of WTO; and

(e) if not, the reason and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) The Third Session of the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was held at Seattle, USA from 30th November to 3rd December 1999. As per the Agenda of the Conference, Ministers were to review the operation and the functioning of the multilateral trading system and to adopt a Ministerial Text setting out the future work programme of the WTO. A Working Group was, *inter alia*, constituted on the subject of 'Market Access in Non-Agricultural Products', which covered the issue of tariffs on various industrial products including wood products. However, as no consensus-based conclusion could be reached on most of the issues before the Ministerial Conference, no declaration was finalized and no decision could be taken on any issue, including the issue of the industrial tariffs.

[Translation]

Income Tax on Sugarcane Growers

1760. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar organisations of the Government in Maharashtra are being asked to pay Income-tax on the amount being given to sugarcane growers which is more than the administered price of the sugarcane;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the Government propose to exempt agricultural produce from Income-tax under section 80P of Income-Tax Act in view of the decision of Supreme Court in 1973; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The excess sugarcane price paid by sugar co-operatives to its member growers after the determination of profit on finalisation of books of account has not been allowed as legally admissible expenditure. In most of such cases, the addition has been upheld at the stage of first appeal treating the expenditure to be application of income. In

these cases, the matter is subjudice at the level of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal. However, the disputed tax has not been collected so far.

(c) The Government examines various involving amendment of the law as part of the annual budget exercise. Government's response, if any, would therefore, be contained in the annual budget 2000.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

[English]

Facilities to NRIs

1761. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide more facilities to NRIs including creation of financial instruments to channel their savings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Considering the important role of NRI investments in the Economic Development of the Country, Foreign Direct investment facilities extended to the NRIs, more favourable than other categories of foreign investors, are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Policies and procedures governing NRI investments are streamlined/simplified from time to time to create a more investment friendly environment and new facilities are introduced in harmony with the economic liberalisation process.

Import Duty on Milk Powder

1762. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had decided to abolish Import Duty in respect of import of 10,000 tonnes of Milk Powder; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Loan by Banks under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

1763. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the loan provided by various banks under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana during the last three years, bank-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether some banks have taken negative attitude to provide loan under JRY; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government against such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in which no bank credit is involved.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Losses to Cotton Growers due to attack of Pest

1764. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton growers of several States, particularly in Maharashtra have suffered huge losses due to attack of pest during the past two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of districts which have been affected, State-wise;

(c) whether Union Government have given instructions to CCI to purchase cotton in all the affected States to help the affected farmers during the above period;

(d) if so, the whether CCI have not purchased cotton in Maharashtra despite the instructions of the Government; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) There were reports of pest attack to cotton crop in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98 and in Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh during 1998-99.

(b) Districts affected state-wise were as under:

States	Districts Affected
1. Punjab	All the cotton growing districts.
2. Haryana	Sirsa, Fatebad, Hissar
3. Rajasthan	Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh
4. Maharashtra	Parbhani, Dhuliya, Akola, Buldhana, Amravati, Aurangabad.
5. Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar, Warangal, Mehboobnagar.

(c) to (e) The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) a Public Sector Undertaking purchases cotton in all the cotton growing States except Maharashtra where the Monopoly Procurement Scheme of cotton of the State Government is in operation.

[Translation]

Bank Loans

1765. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various banks in Bihar granted loans in proportion to their Liquidity Deposit Ratio (LDR);

(b) the amount of loan to be disbursed in proportion to the liquidity deposit ratio as per the norms laid down by the Reserve Bank of India ; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to disburse loan in proportion to the liquidity deposit ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India have not prescribed any norms for lending by banks based on the Liquidity Deposit Ratio. Banks are however expected to monitor their Credit to Deposits Ratio (CD Ratio). The Deposits, Credit and Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of scheduled commercial banks in Bihar, bank group-wise, as on the last Friday of March 1999 is given below:

(Rs. in Lakh)

Bank Group	Deposits	Credit	CDR(%)
SBI and Associate Banks	1033871	273716	26.47
Nationalised Banks	1706023	411582	24.13
Regional Rural Banks	329842	90790	27.60
Other Schedule Coml. Banks	20522	1305	6.36
All Scheduled Coml. Banks	3089358	777393	25.16

(c) The CD Ratio is dependent not only on the efforts made by the banks but also on various other factors such as credit absorptive capacity of the region, infrastructural support availability of bankable projects, entrepreneurial initiative and micro economic factors special to the area.

Several steps have been taken for improving the flow of bank's credit. Some of the specific steps taken in the recent past are given below:

- (i) The Reserve Bank of India have reduced the Bank Rate from 9.0 per cent to 8.0 per cent with effect from March 1, 1999.
- (ii) Loans to the software industry (having credit limit upto Rs. 1 crore from the banking sector) and food processing industry were made eligible for inclusion under the priority sector.
- (iii) The ceiling on bank advances to retail traders under priority sector was increased from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh.

(iv) Several steps have also been taken through the current year's Budget to enhance flow of credit to the housing sector. Scheduled commercial banks have been advised to lend up to 3% of their incremental deposit on housing finance. Tax incentive limit for interest on housing loan of self occupied properties has been extended to Rs. 75,000/- from the current year. The above steps including repealing of Urban Land Ceiling Act is likely to boost flow of credit to housing sector.

(v) Kisan Credit Card Scheme has been introduced in all public sector banks, co-operative banks and regional rural banks (RRBs) to provide timely and adequate credit to farmers. This user-friendly scheme is expected to significantly enhance flow of credit to farmers.

(vi) Scope of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) has been widened to allow lending to Gram Panchayats, Self Help Groups and other eligible organisations for implementing village level infrastructure projects. This will increase off take of credit under RIDF.

(vii) A new credit linked capital subsidy scheme for construction of cold storages and godowns is being introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture with the help of NABARD. This is likely to boost credit to agriculture infrastructure sector.

(viii) In the credit and monetary policy for second half of the year 1999-2000, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have announced the reduction of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by one percentage point in two instalments, in November, 1999 on monetary considerations and taking into account the economic and liquidity conditions in the economy. This would help to augment the linkable resources of the banks by Rs. 7,000 crore.

The above steps are expected to stimulate additional credit flow and lead to improvement in the Credit Deposit Ratio.

[English]

Separate Bank for Weavers

1766. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to set up a separate bank for weavers and handloom workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure provision of proper financial assistance to the weavers of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India extends financial assistance under developmental and welfare schemes to the State Governments including Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of handloom weavers on receipt of viable proposals from them and availability of funds. Further, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) also extend refinance facility at concessional rates to State Co-operative Banks (SCBs), Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies and State Handloom Development Corporations (SHDCs) for carrying out production/ procurement and marketing activities to States, including Andhra Pradesh.

Export of Jute

1767. CH. TEJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of jute; and

(b) the total amount of jute goods exported during 1996-97, 1997-98 and the current year, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Government has taken various steps to increase the export of jute. Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC), a statutory body of the Government of India has been promoting the export efforts of both the organised and decentralised sector by commissioning market research, arranging buyer-seller meets, publicity campaigns, and providing market intelligence for the manufactures-exporters. Government has also sponsored delegation for market promotion of products like jute gags, yarn etc. to establish direct linkage with buyers. External Market Assistance Scheme is being implemented to provide market assistance for export of specified categories of jute goods. India has made renewed efforts for increasing its share of exports in the packaging sector by development of foodgrade. Hydrocarbon Free Jute bags of international specification. Intensive steps are being taken for marketing of this product in the thrust areas.

(b) The total amount of jute goods exported during the years is given below:

Year	Amount (000'M. Ton)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1996-97	165.6	572.38
1997-98	238.8	694.65
1998-99 (Prov.)	171.2	582.29
1999-2000 (Apr.-Oct. '99)	96.9	316.51

[Translation]

Gold Deposit Scheme

1768. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced to implement the much awaited Gold Deposit Scheme recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the benefits likely to be derived through this scheme;

(d) whether the Government propose to extend this scheme alongwith the public response to the scheme to NRIs also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to bringing privately held gold in circulation, reducing the country's reliance on import of gold, and providing its owners with some income apart from freeing them from the problems of storage, movement and security of gold in their possession, the Government had notified the Gold Deposit Scheme on 14th September, 1999. The scheme will be operated by designated banks authorised by the Reserve Bank of India. The interest on the deposit certificates is exempt from income tax, the appreciation in gold is exempt from capital gains tax and deposits are free from wealth tax.

(d) and (e) The above scheme is limited to persons resident in India. At present there is no proposal to extend the scheme to NRIs.

Capital Investment in Public Sector Undertakings

1769. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PSUs functioning in the country, as on date; and

(b) the total capital investment made therein by the end of March, 1999 alongwith the amount in it on which interest has been paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) As on 31.3.98, till which period the information is available, there were 240 Central Public Sector Undertakings, out of which 236 were operating, 4 were under construction.

(b) The total capital investment made in Central PSUs as on 31.3.98 was Rs. 2,04,054 crores upto which figures are available. This includes loans and deferred credit of Rs. 1,38,290 crores on which interest has been paid.

[English]

Closure of Coal Mines

1770. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare some Coal Mines as sick and to close them down;

(b) if so, the reasons for declaring them as sick;

(c) whether the Government have received proposals/representations for modernising and running those coal mines instead of closing down;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) There is no legal provision under which the Central Government can declare particular coal mine as sick. Under the relevant provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, a coal mining company can be declared as a sick industrial company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of the answers to part (a) of this question.

Revival of Public Sector Undertakings

1771. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in finalising the revival package for some of the important sick Public Sector Undertakings such as IDPL, NJMC, NTC etc.;

(b) if so, the names of PSUs referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction and the decision of the BIFR on each of these undertakings; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to finalise the revival plans recommended by BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Government

applies itself to formulating time bound revival packages for PSUs. The formulation of the revival packages for sick PSUs that are registered with BIFR, such as IDPL, NJMC, sick subsidiaries of NTC, etc., rests with BIFR and is subject to procedures applicable under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The broad status of sick PSUs referred to BIFR is given in enclosed Statement. Where revival plans have been approved by BIFR, action is launched by the concerned Ministries for their implementation in association with the financing institutions, the staff and employees and other agencies involved.

Statement

List of BIFR referred Central Govt. Enterprises with status as on 30.06.99

S. No.	Case No.	Name of the Company
1	2	3
<i>No Longer Sick</i>		
1	517/92	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.
2	502/94	Damodar Cement and Slag Ltd. (NR)
3	537/92	India Firebricks & Insulation Co. Ltd. (NR)
4	502/93	Mica Trading Corp. of India Ltd. (NR)
5	512/92	Vignyan Industries Ltd.
<i>Revival Scheme sanctioned</i>		
6	533/92	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
7	538/92	Bengal Immunity Ltd.
8	526/92	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.
9	501/92	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.
10	525/92	Bharat Refractories Ltd.
11	528/92	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.
12	508/94	Burn Standard Company Ltd.
13	511/92	Heavy Engineering Corp. Ltd.
14	507/94	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited
15	509/93	Instrumentation Ltd.
16	502/95	Jessop & Co. Ltd.
17	521/92	Projects & Development India Ltd.
18	506/94	R B L Ltd.
19	509/92	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.
20	504/92	Scooters India Ltd.
21	529/92	Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
22	504/94	Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.
23	507/92	Triveni Structurals Ltd.
<i>Winding up recommended</i>		
24	520/92	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.

1	2	3
25	518/92	British India Corporation Ltd.
26	527/92	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.
27	519/92	Elgin Mills Company Ltd.
28	522/92	Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.
29	513/92	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.
30	506/92	Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.
31	524/92	Weighbird (India) Ltd.

Remanded by Court

32 503/94 IISCO Ujjain Pipe & Foundry Co. Ltd.

Winding up Notice Issued

33	502/96	Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
34	535/92	NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.
35	501/93	NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.
36	504/93	NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.
37	503/93	NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.

Draft Scheme Circulated

38	532/92	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.
39	501/96	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.
40	531/92	National Instruments Ltd.
41	503/97	North Eastern Regional Agri. Marketing Corp. Ltd.
42	534/92	NTC (A. Pradesh, Kamataka, Kerala & Mahe) Ltd.
43	501/94	NTC (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd.
44	536/92	NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.
45	505/93	NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.
46	514/92	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.
47	523/92	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.

Under Enquiry

48	505/92	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.
49	502/97	Bharat Immunological & Biologicals Corp. Ltd.
50	501/99	Birds, Jute & Exports Ltd.
51	508/92	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.
52	515/92	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.
53	501/97	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.
54	516/92	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.
55	503/95	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.
56	502/99	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.
57	505/94	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.
58	506/93	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.
59	502/98	Nepa Ltd.
60	504/98	Praga Tools Ltd.

Failed & Reopen

61	503/92	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
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1	2	3
<i>Remanded by AAIFR</i>		
62	530/92	U.P. Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
<i>Stay order by Court</i>		
63	510/92	Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.
<i>Dismissed as Non Maintainable</i>		
64	504/97	Manipur State Drugs & Pharmacheutical Ltd.
65	502/92	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.
<i>Dropped net worth become positive</i>		
66	504/95	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.
67	501/98	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

NR - Not Running.

Decline in FDI

1772. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the flow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country has declined over the years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the State-wise break-up of flow of FDI during the last three years;

(d) the sector-wise break-up of the flow of FDI during the above period; and

(e) the measures envisaged by the Government to steps up the flow of FDI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, there has been a growth inflow. As compared to total inflows of US \$ 17.69 billion (from August, 91 to August, 99) and the annual inflow of US \$ 3.38 billion in 1998, during the calendar year (from January, 99 to September, 99) the total FDI inflows received are around US \$ 3 billion.

(c) The State-wise break up of inflow of FDI, is not centrally maintained.

(d) The details of sector-wise break-up of the inflow of FDI during the last three years are given in enclosed statement.

(e) i. With a view to attracting more FDI, the FDI policy is being continuously reviewed so as to make it both attractive and investor friendly and to boost inflows of FDI and technology in the country particularly in infrastructure/core sector, keeping in mind national priorities.

ii. The Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) has been set up to facilitate

speedy implementation of approved FDI projects.

- iii. The Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) is also in place to suggest ways and means to promote FDI.

Statement

*Sector-wise Statement of actual inflow from
01/01/99 to 30/9/99*

(Rs. in crore)			
Sl. No.	Sector	Amount of Inflow	% to total
1	Metallurgical Industries	135.35	1.32
2	Fuels	547.94	5.36
3	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	0.29	0.00
4	Prime Movers other than Electrical	6.26	0.06
5	Electrical Equipment	628.70	6.15
6	Telecommunications	207.27	2.03
7	Transportation Industry	884.99	8.65
8	Industrial Machinery	25.73	0.25
9	Machine Tools	9.99	0.10
10	Agricultural Machinery	51.07	0.50
11	Earth-moving Machinery	0.10	0.00
12	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	61.84	0.60
13	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	67.77	0.66
14	Medical and Surgical Appliances	8.39	0.08
15	Industrial Instruments	0.00	0.00
16	Scientific Instruments	2.92	0.03
17	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	0.00	0.00
18	Fertilizers	0.00	0.00
19	Chemicals (other than fertilizers)	451.31	4.41
20	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	0.24	0.00
21	Dye-Stuffs	0.00	0.00
22	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	62.19	0.61
23	Textiles (include Dyed, Printed)	15.14	0.16
24	Paper and Pulp including Paper Product	7.77	0.08
25	Sugar	0.00	0.00
26	Fermentation Industries	0.00	0.00
27	Food Processing Industries	401.33	3.92
28	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	8.60	0.08
29	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet preparations	2.42	0.02
30	Rubber Goods	7.73	0.08
31	Leather, Leather, Goods and Pickers	0.15	0.00
32	Glue and Gelatin	0.00	0.00
33	Glass	171.68	1.68
34	Ceramics	3.75	0.04

Sl. No.	Sector	Amount of Inflow	% to total
35	Cement and Gypsum Products	9.34	0.09
36	Timber Products	0.00	0.00
37	Defence Industries	0.00	0.00
38	Consultancy Services	21.42	0.21
39	Service Sector	393.67	3.85
40	Hotel & Tourism	40.53	0.40
41	Trading	95.37	0.93
42	Miscellaneous Industries	1279.79	12.51
43	GDRs * *	2352.59	23.00
44	Acquisition of Shares#	1697.64	16.60
45	Receipt of Inflow in Advance	759.09	7.14
46	NRI-RBI's Schemes*	212.58	1.99
Grand Total		10633.93	

* Special NRI schemes administered by RBI from 01/01/99 to 30/09/99. No sectoral details available with RBI. This data has not been reported so far. Approvals/inflows w.r.t. RBI automatic approval route have been incorporated in respective sectors.

** The amount of inflows raised through GDRs/FCCBs against the FDI approvals accorded by FIPB during the period from January 1999 to September 1999 on the basis of information furnished by RBI.

Reported by RBI, Mumbai-transfer of shares from resident to Non-Resident under Section 29 of the FERA during January 1999 to September 1999.

Note: The above Statement of actual inflow is provisional and as per information furnished by RBI.

*Sector-wise Statement of actual inflow from 01/01/98
to 31/12/98*

(Rs. in Crore)			
Sl. No.	Sector	Amount of Inflow	% to total
1	Metallurgical Industries	125.90	0.94
2	Fuels	563.55	4.22
3	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	6.29	0.05
4	Prime Movers other than Electrical	9.45	0.07
5	Electrical Equipment	786.59	5.90
6	Telecommunications	1741.02	13.05
7	Transportation Industry	1476.92	11.07
8	Industrial Machinery	13.92	0.10
9	Machine Tools	25.80	0.19
10	Agricultural Machinery	0.00	0.00
11	Earth-moving Machinery	25.64	0.19
12	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	118.11	0.89
13	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	17.95	0.13

Sl. No.	Sector	Amount of Inflow	% to total
14	Medical and Surgical Appliances	39.11	0.29
15	Industrial Instruments	0.13	0.00
16	Scientific Instruments	0.04	0.00
17	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	0.00	0.00
18	Fertilizers	0.00	0.00
19	Chemicals (other than fertilizers)	1064.00	7.98
20	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	0.00	0.00
21	Dye-Stuffs	5.68	0.04
22	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	83.84	0.63
23	Textiles (include Dyed, Printed)	50.35	0.38
24	Paper and Pulp including Paper Product	234.17	1.76
25	Sugar	0.00	0.00
26	Fermentation Industries	0.00	0.00
27	Food Processing Industries	236.88	1.78
28	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	0.00	0.00
29	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet preparations	0.00	0.00
30	Rubber Goods	36.20	0.27
31	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	5.32	0.04
32	Glue and Gelatin	118.00	0.88
33	Glass	145.48	1.09
34	Ceramics	6.92	0.05
35	Cement and Gypsum Products	27.93	0.21
36	Timber Products	0.00	0.00
37	Defence Industries	0.00	0.00
38	Consultancy Services	0.58	0.00
39	Service Sector	767.98	5.76
40	Hotel & Tourism	39.95	0.30
41	Trading	52.00	0.39
42	Miscellaneous Industries	1024.88	7.68
43	GDRs **	70.63	0.53
44	Acquisition of Shares#	4059.35	30.43
45	NRI-RBI's Schemes*	359.48	2.69
Grand Total		13339.86	

* Special NRI schemes administered by RBI from 01/01/98 to 31/12/98. No sectoral details available with RBI. This data has not been reported so far. Approvals/inflows w.r.t. RBI automatic approval route have been incorporated in respective sectors.

** The amount of inflows raised through GDRs/FCCBs against the FDI approvals accorded by FIPB during the period from January 1998 to December 1998 on the basis of information furnished by RBI.

Reported by RBI, Mumbai-transfer of shares from Resident to Non-Resident under section 29 of the FERA during January 1998 to December 1998.

Note: The above Statement of actual inflow is provisional and as per information furnished by RBI.

Sector-wise Statement of Actual Inflow from 01/01/97 to 31/12/97

(Rs. in crore)			
Sl. No.	Sector	Amount of Inflow	% to total
1	Metallurgical Industries	101.44	0.62
2	Fuels	1524.59	9.28
3	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	2.15	0.01
4	Prime Movers other than Electrical	16.13	0.10
5	Electrical Equipment	1331.24	8.10
6	Telecommunications	1185.00	7.21
7	Transportation Industry	1513.83	9.22
8	Industrial Machinery	103.96	0.63
9	Machine Tools	36.95	0.22
10	Agricultural Machinery	0.00	0.00
11	Earth-Moving Machinery	1.15	0.01
12	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	214.25	1.30
13	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	8.15	0.05
14	Medical and Surgical Appliances	24.60	0.15
15	Industrial Instruments	5.73	0.03
16	Scientific Instruments	3.86	0.02
17	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	0.00	0.00
18	Fertilizers	32.04	0.20
19	Chemicals (other than Fertilizers)	821.26	5.00
20	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	28.71	0.17
21	Dye-Stuffs	17.77	0.11
22	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	188.15	1.15
23	Textiles (include Dyed, Printed)	159.03	0.97
24	Paper and Pulp including Paper Product	147.17	0.90
25	Sugar	24.40	0.15
26	Fermentation Industries	32.02	0.19
27	Food Processing Industries	517.74	3.15
28	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	0.00	0.00
29	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet preparations	0.00	0.00
30	Rubber Goods	162.55	0.99
31	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	55.42	0.34
32	Glue and Gelatin	0.00	0.00
33	Glass	64.61	0.39
34	Ceramics	46.44	0.28
35	Cement and Gypsum Products	11.82	0.07
36	Timber Products	0.00	0.00

Sl. No.	Sector	Amount of Inflow	% total
37	Defence Industries	0.00	0.00
38	Consultancy Services	0.00	0.00
39	Service Sector	541.14	3.29
40	Hotel & Tourism	103.19	0.63
41	Trading	94.51	0.58
42	Miscellaneous Industries	1875.09	11.42
43	GDRs**	3436.06	20.92
44	Acquisition of Shares#	954.04	5.81
45	NRI-RBI's Schemes*	1039.62	6.32
Grand Total		16425.82	

* Special NRI schemes administered by RBI from 01/01/97 to 31/12/97. No sectoral details available with RBI. This data has not been reported so far. Approvals/inflows w.r.t. RBI automatic approval route have been incorporated in respective sectors.

** The amount of inflows raised through GDRs/FCCBs against the FDI approvals accorded by FIPB during the period from January 1997 to December 1997 on the basis of information furnished by RBI.

Reported by RBI, Mumbai-transfer of shares from Resident to non-Resident under section 29 of the FERA during January 1997 to December 1997.

Note: The above Statement of actual inflow is provisional and as per information furnished by RBI.

Notices Served by I.T. Department

1773. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has served notices to various multinational companies, foreign airlines and banks for violation of Indian Tax Laws in respect of Tax Deducted at Source (TDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these multinational companies, foreign airlines & banks etc. on which the Income Tax Department served notices have taken up the matter with the CBDT and Ministry of Finance, stating that the remunerations paid by them to their head offices abroad are not taxable under Indian Tax Laws; and

(d) if so, the decisions taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Notices have been served on various multinational companies, foreign Airlines and Banks which have failed to deduct tax at source in respect of part of the salaries

paid by them to their employees abroad for services rendered in India. On account of this, taxes in full, and additionally interest amounting to more than Rs. 640/- crore during financial year 1998-99 has been recovered by Income Tax Department from such defaulting companies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of the (c) above, the question does not arise.

Textile Export

1774. SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of share of India's textile export in the International Market; and

(b) the steps taken to provide a larger market for textiles export especially by negotiations at the W.T.O. meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) As per data available for the year 1997, India's share of the world textile exports is about 2.5%.

(b) (i) The Government is trying for faster integration under Agreement of Textiles & Clothing at all appropriate Fora.

(ii) Meetings have been held recently with US and EU where our case for greater market access has been emphasised.

(iii) The Quota Restrictions imposed by Turkey were challenged in Dispute Settlement Body of WTO and case has been decided in the favour of India.

(iv) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to increase exports. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:

1. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, which has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.

2. The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

3. Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector-value added segment of Indian textiles.
4. Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Rs. one crores.
5. Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.
6. Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

[Translation]

Import/Export

1775. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the position of India's Balance of Payment (BoP) during 1998-99;

(b) the details of exports-imports in this regard;

(c) the details of oil alongwith the names of machinery and other items imported; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange spent on imports of luxury goods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The trade balance for 1998-99 is US \$ - 13246 million and current account balance is US\$ -4038 million as per the data provided by the Ministry of Finance.

(b) As per the Provisional data received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics total value of exports during 1998-99 was US \$ 33641 million and value of imports was US \$ 41886 million.

(c) and (d) As per the provisional DGCI&S data value of imports of principal commodities during 1998-99 is as follows :

(US \$ Million)	
Items	Imports
Petroleum, Crude and products	6433
Fertilizers	1073

Items	Imports
Machinery	4494
Project goods	2046
Cashew Nuts	165
Fruits & Nuts	96
Wool raw	111
Silk raw	57
Synth. & reg. fibres	67
Pulses	96
Raw hides & skins	42
Leather	99
Coal, Coke & Briquettes	940
Non metallic min. Mfrs.	153
Other crude minerals	92
Organic and Inorganic chemicals	2718
Dyeing, tanning materials	189
Medical & Pharma prds.	344
Artf. Resins etc.	661
Chemical products	395
Textile yarns, fabrics, etc.	436
Manufactures of metals	405
Professional instruments	812
Electronic goods	2174
Wood and wood products	360
Gold and Silver	4876
Edible oil	1695
Pearls, Precious and semi-precious stones	3762
Iron & Steel	1178

[English]

Salaries to Employees of PSUs

1776. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the employees of several Public Sector Undertakings are not being paid their wages and salaries for the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of PSUs and number of employees/workers employed therein; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) There are delays in payment of wages in some PSUs due to their financial position.

(b) Details of such enterprises and the number of workers etc. are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Enterprise specific remedial action including provision of non-plan assistance is taken by the Government in consultation with the Management of the concerned PSUs.

Income/Expenditure of I.T. Department

1777. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of expenditure incurred and the revenue earned by the Income Tax Department during the years 1997, 1998 and the current year, till date, separately;

(b) whether the expenditure is much more than the revenue earned by this Department; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to minimise the expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The details of revenue earned and expenditure incurred by the Income Tax Department during the years 1997, 1998 and upto 30th September, 1999 is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Fin. Year	Revenue Earned	Expenditure incurred
1997-98	48280	715.37
1998-99	46600	813.36
1999-2000 (upto 30.9.99)	18518	427.07

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Expansion of Trade Relations

1778. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries which have shown keen interest to expand trade with India;

(b) whether the Government have received any business proposals from those countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Almost all countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, North East Asia, East Asia, South Asia, West Asia & North Africa, Europe, North America and Latin America have shown keen interest to expand trade with India. The names of the countries include:

1. Commonwealth of Independent States & Baltic States:

Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

2. Europe

European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg, U.K., Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, Turkey, Cyprus, Greece, France, Italy, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Malta, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia.

3. East Asia

Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Kribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei, Vietnam, Singapore, Cambodia, Myanmar.

4. North East Asia

Japan, China, Taiwan, North & South Korea, Mongolia, Hongkong, Macau.

5. America

USA, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Venezuela, Uruguay, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Central American countries and all countries of Caribbean community.

6. Africa

Cameroon, Senegal, Zambia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Liberia, Uganda, Nigeria, Angola, Rwanda, Ghana, Ivory-Coast, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Namibia, Ethiopia, Seychelles, Botswana, Swaziland, Gambia, Tanzania, Mauritius, Madagascar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Benin.

7. Western Asia & North Africa

Baharain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Arab Republic of Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya.

8. South Asia

Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka.

The business proposals are discussed from time to time whenever Joint Trade Committees/Joint Trade Commission meetings take place with partner countries.

Loss Making Units of HMT

1779. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the units of HMT Watch Factory is running in heavy losses for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any measures to minimise the losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The losses incurred during the last three financial years are as under :

Year	Loss (Rs. in crores)
1996-97	27.51
1997-98	60.90
1998-99	57.10

(c) and (d) Government have provided to the Company including its Watch Business Group since 1996-97 to 1998-99, financial assistance of Rs. 58.20 Cr. for Capital Expenditure, i.e. purchase of new machines for better efficiency and for crucial balancing equipment; Rs. 79 Cr. for manpower rationalization, as a result of which 2180 employees have retired voluntarily under VRS; Rs. 10 Cr. grant-in-aid for meeting cash losses and also Rs. 10 Cr. as non-plan loan for revival of Srinagar Watch Factory.

Demand of Cement

1780. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any estimate regarding the expected domestic demand of cement during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of cement to cope up the domestic demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) According to Task Force for Cement Industry for IXth Plan, demand for cement for the year 1999-2000 has been estimated at 97.50 million tonnes including estimated export of 4.50 million tonnes.

(c) Cement industry is decontrolled and delicensed and entrepreneurs are free to set up cement plants anywhere subject to locational clearance. Government is providing all infrastructural support to maximise cement production. Rail wagons are being provided to cement plants on priority basis to supply cement to deficit areas.

[Translation]

Indian Brand Equity Fund

1781. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to issue special import licence for setting up of 'Indian Brand Equity Fund' in order to popularise Indian brands in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up National Export Council to make Indian products competitive;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government have already set up the India Brand Equity Trust in 1996 with a mandate to promote Indian brands in overseas markets and to develop the image of India as a producer of quality products.

[English]

New Mineral Policy

1782. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's New Mineral Policy has paved the way for the multinational companies cornering the good percentage of mines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received representations from various organisations urging to re-draft the New Mineral Policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) The thrust of the National Mineral Policy, 1993 was to induct state-of-the-art technology and investment in the mining sector through private investment including foreign investment. Accordingly the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 (MMRD) was amended in January 1994. However, as per this amendment only a company registered in India (as defined in sub section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956) can be granted a prospecting licence or a mining lease and hence the question of a multinational company (registered abroad) getting a mining lease does not arise.

(c) and (d) From time to time suggestions and representations are received from various sources for improvements in the National Mineral Policy and the MMRD Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Such suggestions and representations are considered on merits by the Government for appropriate action.

Measures to Boost Export

1783. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some more mills have been closed during 1998-99;

(b) the number of spinning mills closed down out of these; and

(c) the reasons for deteriorating condition and the measures taken by the Government to boost the export of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. 93 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills in non-SSI sector were reported as closed during the year 1998-99.

(b) Out of them, 80 spinning mills were reported as closed during the year 1998-99.

(c) Closure of textile mills can be attributed to many factors including obsolete technology, increase in cost of inputs, difficulties in getting timely and adequate credit, mismanagement, recessionary conditions etc.

The Government of India enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, SICA, 1985 and established the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies.

In addition, Government have been taking several steps from time to time to promote textile exports. Some of the important initiatives taken are as under:

- The Government is considering formulation of a new Textile Policy taking into consideration the recommendations of the Expert Committee.
- The Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.
- The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 has been announced to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.
- Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Rs. one crore.
- Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.
- Zero Duty import on certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

[Translation]

Scheme to Attract Foreign Capital Investment

1784. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to attract foreign capital investment to improve the condition of industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) With a view to attracting more foreign direct investment (FDI), the FDI policy has been formulated and is

continuously reviewed so as to make it investor-friendly and to boost inflows of FDI, particularly in infrastructure/core sector, keeping in mind national priorities.

The Government initiatives are intended to promote modernisation and technological upgradation, productivity, efficiency and to bring out reduction in cost with a view to boost industrial production; enhance competitiveness and boost exports by inviting foreign direct investment.

[English]

BIFR

1785. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether BIFR propose to take active interest in potentially sick companies to determine ways of quickly turning them into profitable ventures;

(b) if so, the strategy chalked out by BIFR in this regard;

(c) whether BIFR has identified sick companies for this purpose; and

(d) the other steps being taken by BIFR for rehabilitation and simplification of procedure for monitoring the implementation of the sanctioned schemes?

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

Export of Natural Rubber

1786. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of natural rubber is in excess as per the domestic need of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for exporting natural rubber;

(d) if so, whether any financial help has been sought by the Government of Kerala to export rubber on sustaining loss basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Production of natural rubber has marginally exceeded the consumption during the last two years. The production

and consumption of natural rubber during the last three years are as under:

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Production	Consumption
1996-97	5.49	5.62
1997-98	5.84	5.72
1998-99	6.05	5.92

(c) to (e) Government of Kerala had sought financial assistance for export of 50000 Kgs. of natural rubber.

In view of the heavy losses being incurred by the Government in the procurement of natural rubber by STC on Government account, it has not been found possible to finance the export of Natural Rubber by the Government of India. Export of Natural Rubber is already free in the EXIM Policy.

Granite Quarrying Activity

1787. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated granite reserves in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are considering to declare the granite quarrying activity as an industry;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have any new plans to promote the granite quarrying activities in the country, particularly in the Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode and South Arcot districts of Tamil Nadu;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to start the Centrally Governed Agency "TAMIN" Limited in Tamil Nadu apart from National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Limited (MMTC); and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) As per National Mineral Inventory prepared by the Indian Bureau of Mines (a subordinate office of the Department of Mines), as on 1.4.95, the total recoverable reserves of Granite in the country are placed at 1027 million cubic metres. State-wise estimates of recoverable reserves of Granites is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) From time to time suggestions are made to the Government for declaring granite quarrying activity as an industry. However the Government have not taken any decision in this regard. -

(d) and (e) The Government of India have notified the Granite Conservation and Development Rules (GCDR), 1999 for conservation and systematic development of and scientific mining to conserve the granite resources and to prescribe a uniform frame-work with regard to systematic and scientific exploitation of granite throughout the country. However, the State Government concerned takes steps to promote granite quarrying activities (which is a minor mineral) within the broad frame work of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, GCDR, 1999 and the Minor Mineral Concession Rules of the respective State Governments.

(f) and (g) No Sir. "TAMIN" is not a Central Government Public Sector Unit.

Statement

State-wise Estimated Recoverable Reserves of Granite Mineral as on 1.4.95

State	In Thousand Cubic Metres
Andhra Pradesh	2300
Assam	205520
Bihar	19105
Gujarat	23560
Haryana	13600
Karnataka	202986
Kerala	544
Maharashtra	326561
Orissa	7588
Rajasthan	201696
Tamil Nadu	20340
West Bengal	3621
All India	1027421

Cut In Production Target of Coal

1788. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. has cut down its production during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent of cut; and

(c) the present level of stock in each subsidiary of Coal India Ltd. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is due to low consumption/off-take by different consumers, mainly the power sector. The extent of cut is 22.20 MT.

(c) The present level of adopted vendable stock in each subsidiary of Coal India Limited as on 01.11.1999 is given as under:

(Data provisional)
(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Company	Stock as on 1.11.1999
ECL	22.55
BCCL	22.19
CCL	16.43
NCL	3.11
WCL	16.53
SECL	47.34
MCL	33.12
NEC	7.00
CIL	168.27

Debt Servicing Ratio

1789. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a substantial part of the Central Government's current budget deficit is being met out of external borrowing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the current debt servicing ratio of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The external financing is less than 2% of the fiscal deficit as per Budget, 1999-2000.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) 48.1% as estimated in B.E. 1999-2000.

Export/Import of Foodgrains

1790. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of foodgrains imported during each of the last three years;

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

(c) whether it is fact that large quantity of foodgrains exported during the said period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The total quantity

and value of foodgrains imported and exported during
the last three years are as under:

Imports	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99(Prov.)		1999-2000 (Prov. Apr. Aug. 99)	
	Qty. Value		Qty. Value		Qty. Value		Qty. Value	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Wheat	612676	403.76	1485781	988.98	1346932	939.51	231.229	152.84
Non Basmati Rice	2	0.02	54	0.06	6213	5.69	2190	3.65
Coarse Grains	1955	0.50	1124	0.34	2038	1.06	53689	47.40
Pulses	654908	890.34	1008161	1194.64	312744	404.52	62847	89.30

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Exports	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99(Prov.)		1999-2000 (Prov. Apr. Aug. 99)	
	Qty. Value		Qty. Value		Qty. Value		Qty. Value	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Wheat	1445898	698.45	1517	0.40	3550	2.74	20	0.02
Basmati Rice	523157	1247.64	593323	1685.62	600602	1866.25	200797	641.03
Non Basmati Rice	1989040	1924.72	1795743	1685.38	4340175	4334.55	466751	499.85
Coarse Grains	71042	48.65	15350	12.59	15094	15.54	2370	2.06
Pulses	55216	131.58	168052	360.89	101448	218.74	83774	176.81

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

The Export Import policy of foodgrains is governed by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes, earning foreign exchange and to augment domestic availability.

[Translation]

Co-operation with New Zealand in Textile Sector

1791. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Zealand Have proposed to co-operate with India in the field of textile;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) A Government delegation visited New Zealand in 1996. Subsequently Wool Research Association, Thane has entered into a dialogue with organisation in New Zealand for collaboration in wool related specific project. No finality, however, has been achieved till so far.

[English]

Export of Agriculture and Allied Products

1792. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export growth of agricultural and allied products like pulses, tobacco, sugar and molasses etc. have registered a negative growth during the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The major agro commodities exported are pulses, rice, wheat, cereals,

tobacco, spices, cashew, sesame and nigerseeds, groundnut, spirit and beverages, guar gum meal, oil meal, shellac, sugar, meat and meat preparations, poultry and dairy products, floriculture products, fruit and vegetables seeds, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices and vegetables etc. The value of agro items exported excluding marine products, tea, coffee, castor oil and cotton during the last three years is as under:

Year	Value (Rs. '000 crores)
1997-98	15.2
1998-99	15.96
1999-2000 (April - August)	5.6
1998-99 (April - August)	6.3

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(c) The Government has taken various measures including provision of financial assistance to boost production and export of agricultural products. The measures taken to enhance export of agriculture products *inter alia* include :

- (I) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers through demonstration, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;
- (II) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;
- (III) Providing financial assistance to exporter/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities integrated post-harvest handling systems (Pack Houses);
- (IV) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units;
- (V) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits and floriculture products;

- (VI) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/Modified Atmosphere technologies for increasing the shelf life and for transportation of perishable products such as mangoes and lychees;
- (VII) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;
- (VIII) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;
- (IX) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control packaging, transport etc.

[Translation]

Royalty on Coal

1793. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had received in September, 1997 the recommendation of study group constituted for revising rate of royalty of coal;

(b) if so, whether the said rate was to be notified by the Government by October, 1997;

(c) if so, whether the new rates have been notified by the Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard and the time by which the new rates are likely to be notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The legal provisions for payment of royalty on minerals including coal flow from the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957. The proviso to Section 9(3) of the MMRD Act, 1957 stipulates that Central Government cannot enhance the rates of royalty on minerals, including coal, during any period of three years, but that does not enjoin upon the Central Government to enhance the royalty rate every three years. No fixed periodicity of either enhancing or revising the

royalty rate on minerals, including coal, has been laid down in law. It is, therefore, perfectly legal for the Central Government to keep the royalty rates unchanged as was done during 1981-91.

(c) and (d) The existing royalty rates on coal were fixed in October, 1994. The coal companies receive only about 40-45% of the landed price of coal on an average. The larger proportion of this price is on account of cost of railway freight and the various levies such as royalty, excise duty, cess and sales tax. As a consequence, Indian coal is getting priced out in several locations and consequently there is a sharp increase in the import of coal. The import of non-coking coal has increased more than 10 times from 1993-94. The State Electricity Boards and the State Government Power Companies/Corporations are also struggling hard to make both ends meet. The steel industry is yet to get out of the depression. Any increase in royalty on coal at this stage may well deepen the crisis for the power sector, steel sector and the domestic coal sector. Therefore, a decision has been taken not to enhance the existing royalty rates on coal at this stage.

Import/Export of Cloth

1794. SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of demand and supply of cloth in the country; and

(b) the bales of cloth imported and exported during the last three year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The details of production of cloth in the last three years in the country are as follows:

Items	(Million Sq. Mtr)			
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Apr-Sept)
Cotton	19,841	19,992	17,949	9,274
Blended 100%	4,888	5,751	5,699	2,789
Non-Cotton	10,109	11,693	12,454	6,693
Total	34,838	37,436	36,102	18,756

(b) The details of cloth imported and exported during the last three years are given below:

Item	Export		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Cotton Fabrics (Min. Sq. Mtr.)	1942.91	1945.21	2244.65
Man-made Fabrics (Mn. Kgs)	60.17	69.97	71.64
Woollen Fabrics (Mn Sq. Mtr.)	16.27	9.49	4.64

Import

Item	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (P) (Upto December)
Cotton Fabrics (Min. Kgs.)	4.01	4.16	3.15 (3.64)
Man-made Fabrics (Mn. Kgs)	5.64	8.27	5.54 (4.97)
Woollen Fabrics (Mn. Kgs.)	0.16	0.32	0.26 (0.20)

Note : Figures in bracket indicate the corresponding figures in the same period of the previous year.

(P) - Provisional.

[English]

Foreign Tours by the Officials of Gujarat Government

1795. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of foreign tours undertaken by the officials of Gujarat Government without the required approval of the Union Government have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of each such case detected during the last two years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for violation of established rules?

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

Recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission

1796. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government upgraded and created 175 posts in various organised Group A services and in Group A posts in Ministries/departments considering the Fifth Pay Commission recommendations from January 1, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government also issued instructions to grant at least two promotions in a service career of the employee after putting in 12 years of service but the effect of them was extended from the date of issue of the instructions;

(c) if so, the reasons for following the policies differently—one effective from January 1, 1996 and the other from the date of issue of instructions; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the second policy also from January 1, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Based on the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, Government has issued orders placing specific posts in various organised Group 'A' services in higher revised scales of pay. However, such higher pay scales are not applicable from January 1, 1996 in all cases. The higher pay scales will be applicable retrospectively only in those cases where the conditions prescribed for the purpose are satisfied.

(b) Instructions have been issued to provide for two financial upgradations on completion of 12 and 24 years of regular service respectively. The scheme, termed the Assured Career Progression Scheme, is operational from the date of issue of the relevant instructions.

(c) The Assured Career Progression Scheme involved only financial upgradations to provide some relief to such of those Government employees as are stagnating in their present posts for a considerable period of time. Benefits under the scheme can be extended only after proper screening and assessment of the suitability of the employees. This will, therefore, be possible only prospectively.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Regional Convention on S.R. Satyam Committee

1797. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Weavers' Joint Action Committee organised a Regional Convention from 20.11.99 demanding the Union Government not to implement the S.R. Satyam Committee's recommendations on textile policy;

(b) if so, the main reasons put forward by them;

(c) whether the Union Government have considered their views; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that some weavers of Andhra Pradesh have expressed their apprehensions on some of the recommendations made by the Experts Committee and

have mentioned that if these recommendations are implemented, these may be detrimental to the interest of handloom weavers.

(c) and (d) While finalising the New Textile Policy, these aspects would be taken care of to safeguard the interest of handloom weavers.

[Translation]

Development of Handloom Sector

1798. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allocate more funds for handloom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme Development for modernisation of handlooms in addition to existing scheme of modernisation with Handloom Centres;

(d) if so, the total amount allocated for handloom sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the funds allocated during 1998-99, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Plan funds for the Handloom sector are allocated on the recommendation of the Planning Commission and availability of resources.

(c) and (d) The scheme for modernising looms was transferred to State Governments. There is no provision of modernisation of looms under Handloom Development Centre scheme. However, under the Project Package Scheme, there is a component which provides for modernisation of looms. Since the financial assistance is provided on need basis, no specific provision has been earmarked for the purpose in the 9th Plan period. The total amount allocated for the Handloom sector during the 9th Five Year Plan is Rs. 452.50 crores.

(e) Funds are not allocated State-wise, but financial assistance is extended to States depending upon receipt of viable proposals and availability of funds.

[English]

Advisory Board on Bank Frauds

1799. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have set up an Advisory Board on Bank Frauds to enquire into the various aspects of frauds and malpractices in public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such cases referred to the Board and the reports submitted by it; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) An Advisory Board on Bank Frauds (ABBF) was set up by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in February, 1997 to advise the RBI on the cases referred by CBI either directly or through the Ministry of Finance. The ABBF consisted of a Chairman and five other members. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) with effect from 1st March, 1999 redesignated the erstwhile ABBF as the Central Advisory Board on Bank Frauds (CABBF) retaining the same composition. The CABBF is required to advise the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on whether Preliminary Enquiry (PE)/Regular Case (RC) should or should not be registered against the executives of the rank of General Manager and above. The CABBF forms part of the organisational structure of the CBI with the RBI providing the required investigative and secretarial services alongwith necessary funds to meet expenditure to be incurred in this connection.

(c) and (d) RBI have reported that 24 cases were referred to ABBF by RBI for registering PE/RC/sanction for prosecution. The Board recommended action by way of registration of PE/RC and prosecution in 12 cases and in the remaining cases the Board did not recommend any further action. After the constitution of CABBF, 11 cases were referred to it out of which, in seven cases Board found it fit for investigation by CBI and in four cases the Board concluded that they were not fit cases for investigation by CBI. CABBF sends its recommendation to CBI for taking appropriate action in the case.

[Translation]

NABARD Loan

1800. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of refinance made available by NABARD to the co-operative Banks of Bihar during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and the number of such co-operative banks to which refinance has been made;

(b) whether 'NABARD' has refinanced such co-operative Banks who were not eligible for refinance during the aforesaid period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

has reported that it had sanctioned Short-term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations) credit limits to Bharat State Cooperative Bank (BSCB) on behalf of 19 Central Cooperative Banks during 1998-99 for an aggregate amount of Rs. 64.35 crore. Besides, this, NABARD had also sanctioned a credit limit of Rs. 40 crores to BSCB against the pledge of Government securities. For the year 1999-2000 (upto November 1999), ST(SAO) limits have been sanctioned to BSCB on behalf of 5 District Central Cooperative Banks aggregating Rs. 30.23 crore. NABARD also extends long term refinance assistance to cooperatives for financing farm and non-farm sector activities in all States including Bihar. No long-term refinance could be extended to BSCB during 1998-99 due to want of Government guarantee required to be executed by the State Government as per the statutory requirement. Bihar State Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (BSCARDB) was also not provided with refinance facilities during 1998-99 as the bank was in default to NABARD in repayment of principal and interest. For the year 1999-2000 though allocation has been made for BSCARDB, no refinance could be released as there has been no improvement in the position relating to extension of Government Guarantee.

(b) and (c) The DCCBs which have been sanctioned ST(SAO) limits were ordinarily not eligible for sanction of such limits mainly on account of their poor recovery performance and high level overdues. The average recovery rate was around 14% during 1996-97 at the DCCB level which declined to around 10% during 1997-98 as against minimum recovery level of 40% and 45% in 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively for being eligible for sanction of credit limits for subsequent years. However, for ensuring smooth flow of credit to the needy farmers of Bihar State as well as to enable them to get timely and adequate credit, sufficient refinance was made available in the State through commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). NABARD has further reported that the resources of the cooperative banks in the State have been locked up in overdues. The at ground level credit flow agricultural operations through the cooperatives in the State has been on the decline. However, considering the difficulties experienced in issuing fresh loans to eligible farmers, NABARD has been relaxing its policy and operational disciplines governing provision of short-term refinance for cooperatives in the State.

[English]

Export Price of Meat

1801. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is wide variation in export price of frozen buffalo meat;

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

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry;

(e) whether in collusion with importers, incorrect declarations are being made violating foreign exchange regulations; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) It is not possible to accurately compare the price of frozen buffalo meat exported as the prices depend upon type and quality of product exported, international demand and supply, prices of our competitors and prices of substitute goods. However, the range of prices realised by buffalo meat exporters is as under:

S. No.	Name of the Exporter	FOB value realisation in US\$ per tonne
1.	Allanasons, Mumbai	839-1236
2.	Al-Kabeer Exports, Mumbai	835-1149
3.	Arbian Exports Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai	929-1226
4.	MKR Frozen Food Exports Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	1002-1106
5.	Hind Agro Industries Ltd., New Delhi	867-1349

(c) and (d) Periodic monitoring of price trends and realisations by exporters is undertaken by APEDA. Government is kept abreast of the trends and the fluctuations of prices, if any. Remedial action is initiated as and when required.

(e) and (f) Reported, alleged and detected cases of violations of foreign exchange regulations are dealt with under appropriate provisions of law.

Weavers in Maharashtra

1802. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Maharashtra position of weavers is deteriorating day by day due to non-availability of funds provided by the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the weavers in Maharashtra need programmes for their upliftment;

(c) whether the Union Government are considering to provide sufficient funds to the weavers for introduction of modern technology in weaving; and

(d) the details of the schemes being considered by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Government of India has not received any report regarding deterioration of position of weavers in Maharashtra due to non-availability of funds provided by the Government of India.

(b) to (d) Government of India is providing assistance to States for implementation of developmental and welfare Schemes through State Governments for the overall development of handloom industry and the welfare of handloom weavers in the country, including Maharashtra.

The Government of Maharashtra has been provided funds under various Schemes, during last three years, as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Fuds Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme	14.08	28.39	124.04
2	Project Package Scheme	6.00	54.35	14.78
3	Health Pckage Scheme	-	10.50	6.21
4	Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme	62.34	-	50.45
5	Janta Cloth Scheme	342.71	170.17	65.44
6	Margin Money for Destitute Weavers	1.00	-	-

Issuance of Cheque Books by Banks

1803. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private sector banks are charging money for issue of cheque books and computerised statement of accounts from the savings bank account holders; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Baks are free to fix service charges for different types of services depending upon the cost of providing such service and the volume of business handled by them. Government/RBI do not intervene in this matter.

Tax Audit Report

1804. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a monitoring mechanism to make chartered accountants acting as auditors accountable for any lacunae in the tax audit reports submitted by an assessee;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which this mechanism is likely to be set up; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the chartered accountants who submit faulty tax audit reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Government has decided that all cases where the information provided in the audit report is incomplete or such non-committal replies are furnished so as to render the remarks or the report meaningless, should be reported by the assessing officer to the Commissioner of Income tax. The matter thereafter, be taken up by the Commissioner of Income tax to see in the case reflects any professional negligence on the part of the Accountants signing the audit report. Action for initiation of disciplinary proceedings in terms of section 288 of the Income tax Act should be immediately taken by the Commissioner of Income tax with the approval of Chief Commissioner of Income tax as the case may be.

(b) The responsibility of tax audit has been entrusted to the chartered accountants under the Income tax Act, 1961. Therefore, it has been felt necessary to make them accountable for any professional misconduct.

(c) and (d) The Central Board of Direct Taxes have issued instructions with immediate effect to the field officers to report any professional negligence on the part of the chartered accountants in preparing the tax audit report to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in terms of section 288 of the Income tax Act, 1961, as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India is entitled to institute proceedings against its member Chartered Accountants who submit faulty tax audit reports.

Industrial Growth Rate

1805. COL. (RETD) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that growth rate of capital goods, infrastructure sector, consumer durables and cement industry is steadily declining;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith growth rate during each of the last two years; and

(c) the reasons for slow growth rate in these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The growth rate

as measured by the index of industrial production for the capital goods, six infrastructure industries, consumer durables and cement industry during April-Sept. 1999-2000 are 9.2%, 6.6%, 12.8%, 18.8% respectively compared to the 11.1%, 3.6%, 1.9%, 4.2%, during the corresponding period last year. The growth rate in these industries in the current year is higher than the overall industrial growth rate of 6.4% during this period.

The growth rates in these sectors were 12.7%, 2.9%, 4.7% and 5.7% during 1998-99 and 5.3%, 5.6%, 7.8% and 8.1% during 1997-98 respectively.

(c) The overall growth rate in the current year at 6.4% is higher than the 4.0% in the corresponding period last year. In a market oriented economy, investment and output decisions are determined by the aggregate demand and supply situation.

[Translation]

Export of Textiles

1806. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of textiles exported during each of the last three years along with the foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(b) the name of countries to which it is mainly exported;

(c) the position of India in the world in terms of export of textiles;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost its export during the last three years; and

(e) in future plan to boost the export in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The value of export of textiles, including handicrafts, jute and coir during the last three years have been as follows:

Year	Value in million US \$
1996-97	11,839.1
1997-98	12,342.1
1998-99	12,533.1

(b) The USA, EU, Canada, Norway, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Benelux, Denmark, U.K., Austria, Turkey, Singapore etc. are the major importing countries.

(c) As per data available for the year 1997, India's share of the world textile exports is about 2.5%.

(d) and (e) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to promote exports. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:

- (i) The Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme, which has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.
- (ii) The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.
- (iii) Reduction in the reshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Rs. one crore.
- (iv) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.
- (v) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

[English]

Inflation Rate

1807. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflation rate has been increased during the last three months due to hike in the prices of primary articles such as diesel etc.;

(b) if so, the extent to which the inflation rate has gone up as compared to earlier three months; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check this hike in inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No Sir. WPI based inflation rate has decelerated continuously till August, 1999. Infact it was at a low of 2.2 percent during August and September this year. It increased marginally to 2.6 (prov.) during October, 1999. This increase was primarily due to the 40 percent hike in Diesel price on the WPI is approximately 0.86 percent.

(b) It is evident from the table below that inflation rate has not gone up during the last three months as compared to the earlier three months:

Annual Rates of inflation (point to point) based on WPI

Year	(%) WPI based (base 81-82)
1999-2000	
May	3.8
June	3.1
July	2.3
August	2.2
September	2.2 (prov.)
October	2.6 (Prov.)
Nov. 20 1999	2.9

(c) Government has been vigilant to keep inflation under control and effective supply management policies have been adopted during 1999-2000 to achieve this objective.

Foreign Institutional Investors

1808. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are quitting India and other Asian countries and FIIs have sold over Rs. 250 crores in the last few days;

(b) whether the foreign funds are switching over from software to cement, pharmaceuticals and petrochemicals as a consequence of which there has been a fall of 160 points in the sensx;

(c) whether the foreign investors are worry of the Y2K difficulties anticipated by them in the year 2000; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop this exodus of money from the country and the measures taken to overcome the Y2K difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As per the reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), registered Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) operating in India have made a cumulative net investment equivalent to Rs. 1,2229 crores during the Month of November, 1999 as against net negative investment of Rs. 199.9 Crores during November, 1998. The Positive trends in their investments are noted to continue in the first six days of December, 1999 with the FIIs making a net investment of Rs. 493.1 Crores.

(b) The sensx of the Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE-30) has been 4490.06 points on 01-11-1999 and as on 06-12-1999 it has been noted at an increased level

of 4785.06 points. The Fills enjoy operational freedom subject to regulations. The portfolio investments by Fills and shift in the investment pattern in the short term are guided on their commercial judgement/perceptions on market movements.

(c) and (d) While there may be apprehensions in the minds of foreign investors on Y2K problems, recognising the significance of Y2K difficulties in the securities market and related activities, SEBI among others have advised the Merchant Bankers to ensure the disclosure of the Y2K preparedness status in the offer documents being filed by the companies tapping the Capital Markets. SEBI have also advised other market intermediaries to make their system Y2K compliant. It has been made compulsory by SEBI for all listed companies to give brief status on the Y2K preparedness in their published quarterly results and annual results in the financial year ending December 31, 1998. The Government Departments are fully sensitised about the Y2K problem and the compliance reports on their 'Y2K OK status' are publicised in the print, electronic and other media to enhance the confidence in the general public and investors.

[Translation]

Export of Pulses

1809. SHRI J. S. BRAR:

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether pulses are being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the rates of export-duty levied on the export of pulses and the variety of pulses exported from the country during each of the last three years;

(c) whether pulses are also being imported to meet the demand in the country; and

(d) if so, the quantity and variety of pulses imported during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The total quantity and value of pulses imported and exported during the last three years are as follows:

Qty. MTs
Value: in Rs. crores

Year	Imports		Exports	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1996-97	654908	890.34	55216	131.58
1997-98	1008161	1194.64	168052	360.89
1998-99(Prov.)	312744	404.52	101448	218.74
1999-2000(Prov.) (Apr.-Aug. 99)	62847	89.30	83774	176.81

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

No export duty is levied on the export of pulses.

Some of the varieties of pulses imported to augment domestic availability include Peas (*Pisum Sativum*) Dried & Shelled, Chickpeas (*Garbanzos*) Dried & Shelled, Beans of the SPP Vigna Mungo, Hepper, Small Red Beans Dried & Shelled, Kidney Beans including white Pea beans Dried & Shelled, Lentils (*Mosur*) Dried & Shelled, Broad Beans and Horse Beans Dried & Shelled, Grams (excluding split), Dried & Shelled, Gram Dal (*Grams*, Split), Moong, Tur and Urad and Dan Peas (a substitute for tur).

Some of the varieties of pulses exported include are Peas (*Pisum Sativum*) Dried & Shelled, Chickpeas (*Garbanzos*) Dried & Shelled, Beans of the SPP Vigna Mungo, Hepper or Vigna Radiata, Wilozek Dried & Shelled, Kidney Beans including white Pea beans Dried & Shelled, Other Beans Lentils (*Mosur*) Dried & Shelled, Broad Beans and Horse Beans Dried & Shelled, Grams (excluding split), Dried & Shelled, Gram Dal (*Grams*, split), Moong, Tur and Urad.

[English]

Externally Aided Projects

1810. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other Internationally aided projects under implementation in the country, State-wise particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) the details regarding physical and financial progress made so far, project-wise;

(c) whether any World Bank or Internationally aided project ever been frozen or left incomplete;

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

(e) the names of foreign aided projects lagging behind schedule; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to complete these projects immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of the State Sector externally aided projects under implementation in the country is given in the enclosed Statement - I. Besides, UP and Bihar, like other States, are beneficiary under several Central projects/Projects being implemented by Central PSUs or Financial Institutions. The progress of externally aided projects as on 31.10.99 is given in enclosed Statement - I.

(c) and (d) The information is given in enclosed Statement - II.

(e) There are some foreign aided projects which are lagging behind schedule, including, Karnataka Rural Water Supply, Maharashtra Forestry, Forest Research Education and Extension, MP Forestry, Naphtha Jhakri Power, Northern Region Transmission System, Financial Sector Development, Power Grid Systems Development, Renewal Resource Development, Shrimp and fish culture, Bihar Plateau Development, Rajasthan Agriculture Development, Second North Madras, Unchahar Thermal Power, Rewa Hospital, Basti Distinct Hospital, Raichur District Hospital, Kalinadi Hydro Electric Stage-II, Kerala Rainfed Farming Development, Shimla, Sewerage, Anpara Power Transmission.

(f) The slower than expected utilization of foreign aid is due to fund constraints, procurement and contracting delays and other project specific issues. Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilization are ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediation on flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Undertakings, quarterly review with Executing Agencies, setting up of a Project Management Unit in the Department of Economic Affairs, strengthening Project Management Units/Project Monitoring Cells in nine States and five Central Ministries, appointment of Nodal Officer for the States and regular review of projects with respect to quality at entry. A system of monitoring the projects on the basis of quarterly milestones of important activities has also been introduced.

Statement - I

State-wise details of State Sector Externally aided Projects

(As on 31.10.1999)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Date of Signing/ Approval	Terminal Date of Disb.	Currency	Loan/Grant Amount	Cumul. Drawn in DC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh						
1	AP Hazard Mitigation & Emergency Cyclone	9.7.97	31.7.2000	US \$	100	47.024
2	AP Hazard Mitigation & Emergency	3.6.97	31.7.2000	US \$	50	0
3	Import of Irrigation Equipment for Rural Dev.	3.11.98	31.3.2000	Jap.Yen.	195.6	195.6
4	UK/India Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihood	23.7.99	31.7.2006	UK Pound	40.176	0
5	AP Forestry	9.3.94	30.9.2000	US \$	77.4	60.327
6	Import of Murate of Potash & Services for EPTRI	3.11.98	31.3.2000	Jap. Yen	1.1	1.1
7	Import of Aquiring Equipments for Monitoring	27.11.98	31.3.2000	Jap.Yen	2.4	2.1
8	Andhra Pradesh Power Sector	5.3.99	31.8.2003	US \$	210	19.03
9	Srisaillam Left Bank Power Stn Ph. I	10.2.88	31.12.98	Jap.Yen	26101	26088.8
10	Snsaillam Power Transmission Sys.	21.12.92	19.4.2000	Jap. Yen	3806	2338.5
11	Srisaillam Left Bank Power Stn Pjt.II	28.2.95	12.4.2001	Jap. Yen	22567	19806.4
12	Srisaillam Power Trmn. Sys Pjt. II	28.2.95	12.4.2001	Jap. Yen	9548	4847.6
13	Kothagudam A Thermal Power Stn Rehabilitation	28.2.95	12.4.2002	Jap. Yen	5092	3857.7
14	Simhadri and Vizag Trmn. System	12.12.97	19.2.2003	Jap. Yen	10629	0
15	Srisaillam Left Bank Power Stn.	12.12.97	16.2.2003	Jap. Yen	14499	3975.3
16	AP Energy Efficiency	15.11.93	31.12.2001	UK Pound	42.7	8.224
17	AP State Highway	30.7.97	31.1.2003	US \$	350	40.782
18	AP Irrigation-III	3.6.97	31.1.2003	US \$	150	69.92
19	AP Irrigation	3.6.97	31.1.2003	US \$	175	0
20	Kurnool Cuddappah Canal	25.1.96	26.3.2003	Jap. Yen	16049	370.1
21	AP Referral Health System	22.12.94	31.3.2002	US \$	133	65.205
22	AP Economic Restructuring	4.2.99	31.3.2004	US \$	241.9	49.825

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23	AP Economic Restructuring	4.2.99	31.3.2004	US \$	301.3	40.557
24	AP Tribal Development	15.5.91	31.3.1999	US \$	21.933	21.933
25	AP Tribal Development	5.5.91	31.3.1999	US \$	7	1.709
26	AP Participatory Tribal Development	13.5.94	31.3.2002	US \$	26.71	9.408
27	UK/India AP Dist. Primary Education	29.8.96	31.3.2003	UK Pound	42.5	9.228
28	AP Urban Services Improvement for poor	3.6.99	31.5.2006	UK Pound	68.086	0
<i>Assam</i>						
1	Assam Rural Infrastructure	6.6.95	31.12.2003	US \$	126	14.895
<i>Bihar</i>						
1	Bihar Plateau Development	7.12.92	30.6.2000	US \$	117	74.993
2	Cooperative Rural Storage Centres in Bihar	24.2.88	31.3.2000	Euro	21.2	7.622
3	DPEP-III	3.2.98	30.9.2003	US \$	152	15.76
<i>Gujarat</i>						
1	Training Women in Agriculture - Gujarat Ph. II	9.12.97	30.6.2002	Dutch Gldr	6.611	0.666
2	NABARD V Adivasi Programme Gujarat	23.12.94	12.4.2006	Deut. Mark	26	5.377
3	Environmental Management capacity Building	14.3.97	30.6.2003	US \$	50	4.592
4	Gujarat Forestry	25.1.96	26.3.2004	Jap. Yen	15760	9041.7
5	Ship Breaking Dev. at Pipavav	5.1.96	26.3.2003	Jap. Yen	7046	5659
6	Grant India 1996-06 Gogha Regional Water Sply.	4.8.97	3.8.2002	Dutch Gldr	19.3.369	0
7	ORET Project for Gujarat Health Care	27.11.97	30.6.2002	Dutch Gldr	39.826	14.935
8	ORET Project for Gujarat Health Care	27.11.97	30.12.1999	Dutch Gldr	59.739	54.537
9	Netherlands Grant	21.8.97	30.6.2003	US \$	25.8	6.63
10	Gujarat Public Sector Resource Management	20.12.96	31.12.1999	US \$	250	150
<i>Haryana</i>						
1	Mewat Area Development	29.5.95	31.12.2003	US \$	15.08	3.771
2	Rehabilitation of common lands in Aravalli Hills	7.3.90	31.10.1999	Euro	23.2	19.825
3	Haryan Community Forestry	19.2.97	31.12.2004	Euro	23.3	0
4	Haryana Power Restructuring	16.1.98	31.12.2000	US \$	60	31.938
5	Haryana Highway Upgrading (IBRD)	28.9.93	30.6.2000	US \$	1.4	1.4
6	Water Resources Consolidation	6.4.94	31.12.2000	US \$	258	130.435
<i>Himachal Pradesh</i>						
1	Pilot Project Trout farming in H.P.	21.1.1988	31.12.1995	Nor. Kronor	10	10.182
2	HP Forestry Project	8.9.1994	31.3.2000	UK Pound	3.03	2.261
3	Import of Cable Percussion Type Drilling	21.4.1998	31.3.1999	Jap. Yen	457.8	457.8
4	Shimla Sewerage Project	21.8.1997	31.12.2001	US \$	10	1.206
<i>Karnataka</i>						
1	Karnataka Watershed Development	2.6.1997	2.6.2004	Danish Kr	46.7	0.373
2	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation	25.2.1997	29.5.2005	Jap. Yen	15968	4220.4
3	Western Ghats Forestry	8.10.1992	31.3.2000	UK Pound	18.074	16.611
4	Kalinadi Hydro Electric Pjt Stage-II	12.2.1986	31.3.1999	Kuw. Dinar	7	6.479
5	Mysore Paper Mills Modernisation & Renovation	15.12.1988	31.7.1999	Jap. Yen	2381	2373.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	Karnataka Sec. Level Hospital Development	16.1.1997	30.12.2002	Deut. Mark	23	1.354
7	Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation	4.6.1993	30.9.2000	US \$	92	70.057
8	Indo-Swiss Participative Watershed Development	19.6.1995	31.3.99	Indian Rs.	86.248	63.131
9	UK/India Karnataka Watershed Development	23.5.97	31.3.2002	UK Pounḍ	4.488	0
10	Karnataka Watershed Development	17.6.94	30.12.2002	Deut. Mark	20	1.262
11	Women & Youth Trg. Extn. Ph. II	1.7.89	31.3.99	Danish Kr	48.5	24.181
12	Rural Water & Sanitation Phase-II Karnataka	1.1.96	30.9.2000	Danish Kr	65.5	8.892
13	National Programme for Control of Blindness-II	7.11.97	6.11.2002	Danish Kr	55	0
14	Raichur District Hospital	6.6.91	31.12.99	US \$	9	3.61
15	Bangalore Water Supply	25.1.96	26.3.2004	Jap. Yen	28452	2664.1
16	Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Dev.	10.5.96	30.6.2002	US \$	85	17.41
<i>Kerala</i>						
1	Kerala Rainfed farming Development	27.6.91	31.6.99	US \$	10	2.666
2	Agriculture Markets in Kerala—Supply of fertilizer	30.3.89	31.12.97	Euro	18.65	18.003
3	Kerala Horticulture Development	17.1.92	31.12.99	Euro	28.7	14.57
4	Kerala Forestry	13.8.98	31.12.2002	US \$	39	5.455
5	Attapady Wasteland Development	25.1.96	26.3.2005	Jap. Yen	5112	32.5
6	Kerala Water Supply	25.2.97	3.6.2006	Jap. Yen	11997	0
7	Kerala Minor Irrigation	21.5.92	31.12.2000	Euro	11.8	2.77
8	UK India Cochin Urban Poverty Reduction	1.5.97	30.9.2001	UK Pound	11.469	1.982
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>						
1	MP Women in Agriculture	19.11.93	18.11.2000	Danish Kr.	12.61	7.632
2	Madhya Pradesh Forestry	11.4.95	31.12.99	US \$	58	39.92
3	Lake Bhopal Conservation & Mgt.	28.2.95	12.4.2002	Jap. Yen	7055	1510.7
4	Madhya Pradesh Sericulture	12.12.97	5.2.2005	Jap. Yen	2212	121
5	Rajghat Canal Irrigation	25.2.97	29.5.2006	Jap. Yen	13222	1110.3
6	Live Stock Development, Bastar	5.12.96	4.12.2001	Danish Kr.	28.3	1.971
7	Watershed Dev. in Western MP	12.3.97	11.3.2002	Danish Kr.	29.2	2.499
8	Rewa Hospital	8.2.89	30.6.2000	US \$	10	4.036
<i>Maharashtra</i>						
1	Saline Lands Reclamation	3.7.95	31.12.2001	Euro	15.5	0
2	Maharashtra Forestry	29.1.92	31.3.2000	US \$	107.82	81.979
3	Maharashtra Power	11.9.89	31.12.98	US \$	337.33	337.33
4	Ghatghar Pumped Storage	15.12.88	20.1.2003	Jap. Yen	11414	1495
5	Maharashtra State Elec. Board, Uran	11.12.95	30.12.99	Deut. Mark	29.74	24.354
6	Private Infrastructure (ILOFS)	10.7.96	30.9.2001	US \$	5	0.409
7	Grant for Infrastructure Financing	22.4.97	30.3.2000	US \$	1.5	0.422
8	Bombay Sewage Disposal	28.12.95	31.12.2002	US \$	167	53.958
9	Maharashtra Rural Drinking Water Supply	10.9.91	30.9.98	UK Pound	16.48	8.609
10	Watershed Maharashtra II (NABARD)	26.6.97	30.12.2005	Deut. Mark	25	0
11	Minor Irrigation	31.12.98	30.12.2006	Deut. Mark	45	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12	Water Control System for Development of Coop.	25.10.88	31.10.98	Euro	15	11.708
13	Maharashtra Health System Dev.	14.1.99	31.3.2005	US \$	134	3.087
14	Maharashtra Rural Credit	1.6.93	30.9.2000	US \$	29.442	12.711
15	Basic Health Maharashtra	23.7.96	30.12.2001	Deut. Mark	20	1.928
16	Adivasi Development Programme	24.11.98	31.12.2010	Deut. Mark	28	0
17	Bombay Resettlement & Rehabilitation -29399-IN	1.9.96	31.7.2000	Jap. Yen	67	44.4
18	Bombay Resettlement & Rehabilitation-39300- IN	4.9.96	31.7.2000	Jap. Yen	16.8	0
19	Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Recon.	6.4.94	31.12.98	US \$	220.849	220.849
20	Bombay Urban Transport - II	19.5.95	30.9.98	Jap. Yen	286	286
<i>Manipur</i>						
1	Manipur Sericulture	12.12.97	5.2.2003	Jap. Yen	3962	295.7
<i>Meghalaya</i>						
1	Umiyam Hydro Power Stn Renovation	25.2.97	10.6.2004	Jap. Yen	1700	15.7
<i>Orissa</i>						
1	Indo Danish Comp. Watershed Dev.	5.10.92	5.10.99	Danish Kr.	46.3	13.308
2	Integrated Livestock Dev.	22.12.92	31.3.99	Danish Kr.	19.9	9.363
3	TEWA Ph. II, Orissa	1.7.95	30.6.2002	Danish Kr.	23.69	11.83
4	UK India Western Orissa Rural Livelihood	23.7.99	31.7.2009	UK Pound	23	0
5	Orissa Power Sector Restructuring	10.7.96	31.12.2002	US \$	350	27.716
6	India Orissa Power Sector Reforms	29.8.96	31.3.2001	UK Pound	42	23.903
7	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation	5.1.96	30.9.2002	US \$	290.9	115.175
8	Rengali Irrigation	12.12.97	5.2.2003	Jap. Yen	7760	1404.2
9	Lift Irrigation, Orissa	19.2.93	30.12.2000	Deut. Mark	55	36.322
10	Minor Irrigation in Orissa	3.7.95	31.12.2004	Euro	10.7	0.465
11	Orissa Health Systems Dev.	13.8.98	31.3.2004	US \$	76.4	3.75
12	Revised National T.B. Control Prg. Orissa Ph. I	2.12.96	31.12.2001	Danish Kr.	54.8	2.124
13	Orissa Health & Fam Welfare, Ph.III	21.8.97	31.10.2000	UK Pound	1.748	0.126
14	Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter, Orissa	10.5.96	31.12.99	Deut. Mark	5	4.708
15	UK/India Cuttack Urban Services Improvement	20.10.97	31.3.2002	UK Pound	11.49	0.849
16	Orissa Environmental Programme	16.4.92	31.12.99	Nor. Kronor	40	27.555
<i>Punjab</i>						
1	Punjab Afforestation	12.12.97	16.2.2003	Jap. Yen	6193	780.1
2	Punjab Water Resources MG	19.6.96	30.6.98	US \$	2.225	0.279
<i>Rajasthan</i>						
1	A.D.P. Rajasthan Agriculture Dev.	17.12.92	30.9.2000	US \$	106	82.159
2	PAWDI Project Rajasthan	23.7.96	30.6.99	Indian Re.	77.84	18.05
3	Indira Gandhi Afforestation	23.1.91	5.2.2002	Jap. Yen	7869	3542.7
4	Afforestation Project Aravalli Hills	9.1.92	31.3.2000	Jap. Yen	8095	7468.8
5	Rajasthan Forestry Development	28.2.95	12.4.2002	Jap. Yen	4219	2905.8
6	Rajasthan Power Sector Restr. (IBRD)	10.2.94	30.6.2000	US \$	2	0.381
7	Rajasthan Agri. Drainage	13.3.90	31.12.99	Can. \$	14.988	7.887
8	Dungapur Integrated Waterland Dev.	4.3.92	30.9.99	Swedish kr.	80	46.145
9	Rajasthan Minor Irrigation	29.4.87	31.12.98	Deut. Mark	2.7	1.76
10	EEC Sidhmukh & Nohar Irrigation	10.5.93	31.12.2000	Euro	45	32.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	Rajasthan District Primary Education	6.7.99	31.12.2004	US \$	81.9	0
12	Lok Jumbish Programme Phase - II	26.6.95	31.12.99	Swedish Kr.	140	112.507
13	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply Ph. I	17.6.94	30.12.2000	Deut. Mark	40	22.481
14	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply Ph. I	17.6.94	30.12.2000	Deut. Mark	95	46.589
15	Residential Schools Project, Raj.	5.6.97	30.12.2003	Deut. Mark	18	0.307
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>						
1	Tamilnadu Agricultural Development		30.12.98	US \$	9.278	9.278
2	Tamilnadu Women in Agriculture TANWA Ph. II	30.9.93	30.9.2000	Danish Kr.	58.051	29.403
3	Comprehensive Watershed Dev. Ramanathapuram	19.11.93	19.4.99	Danish Kr.	26.42	13.832
4	Comprehensive Watershed Dev. Tirunelveli, Ph. II	5.8.94	5.7.2001	Danish Kr.	68.47	30.508
5	Tamilnadu Afforestation	25.2.97	29.5.2005	Jap. Yen	13324	3655.2
6	NLC Study Expert		31.12.99	Deut. Mark	1.5	0.717
7	Second North Madras Thrml. Power	6.12.90	30.6.2000	US \$	170	140.578
8	TN Water Resources Consolidation	22.9.95	31.3.2002	US \$	282.9	62.898
9	Second Madras Water Supply	20.11.95	30.6.2002	US \$	86.5	37.842
10	Tank Irrigation System (Ph. II), TN	27.4.89	31.12.99	Euro	24.5	21.499
11	Tamilnadu Women's Development	30.5.89	28.8.99	US \$	18.369	18.369
12	National Leprosy Eradication Ph. II	17.9.91	15.11.98	Danish Kr.	70	11.301
13	Rural Water & Sanitation, Ph. II, TN	1.10.96	30.9.2000	Danish Kr.	60	7.699
14	Health Care Project Ph. III, TN	24.12.96	31.12.2001	Danish Kr.	102.5	9.846
15	Pudukottai Livestock Dev. Pjt. Ph. II	31.01.97	31.1.2004	Danish Kr.	51.48	0
16	Imports of Raw Materials	11.5.98	31.12.98	Jap. Yen	115.4	327.5
17	I.C.D.S. Ph. II	6.12.95	31.12.99	Swedish Kr.	60	54.529
18	Second Tamilnadu Urban Dev.	14.7.99	30.11.2004	US \$	105	0
19	Chennai Sewerage Reno. & Funct. Improvement	28.2.95	12.4.2001	Jap. Yen	17098	942.5
<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>						
1	UP Sodic Land Reclamation	24.6.93	31.3.2001	US \$	54.7	44.215
2	UP Diversified Agriculture Support	30.7.98	31.3.2004	US \$	50	6.708
3	UP Sodic Land Reclamation-II	4.2.99	30.9.2005	US \$	194.1	5
4	UP Diversified Agriculture Support	30.7.98	31.3.2004	US \$	79.9	0
5	Usar Reclamation in UP - Grant India 1997-2003	7.7.98	30.9.2002	Dutch Gldr	5.639	0
6	Doon Valley Integrated Watershed Management	3.12.91	31.12.2001	Euro	22.5	10.115
7	Revine Stabilization in UP	17.4.97	16.4.2002	Euro	7.9	0
8	UP Forestry	30.12.97	31.7.2002	US \$	52.94	9.399
9	Gomti River Pollution Control, Ph I, Env. Grant 93	29.8.95	31.12.98	UK Pound	2.133	0.362
10	Anpara 'B'	24.1.94	11.3.2001	Jap. Yen	17638	12563.7
11	Anpara Power Transmission-II	25.1.96	26.3.2000	Jap. Yen	12020	6411.4
12	UP Power Sector	21.12.93	31.5.99	US \$	2	1.945
13	Supply of Fertilizer (Bhimtal int.)	3.5.90	31.12.98	Euro	4.4	4.311
14	UP Rural Water Supply & Env. San.	22.7.96	31.5.2002	US \$	59.6	9.776
15	Grant India 1995-04 Bundelkhand Integ. Water	12.6.96	31.5.99	Dutch Gldr	13.388	1.352

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16	UP Primary Education	7.7.93	30.9.2000	US \$	165	148.265
17	UP Basic Education - II	3.3.98	31.3.2000	US \$	59.4	36.023
18	Basti Distt. Hospital	4.5.90	30.6.2000	US \$	6.5	4.099
<i>West Bengal</i>						
1	Industrial Pollution Control	28.2.95	12.4.2001	Jap. Yen	1525	258.7
2	Teesta Canal HEP - IDP-40	18.12.86	31.3.2000	Jap. Yen	8025	7756.6
3	Teesta Canal HEP - IDP - 72	23.1.91	31.3.2000	Jap. Yen	6222	5795.1
4	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Unit-3 Extension	28.2.95	12.4.2001	Jap. Yen	8659	8229
5	Purulia Pumped Storage	28.2.95	12.4.2003	Jap. Yen	20520	1378.1
6	West Bengal Transmission System	25.2.97	29.5.2004	Jap. Yen	11087	440.7
7	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Project - II	12.12.97	19.2.2003	Jap. Yen	34151	18456.3
8	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Unit-3	24.3.99	24.3.2004	Jap. Yen	11537	2499.5
9	Calcutta Transport Infrastructure	25.2.97	29.5.2004	Jap. Yen	10679	557.1
10	UK India West Bengal Primary Edn.	16.5.97	31.3.2004	UK Pound	37.706	2.941
11	Rural Water Supply	5.7.96	30.12.2002	Deut. Mark	50	13.501
12	Procurement of Medical & other Equipment	22.6.99	30.12.2006	Deut. Mark	60	0
13	Calcutta Slum Improvement	23.5.91	31.3.2001	UK Pound	16.944	9.955
14	West Bengal Municipal Dev. TF-25472	17.9.98	31.12.99	US \$	0.927	0
15	West Bengal Municipal Dev. TF-25573	17.9.98	31.12.99	US \$	0.469	0
16	Calcutta Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage	23.7.99	31.7.2001	US \$	2.5	0
<i>Pondicherry</i>						
1	Tank Rehabilitation Project	21.2.97	31.12.2004	Euro	6.65	0
<i>Delhi</i>						
1	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System	25.2.97	21.10.2007	Jap. Yen	14760	1082.1
2	Delhi Water Supply & Sanitation	20.4.99	30.6.2001	US \$	2.5	0

MULTI-STATE PROJECTS

(As on 31.10.1999)

Sl. No.	Participating States	Name of the Project	Date of Signing/ Approval	Terminal Date of Disb.	Currency	Loan/ Grant Amount	Cumul Drawal in DC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	GUJ. RAJ. OR	Integrated Water Shed Dev. Plains (RF)-2131-IN	22.8.90	31.3.1999	US \$	57.741	57.741
2	HP, JK, PUN, HAR	Integrated Water Shed Dev. (Hills) (RF)-2100-IN	11.1.91	31.3.1999	US \$	75	67.583
3	AP, BR, OR, UP, WB	Shrimp & Fish Culture	29.1.92	31.12.99	US \$	35.487	21.196
4	AP, HAR, TN	Agriculture & Human Resources	11.4.1995	31.12.2000	US \$	59.5	25.211
5		Integrated Water Shed Dev. Proj. (Hills)-3243-IN	14.7.99	31.3.2005	US \$	50.184	0
6		Integrated Water Shed Dev. Proj. (Hills)-3243-IN	14.7.99	31.3.2005	US \$	50.184	0
7	HP, KTK	Indo Norwegian Environment Programme	13.11.97	13.11.2002	Nor. Kroner	24	6.555
8		DSM Planning in State Power Sector-TF-029705	18.9.98	30.9.2000	US \$	0.4	0.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9		DSM Planning in State Power Sector-TF-025404	18.9.98	30.9.2000	US \$	0.4	0
10	HAR, OR, PUN, TN	Second National Highway	18.6.92	30.6.2001	US \$	163.631	163.631
11	AP, GUJ, HAR, RAJ, TN	Road Infrastructure Dev. Tech Asstt Pr.-4114-IN	15.1.99	31.12.2001	US \$	51.5	20.282
12	AP, UP, OR, WB, RAJ, KTK, KER	Second Road Project-1041-IND	28.5.1991	31.12.1999	US \$	250	236.937
13	UP, RAJ, OR, TN, WB	Dam Safety Project (R.F.)	10.6.1991	30.9.99	US \$	92.973	74.552
14	AP, GUJ, HAR, MAH, KER, OR, TN	Hydrology in India	22.9.95	31.3.2002	US \$	142	34.51
15	AP, ASM, HAR, HP, MAH, WB, TN, PUN, PO	Tech Education-II (R.F)-2223-IN		31.10.99	US \$	255.734	200.628
16	BI, GUJ, KTK, KER, MP, RJ, UP, OR, GOA, WB	Tech Education(R.F)-2130-IN	13.8.90	30.9.98	US \$	231.02	231.02
17	ASM, KTK, RAJ	Family Welfare	24.6.94	31.12.2001	US \$	88.6	38.26
18	ASM, GUJ, HAR, HP, KTK, KER, MAH, MP	Ind Distt. Primary Education	15.7.1996	30.6.2003	US\$	425.2	124.073
19	ASM, GUJ, HAR, HP, KTK, KER, MAH, MP, OR, UP, TN	T.B. Control	14.3.97	31.12.2002	US \$	142.4	4.968
20	BR, GUJ, HAR, KTK, MP, UP	Rural Women's Development	14.9.98	31.12.2003	US \$	19.5	0
21	KER, RAJ, TN, UP, MAH	Women & Child Development	6.7.99	30.9.94	US \$	289.25	0
22	ASM, MNPR, MEGH	North Eastern Regional Community Resources	20.5.97	31.12.2004	US \$	27.123	0
23		Ajanta Ellora Conservation & Tourism Dev.	9.1.92	30.3.2002	Jap. Yen	3745	2288
24	MP, MAH, RAJ	Social Marketing by PSS & PSI	20.12.99	30.12.1998	Deut. Mark	15	5.646
25	GUJ, KTK, KER, MP, RAJ, WB, DEL	Eco Dev. Project Global Envi. Fac	30.9.96	30.6.2002	US \$	20.0	4.838
26	OR, WB	Feasibility study for solid waste treatment	19.12.96	31.12.2000	Fren. France	3.3	0

Statement-II*Details of Externally Aided Projects which were closed without Completion of Project Objectives*

(As on 31.10.1999)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	State(s)	Date of Signing/ Approval	Closing Date	Currency	Loan/ Grant Amount	Amount Disbursed in DC	Remarks
1	Karnataka Power	Karnataka	Jun-87	Dec-93	US \$	330	69.6	Due to project delays, failure to implement agreement upon action and non-compliance with loan components, the World Bank cancelled the loan.
2	Karnataka-II	Karnataka	May-88	Dec-93	US \$	260	24	-do-
3	DESU	Delhi	Jun-87	Dec-95	US \$	485	322.8	DESU component of \$ 60 M cancelled in August-98 as they were not in compliance with the rate of return covenant.
4	UP Power	UP	Jun-88	Nov-92	US \$	350	24.4	UP was not in compliance with the Financial return covenant.
5	Second Maharashtra	Mah.	Jun.-92	Jun-98	US \$	350	112.3	Non-compliance with the receivable and rate of return covenant.
6	First Highway	Multistate	1992	Dec-94	US \$	200	103.4	Long delays in completion of project components and higher than forecasted traffic growth for the period 1985-93.
7	States. Road Project	BR, RJ, MAH, UP	Mar-89	Jun-98	US \$	255.275	66.63	None of the Bihar components were completed due to lack of familiarity with Bank procurement procedures, poor engineering, weak project quality of contractors, cash flow problems and removal of utilities, etc.
8	Kerala Fisheries Development	Kerala	24.2.89	11.12.1996	Kuw. Dinar	7	0.54	Supreme Court prohibited "intensive" and "semi intensive" shrimp culture.

*[Translation]***Automobile Industries**

1811. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI AJIT SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the automobile industry in the country has imported spare parts of vehicles;

(b) if so, the value of spare parts imported by this industry during each of the last three years including first six months of 1999-2000;

(c) the value of products exported by the industry during the said period, year-wise; and

(d) the concessions given to the automobile industry by the Government in regard to import and export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The value of parts and accessories of the Motor Vehicles imported during the period 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto September 1998) is as follows:

Year	Value in Rs. (Lakhs)
1996-97	183849
1997-98	129201
1998-99(upto Sept. 98)	51268
1999-2000	Data not available

(c) The value of Road Vehicles and parts exported by the Industry during the said period is as follows:

Year	Value in Rs. (Lakhs)
1996-97	320096
1997-98	299715
1998-99(upto Sept. 98)	131572
1999-2000	Data not available

Source : DGCIS, Calcutta.

(d) No Special concession has been given to the industry under the EXIM Policy.

Transfer of Customs Officers

1812. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the customs officers/employees working at the various airports in the country along with their date of posting;

(b) whether the Government have framed certain rules for transfer of such employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these rules are being followed properly; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to transfer those customs officers/employees in the field area who have been working in the offices for a very long time?

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

(b) to (e) Guidelines and instructions are issued from time to time by appropriate authorities in this context, which take into account various relevant facts like the source from which officers are to be drawn, performance, tenure etc. These guidelines are being normally adhered to and regular transfers and periodical reviews continue to take place.

[English]

Export of Red Sanders

1813. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of red sanders exported during the last one year; and

(b) the share contributed by Andhra Pradesh therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Export of red sanders wood is not allowed. However, the quantity of value added items made of red sander wood exported during the last one year is given below:

1st April, 1998 to 31st March, 1999	30.8908 MTs
1st April, 1999 to 30th September, 1999	22.6917 MTs

(b) The share contributed by the Andhra Pradesh is as under:

1st April, 1998 to 31st March, 1999	30.8908 MTs
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1st April, 1999 to 30th September, 1999	21.3217 MTs
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Cases Pending with BIFR

1814. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases referred to BIFR since its inception;

(b) the number of cases registered and the number of cases where registration has been declined;

(c) the reasons for declining registration of those cases;

(d) the number of cases settled so far and the number of cases dismissed as non-maintainable; and

(e) the number of cases still pending with BIFR for revival process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that 3,902 companies have made references as on 30.9.99.

(b) 1102 references have been declined registration and 2779 cases of Sick Companies were registered with BIFR.

(c) Registration is declined where the reference do not conform to the provisions of the sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

(d) and (e) BIFR has reported that as on 30.9.1999 a total of 1821 cases of the sick companies were disposed off which include 498 cases of the companies which were dismissed as non-maintainable. 958 cases of the sick companies are pending with the Board at various stages.

[Translation]

NRI Forum

1815. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Non-Resident Indians forum in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NRIs are not enthused despite the concessions given to them; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Proposals envisaging NRI investment of Rs. 76514.50 million have been approved from 1991 to July, 1999. There is actual inflow of NRI investment to the extent of Rs. 75354.80 million during the period. The country has also received investment of US \$ 4.2 billion from NRIs through Resurgent India Bonds issued by the State Bank of India in 1998.

[English]

Financial Crisis

1816. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is financial crisis in many States;

(b) if so, the names of States facing financial crunch presently alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether due to financial crunch these States are unable to undertake developmental works and even unable to pay salaries to their employees;

(d) if so, whether the Chief Ministers of these States have urged the Union Government to be more considerate to the financial needs of the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) Some States, which are unable to match the receipts and expenditure in their budget, experience periodic Ways & Means related financial problems. To enable such States to deal with the situation there is an agreement between the States and RBI to provide Ways & Means support.

Rising non-plan revenue expenditure, heavy debt burden and debt servicing burden, rising staff salaries expenses, reduced tax revenue receipts unsustainable subsidies and continuing losses of many of the States' Public sector undertakings are among the factors responsible for financial difficulties in some of the States.

For providing plan assistance to States, budgetary support from the Central Government is provided through the Planning Commission. The pattern and quantum of financial support to the States is determined on the basis of recommendations of the Finance Commission.

The issue of financial problems being faced by the States was addressed in the 48th meeting of the National Development Council (NDC). The need for initiating fiscal reforms was recognised, and as a follow-up of the NDC decision some State Governments have evolved and undertaken their own medium-term fiscal reforms programme. The Centre has extended assistance to these States by way of advance devolution of the plan and non-plan assistance. An Official committee has also been set up to monitor and review the fiscal reforms programme of these States.

[Translation]

Production of Salt

1817. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production of salt in the country during the last three years, State-wise:

(b) the details of facilities and assistance provided by the Government to increase the production of natural salt in the coastal areas;

(c) whether the production of natural salt has been banned by the Government;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the persons displaced due to this ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) State-wise production of salt in the country during the last three year is given below:

Production of Salt in the Country

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1996	1997	1998
1	Gujarat	10403.5	10096.2	8716.8
2	Tamil Nadu	2283.6	2532.9	1565.6
3	Rajasthan	1131.4	1031.6	1120.5
4	Andhra Pradesh	276.4	273.4	238.2
5	Orissa	47.0	63.8	38.4
6	West Bengal	21.7	5.6	6.8
7	Maharashtra	245.9	200.6	218.7
8	Karnataka	18.9	14.0	14.1
9	Goa	2.5	2.6	0.2
10	Diu & Daman	32.7	27.3	42.7
11	Himachal Pradesh	2.5	3.1	2.4
Total		14486.1	14251.1	11964.4

(b) The following are the facilities and assistance provided by the Government to increase the production of natural salt in the country:

- No objection certificates are being issued for allotment for fresh lands for salt manufacture by the State Governments.
- Technical guidelines have been provided for laying out salt works on scientific lines with latest know-how.
- For increasing demand of quality salt for edible/ industrial purposes and exports, salt refineries are being permitted in the States.
- In order to ensure that salt worked restart their production after being affected by floods, rehabilitation measures are taken by way of granting financial assistance to the affected salt works.

Assistance out of salt cess proceeds is given for various labour welfare and development works. These included provision of medical facilities, drinking water facilities, educational facilities, rest sheds and cèches at work places and recreational facilities for labourers and their families. Details of assistance provided for labour welfare and development works in the last three years are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	72.70
1997-98	68.16
1998-99	94.48

Ex-gratia assistance is also granted to salt manufacturers whose salt works are affected by natural calamities, such as, floods, rains, cyclones, etc. Details of such assistance granted in the last three years are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	39.46
1997-98	36.71
1998-99	437.93

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Production of Tea

1818. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of tea in the country have recorded a shortfall during year 1998 and 1999 till date;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for fall in the production of tea;

(c) whether Government have been taken any concrete steps to boost production of tea and to earn foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Production of tea during the year 1998 achieved a record of 870.40 m.kg as against 810.61 m.kg in 1997. In the current year, production of tea during period January to September '99 was 565.93 m.kg. as against 620.75 m.kg in the corresponding period of the previous year indicating a shortfall of around 55 m.kg. The shortfall in production during the current year has been mainly due to unprecedented drought that prevailed in the tea growing regions of north and south India.

(c) and (d) Several steps have been taken by the Government/Tea Board to increase production of tea to meet the domestic requirements and also maintain India's share in world exports. The steps include financial assistance by Tea Board to the tea industry through this various developmental schemes for encouraging extension planting, replanting, rejuvenation, pruning, in filling, creation of irrigation facilities and drainage etc.

With a view to increase exports of tea, the Government/Tea Board have been analysing country-wise experts of tea giving special attention to areas offering potential. Tea Board also acts to remove bottlenecks in exports to individual markets whenever these are noticed. Other steps taken to increase exports of Indian tea include:

- (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad.
- (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of the speciality of Indian teas and to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol which stands for pure India tea.

Bank Services

1819. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that private banks and foreign banks have taken a lead in providing efficient services to customers;

(b) the reasons for not providing good services to customers by nationalised banks; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve customer services by the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The services provided by private banks and foreign banks are not comparable with those of nationalised banks keeping in view the large number of branches spread through out the country, extent of mechanisation and technological upgradation, the varied clientele served and the volume of business handled by Nationalised Banks. Banks are advised suitably by Government/RBI from time to time and they are taking steps on a continuing basis for improvement of customer service. Some measures taken in this regard include the following:

- (i) Banks have been advised to undertake periodic evaluation of the position in regard to the extent of actual implementation at grass root level of the various recommendations of the Committee appointed by RBI on customer service.
- (ii) RBI conducts customer service audit in banks.
- (iii) Banks have prepared citizens charter indicating various banking services offered to the customers indicating therein the rights of the customer and also the grievance redressal mechanism.
- (iv) Periodic monitoring by RBI and Government.

[Translation]

Exploration of Coal by Geological Survey of India

1820. SHRI AJIT SINGH:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether exploration of coal is done by the Geological survey of India in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the names of the States where coal reserves have been found alongwith the quantum to coal estimated to be available therein;
- (c) whether the quality of the coal is also ascertains in the exploration; and
- (d) the position of coal reserves, State-wise and quality-wise, alongwith the annual production of coal in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India carry out regional exploration in various parts of the country.

(b) to (d) Geological Survey of India as on 1.1.99 has estimated coal reserves upto a depth of 1200 metre and seam thickness 0.5 metres and above as 208.75 billion tonnes in the country. Ascertainment of coal quality

is a part of the exploration activity. The State-Wise, quality-wise coal reserves alongwith the production during 1998-99 is given below:

State	Reserves (in billion tonnes)			Production (in million tonnes) 1998-99*		
	Coking Coal	Non- Coking Coal	Total Coal reserves	Coking Coal	Non- Coking Coal	Total
West Bengal	1.02	24.89	25.91	0.22	18.55	18.77
Bihar	28.32	40.44	68.76	37.84	38.32	76.16
Madhya Pradesh	1.90	40.87	42.77	1.12	83.82	84.94
Uttar Pradesh	-	1.06	1.06	-	15.64	15.64
Maharashtra	-	6.97	6.97	-	25.28	25.28
Orissa	-	49.06	49.06	-	43.51	43.51
Andhra Pradesh	-	13.34	13.34	-	27.33	27.33
Assam (High Sulphur)	-	0.32	0.32	-	0.64	0.64
Arunachal Pradesh (High Sulphur)	-	0.09	0.09	-	-	-
Meghalaya (High Sulphur)	-	0.45	0.45	-	-	-
Nagaland (High Sulphur)	-	0.02	0.02	-	-	-
Total	31.24	177.51	208.75	39.18	253.09	292.27

*Source - Coal Controller's directory for 1998-99.

[English]

Exports of Marine Products

1821. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Marine Products Exports Development authority has extended its activities to Andhra Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, the contribution made by MPEDA to increase the exports of marine products from the State specifically in the Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) through their regional and sub-regional centres situated as Vishakapatnam, Vijayawada and Bhimavaram are implementing various promotional activities and information exchange including disease prevention in shrimp and prawn and quality upgradation programmes in Andhra Pradesh in which Krishna District is included.

MPEDA through its extension programmes has been able to achieve a water spread area of 61,139 hectares in Andhra Pradesh for shrimp farming. Out of this, an area of 26,114 hectares is contributed to by Krishan district alone. From 1986, till today, subsidy assistance to the tune of Rs. 3.37 Crores has been provided by MPEDA to 576 beneficiaries for establishing new farms in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Out of this 197 farmers belong to Krishna district who have been provided subsidy to the tune of Rs. 80 lakhs. Under the soft loan scheme for setting up new seafood processing units for upgradation/modernisation of existing processing units, one unit viz. M/s Blue Park Seafood (P) Ltd., Paramaru Mandal, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned Rs. 25 lakh. Other than this, three applications from the Andhra Pradesh are under consideration of MPEDA of which one is from Krishna District. Assistance to the tune of Rs. 83 lakhs approx. has availed by 55 seafood processing beneficiaries in Andhra Pradesh under various schemes for the last five years (from 1994-95 till 1998-99). MPEDA also established rapid disease diagnostic facilities for helping the shrimp farmers to detect virus infected shrimp seeds at Vijayawada, Kakinada and Nellore. MPEDA has also established a full fledged disease diagnostic lab with a mobile laboratory at Vishakhapatnam for the use of farmers of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Low Quality of Tea

1822 SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints from the Russian Government regarding poor quality of tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any measures to check the quality of tea; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) All tea exports to Russia under Rupee Debt Repayment Mechanism are subjected to compulsory pre-shipment quality inspection in India by Export Inspection Council or Export Inspection Agency, unless the exporter submits a letter from the buyer's company to the Custom Authorities that he does not require pre-shipment quality inspection by Export Inspection Council or Export Inspection Agency.

[English]

Approval for Foreign Investment

1823. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently taken a decision to relax rules for according approval to foreign investment and to allow foreign capital investment in all the sectors barring a few ones without prior approval of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the condition of poor approval of the Government for foreign capital investment in certain sectors is still enforced; and

(d) if so, the names of such sectors and the reasons for according special status to these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) The FDI policy is continuously reviewed so as to make it both attractive and investor friendly and to boost inflows of FDI and technology in the country particularly in infrastructure/core sector, keeping in mind national priorities. For this, activities falling in the high priority and core sectors are eligible for automatic route with FDI upto 50,51,74 and 100 percent subject to sector specific policy.

Proposals not covered under automatic route require prior and specific approval of FIPB/Government as per sectoral cap on foreign equity. Details regarding these sectors are incorporated, in the monthly SIA News letter brought out by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion which is widely circulate including to the Library of the Hon'ble House.

Vanished Companies

1824 SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some companies have adopted a tendency to collect the share money from investors and disappeared from the market;

(b) if so, the details of these companies; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the SEBI against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Certain instances have been brought to the notice of

the market regulator, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) where companies cannot be traced at their registered office addresses. As on November 30, 1999, 86 companies which were not complying with the listing requirements and could not be traced at their registered office addresses have been identified by SEBI. Of these, names of 80 companies have been published in the main newspapers following SEBI's press release dated July 19, 1999.

(c) SEBI has passed orders against the promoters/directors involved with the above companies debaring them from associating with any capital market activity for a period of 5 years.

[Translation]

Agreement with MNCs for setting up of Heavy Industries

1825. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any agreement with Multinational Companies to establish heavy industries in the country; and

(b) if so, the scope of heavy industries and names of States in which these industries are proposed to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) During the period from 1.8.1999 to 31.8.1999, 9858 proposals for financial collaboration amounting to Rs. 2,01,836.25 crores have been approved. These approvals *inter-alia* include financial collaborations for settings up of industries in metallurgical, electrical equipment, transportation, engineering sectors etc. The details of such proposals including items of manufacture/activity and location of the project are published in the monthly news letter of the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals (SIA) which is widely circulated, including to the Parliament Library.

[English]

Jobs in CIL to Farmers

1826. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries, such as Western Coalfields Limited gives one job to the farmers whose 3 acres or more area of land has been acquired for mining purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether no cash compensation has been paid to those farmers whose land below 3 acres has been acquired for these purposes;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total number of farmers and total acres of Land below acres acquired for mining purposes during the last three years, company-wise;

(f) whether the Government propose to pay compensation to those farmers, whose land below 3 acres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited & its subsidiaries offer job to land losers as per the relevant provisions of CIL's Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy, which provides, *inter alia* that if feasible the subsidiaries will offer employment as per their own policies. The details of policies followed by subsidiary companies of CIL are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) No land has been acquired without payment of cash compensation for the land.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (c) above.

(e) The total number of farmers and the total acreage of land below 3 acres acquired for mining purposes during the last three years are as under:

Company	No. of Farmers	Area of Land (Acres)
CCL	177	146.09
WCL	390	550.00
SECL	2940	2760.25
NCL	NIL	NIL
MCL	1181	490.00
BCCL	124	168.89
ECL	1418	1672.00

(f) and (g) The compensation is invariably paid to all land owners irrespective of the size of the land acquired from individual land owner.

Statement

ECL- Employment is offered for acquisition of 2 acres of land for mining purpose.

BCCL- One employment is provided against every 2 acres acquired/purchased to the land owners or to their dependent. Relaxation in quantum is also allowed in cases where a package deal is made.

CCL- The norms of Central coal fields Ltd. For providing employment under land looser schemes as per the "Guidelines for offering employment against acquisition possession and use of Land" duly approved by the functional directors is as under:

(i) One employment against 3 acres of non-irrigated land. However, this is relaxed to one employment against 2 acres of land if the incumbents possess matriculation or higher qualification.

(ii) One employment against 2 acres of irrigated land, rain-fed areas, irrigation by well or ponds will not be covered under irrigated land. The land covered under command area of an operative irrigation scheme will be considered as irrigated.

WCL- One employment to each land oustee family (self) or his lineal eligible male dependent below 35 years of age from whom minimum 3 acres of non-irrigated land is acquired for mining purposes.

SECL- (A) For farmers having above 3 acres of land. Employment is provided as per MP Rehabilitation Package 1991 alongwith the cost price of land.

(B) For farmer having less than three acres of land are also provided employment as per MP Rehabilitation Package 1991 alongwith the cost price of land.

(C) Cash compensation in lieu of employment is given on request/affidavit of the land losers; if he desires so.

NCL- One employment for acquisition 0.5 acres or above land in respect of General Class and 0.02 acre or above in respect of SC/ST Class depending upon the requirement of the project.

MCL- Employment is given as per guidelines issued by Govt. of Orissa.

(A) One member from the family sustaining loss of dwelling houses, homestead land and agricultural lands not less than 1/3rd of the total holding shall be provided with employment on a priority basis.

(B) One member of each family having sustained loss of 3 acres of non-irrigated land or 2 acres of irrigated land shall be provided with employment on second priority.

(C) In case of family having lost only homestead land or the total agricultural holding one member from each family shall be provided with employment according to availability.

(D) In case of family who have lost 1/3 rd of the total agricultural holding one member from each family shall be provided with employment according to availability.

Opening of Banks

1827. SHRI A.VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether state-wise target fixed for opening the branches of different commercial banks, cooperative banks particularly in Karnataka during the last three years have been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location of branches of banks opened;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of commercial/cooperative bank branches likely to be opened during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the extant branch licensing policy, Reserve Bank of India have not fixed any State-wise targets for opening branches of commercial and cooperative banks, and has left it to the discretion of the banks themselves. However, the number of branches of commercial and urban cooperative banks opened during the last three years State-wise including Karnataka is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a).

(d) Having broadly achieved the objective of providing adequate banking infrastructure in the country with a wise and impressive net-work of over 60,000 branches by the end of 1985-90, it was decided that there was no need for evolving any branch licensing policy with specific targets such as Statewise/areawise and population coverage per bank office, as was being done in the past. Accordingly, it was decided that further growth of bank offices should be guided only on well-established need for banking vis-a-vis financial viability of proposed branches. As such, the decision for opening the branches at a particular centre has been left to the discretion of the banks themselves.

Statement

*State-wise number of branches of commercial * and urban cooperative banks opened during the last three years*

Name of state	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Commercial Banks	Urban Cooperative Banks	Commercial Banks	Urban Cooperative Banks	Commercial Banks	Urban Cooperative Banks
1 Andhra Pradesh	62	18	74	18	46	20
2 Arunachal Pradesh	0	-	0	-	0	-
3 Assam	1	-	3	-	3	-
4 Bihar	19	-16	-	15	1	-
5 Goa	8	5	17	-	5	2
6 Gujarat	45	67	38	93	42	84
7 Haryana	29	-	41	-	24	1
8 Himachal Pradesh	5	-	8	-	2	-
9 Jammu Kashmir	5	-	8	-	7	1
10 Karnataka	64	41	74	61	59	37
11 Kerala	44	30	23	17	33	17
12 Madhya Pradesh	39	2	40	7	23	2
13 Maharashtra	92	219	106	222	85	165
14 Manipur	0	-	0	-	0	-
15 Meghalaya	0	-	0	-	0	-
16 Mizoram	0	-	0	-	0	-
17 Nagaland	0	-	0	-	0	-
18 NCT of Delhi	42	4	50	3	48	2
19 Orissa	5	-	35	-	23	1
20 Punjab	74	2	51	1	25	1
21 Rajasthan	33	7	35	10	26	9
22 Sikkim	0	-	0	-	0	-
23 Tamil Nadu	52	14	46	21	48	17
24 Tripura	1	-	1	-	0	-
25 Uttar Pradesh	49	11	94	15	64	14
26 West Bengal	33	3	23	4	23	5
27 Andaman & Nicobar	0	-	0	-	0	-
28 Chandigarh	10	-	7	-	4	-
29 Dadra & NH	0	-	3	-	1	-
30 Daman & Diu	0	-	0	-	2	1
31 Lakshadweep	0	-	0	-	0	-
32 Pondicherry	1	-	3	-	2	-
All India	713	423	796	472	610	380

* Branches of commercial banks pertain to period July to June of the year.

LIC and GIC Assistance for Water Supply and Sewerage Projects

1828. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assistance given for the water supply schemes and sewerage projects in the country by Life Insurance Corporation of India and General Insurance Corporation and other financial institutions during each of the last three years, State-wise particularly in the backward areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the break-up of the amount sanctioned/released by LIC, GIC and other financial institutions during the said period State-wise; and

(c) the number or people likely to be benefited under these schemes State-wise?

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

Technology Upgradation Fund

1829. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plans of the Government to provide Technology Upgradation fund for cash strapped textile industry have been totally flopped;

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

(c) whether the textile industry throughout the country, particularly the Public Sector Textile Mills are facing financial crunch; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No Sir. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textile and jute industries was launched only on April 1, 1999. It will be in operation upto March 31, 2004. The scheme seeks to facilitate the availability of loans from financial institutions with reimbursement of 5 percentage points on interest payable.

The principal objective of the scheme is to meet the modernisation needs of the textile and jute industries to enhance their viability and competitiveness in the domestic as well as international markets. Any textile unit, which is eligible as per the normal lending norms of the concerned financial institutions and fulfils the benchmark criteria of the scheme, can avail of funds under the Scheme. Till October 31, 1999, one sixty two (162)

applications with project cost amounting to Rs. 4276 crore have been received by the concerned financial agencies and ninety one (91) applications have been sanctioned loans amount to Rs. 1188 crore under the scheme. The response to the scheme is expected to improve further.

(c) and (d) At any given point of time, industrial units including textile units incur losses on account of varied reasons, such as, recession in the market, industrial unrest and other operational problems leading to difficulties in obtaining adequate working capital. As far as Public Sector textiles mills are concerned, the National Textile Corporation Ltd., (NTC) and British India Corporation Ltd., (BIC), are facing acute shortage of working capital, on account of incurrence of continuing losses because of varied reasons such as technology obsolescence and surplus man-power. In respect of textile PSUs, Government is providing funds for meeting their shortfall towards payment of salaries and wages. 8 Subsidiaries of NTC (out of 9) stand referred to BIFR. In the case of BIC the matter is pending before the Allahabad High Court.

Government of India has enacted the sick Industrial companies (Special Provision) Act, (SICA) 1985 and established the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies both in public and private sector.

MMTC Projects in M.P. and Rajasthan

1830. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC) has made any plan to launch some projects in madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost and the employment generation potentiality of those projects?

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

(b) Do not arise.

Shortage of Coins

1831. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute shortage of coins of Rs. 1, 2, and 5 denomination in the country, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided to import coins of the above denominations to ease the shortage of coins;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the imported coins are likely to be arrived along with the names of countries from which coins are proposed to be imported; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to release coins to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There has been shortfall in supply of coins *vis-a-vis* demand in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 400 Million Pieces (MPCs) of Rs. 5, 300 MPCs of Rs. 2 and 300 MPCs of Re.1 coins are to be imported from Russia, UK and Slovakia respectively on the basis of global tender. The coins are expected to start arriving in India from Jan, 2000. The Govt. has also decided, in view of shortage, to import additional 1000 MPCs of Rs. 5, 750 MPCs of Rs. 2 and 750 MPCs of Re. 1 coins. The tender process is under way and the coins are expected to be imported during 2000-2001.

(d) The availability of coins in Karnataka is being monitored by the RBI who have arranged special remittances from New Delhi and Hyderabad to Bangalore. During April-November 1999, rupee coins to the tune of 110 Million Pieces (Rs. 5=11.79 Million Pieces, Rs. 2 = 18.04 Million Pieces and Re. 1 = 80.29 Million Pieces) have been supplied to RBI Bangalore.

Production of Coal

1832. SHRI S.D.N.R WADIYAR: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp decline in the production of coal in the country;

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

(c) the production performance of each coal company during the last three years;

(d) the total coal imported by various sectors during the above period, sector-wise and year-wise;

(e) whether there is any gap between production and demand of coal; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap between production and demand of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) Coal production during 1998-99 was 292.27 million tonnes as compared to production of 297.17 million tonnes in 1997-98.

Targets of coal production were fixed considering the demand from consuming sectors. The decrease in demand was primarily on account of general economic recession, and resultant less offtake by major consumers like power and cement.

The details of production of coal, company-wise, in the last three years are as follows:

(In million tonnes)			
Company	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
ECL	29.647	27.439	27.163
BCCL	27.138	30.919	27.175
CCL	32.184	33.102	32.176
NCL	37.009	37.561	36.518
WCL	31.225	32.512	31.745
SECL	55.303	56.632	57.562
MCL	37.365	42.162	43.512
NEC	0.752	0.687	0.637
CIL	250.623	261.014	256.488
SCCL	28.734	28.941	27.326
IISCO, DVC, TISCO & others	6.723	7.214	8.456
Total Coal	286.080	297.169	292.27

(d) Government do not import coal directly. Since the coal is under Open General Licence (OGL), imports are being resorted to by the actual consumers. However, the total quantity of coal imported in the country during the last three years as per information available with the Department of coal as under:

(Data Provisional)			
Year	Import (Quantity in Million tonnes)		
	Coking	Non-Coking	Total
1996-97	9.78	4.53	14.31
1997-98	10.65	6.56	17.21
1998-99	9.64	6.00	15.64

The sector-wise break-up of imported coal is not available in the Department of Coal.

(e) and (f) There is a gap between demand and production of coking and superior grade coal. There is only limited scope for closing this gap due to the nature of the coking coal deposit. The indigenous production of coal is adequate to meet the non-coking coal demand in the country. The steps taken to increase production of coal include, *inter-alia*, opening of new mines, modernisation of existing mines, upgradation of technology, ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities, better capacity utilisation, improvement in productivity, and maintaining good industrial relations. Captive coal mining any power, steel and cement sector will also help increase coal production.

Provision of Funds for Setting up of Spinning Mills

1833. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide funds to set up spinning mills in the States; and

(b) if so, the number of spinning mills set up along with central assistance provided during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation of Mineral areas for Public Sector Undertakings in M.P.

1834. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the areas reserved by the Union Government for Public Undertakings in Madhya Pradesh as on July, 1999 indicating the names of minerals for which these areas have been reserved;

(b) whether there is any scheme in open these reserved mineral areas for Private Sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Union Government to declare these reserved mineral areas as open; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Prior to the amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation

and Development) Act, 1957 (MMRD Act, 1957) effective from 25.1.94, under Section 17A(2) the State Governments were empowered with the approval of the Central Government to undertake reservation both for Central and State Public Sector Units through a Notification in the official Gazette. However, since the MMRD Act, 1957 was amended with effect from 25.1.94 and Sub-Section 17A (IA) was added, the Central Government has been empowered, in consultation with the State Government, to reserve areas for undertaking prospecting and mining operations through a Government company or corporation owned or controlled by it, through a Notification in the official Gazette. No area has been reserved by the Central Government for exploitation by Public Sector Undertakings in Madhya Pradesh. However, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has been reserving areas for exploitation by Public Sector Undertakings from time to time.

(b) to (e) The provisions of Section 17A (IA) and 17A(2) of the MMRD Act, 1957 empowering the Central or the State Government to reserve areas for undertaking prospecting or mining operations through their respective Public Sector Undertakings, do not stipulate any time limit for the period of validity of the relevant Notifications. The proposals from the State Government for de-reservation of areas as and when received are examined on merits by the Central Government. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had furnished a proposal for dereservation of the areas bearing limestone, dolomite and manganese ore. The Central Government has de-reserved majority of the areas proposed by the State Government. However, some of the areas mentioned in the proposal have been retained to be reserved for Public Sector Undertakings.

[English]

SBI

1835. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India (SBI) is considering to restructure the operations of its associate banks and subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Bank of India is also considering to set up new subsidiaries; and

(d) if so, the avenues in which the State Bank of India intends to tap the market by creating subsidiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India has commenced an exercise for examining internal restructuring of the operations of its associate banks with a view to synergise their operations.

(c) and (d) State Bank of India has reported that it is setting up a subsidiary namely "SBI Gold and Precious Metals Private Limited", which would provide assaying and hallmarking facilities and lend support to the bank in implementing the Gold Bond Scheme.

Tobacco Growers

1836. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a major policy initiative to resolve the problems of tobacco growers, the Ministry of Commerce have requested the Reserve Bank of India to increase export credit limit to enable traders to participate simultaneously at the tobacco auctions in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have also instructed to evolve an insurance scheme for the tobacco crop within the next two months; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The credit requirements of tobacco exporters were examined by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in April, 1999 on a reference made by Ministry of Commerce. The export credit scheme has been decided by RBI taking into account credit needs of all export segments irrespective of the commodities exported. The objective of the scheme is to ensure availability of export credit at reasonable rate of interest. The scheme provides freedom to banks in assessment of credit requirement of the exporters based on commercial judgement. Therefore, the existing credit mechanism was considered to be adequate to take care of the credit needs of the tobacco growers.

(b) and (c) Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana (RKBY) of Ministry of Agriculture has come into operation with rabi 1999-2000 season for food crops, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton and potato. Other annual commercial/horticulture crops are intended to be brought under RKBY in next three years subject to availability past yield data.

Disparities in Royalty on Coal

1837. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the spiralling disparities in the upward revision of royalty on coal over the year 1971;

(b) if so, the positive steps have been contemplated by the Government to reduce the disparities;

(c) the date on which the last upward revision of royalty on coal was made;

(d) the reasons for delay for such a long time in making the next revision;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to change the existing system of royalty on tonnage basis to *ad-valorem* basis; and

(f) if so, by when and the steps proposed to be taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) As per the trend of coal prices during the last two decades, all grades of coking coal and A, B & C grades of non-coking coal are high value coals and D, E, F & G grades of non-coking coal which are mostly used for thermal power generation are low value coals. The classification of coking coal and non-coking coal into various grades was revised in July, 1979 on the basis of varying degrees of ash content for coking coal and Useful Heat Value for non-coking coal. This revised classification of coking coal and non-coking coal was published in a Gazette Notification dated 16.7.79 of the Central Government fixing the administered prices of all grades of coking coal and non-coking coal. From the commencement of the calendar year of 1971 upto the present day, the royalty rates on coal were revised five times on 19.2.71, 14.7.75, 13.2.81, 1.8.91 and 11.10.94. Since the revised classification of coking coal and non-coking coal was done in July, 1979, the classification appearing in the Coal Royalty Notifications issued on 19.2.71 and 14.7.75 was different from the classification appearing in subsequent Coal Royalty Notifications. Therefore, the difference in the royalty rates for various coal grades (except coal rejects) as appearing in the Coal Royalty Notifications issued on 19.2.71 and 14.7.75 was not as significant as the difference in the subsequent Coal Royalty Notifications issued on 13.2.81, 1.8.91 and 11.10.94. In view of the fact that the non-coking coal grades of D to G are needed for thermal power generation, the royalty rates for these coal grades had been kept at a much lower level in the Coal Royalty Notifications issued on 13.2.81, 1.8.91 and 11.10.94 than the royalty rate for coking coal and A to C grades of non-coking coal. This was done to give a boost to thermal power generation in the country.

(c) The last upward revision of coal royalty rates was done on 11.04.94.

(d) to (f) The legal provisions for payment of royalty on minerals including coal, flow from the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957. The proviso to Section 9(3) of the MMRD Act, 1957 stipulated that Central Government cannot enhance the rates of royalty on minerals, including coal, during any period of three years, but that does not enjoin upon the Central Government to enhance the royalty rate every three years.

No fixed periodicity of either enhancing or revising the royalty rates on minerals, including coal, has been laid down in law. It is, therefore, perfectly legal for the Central Government to keep the royalty rated unchanged as was done during 1981-91.

The coal companies receive only about 40-45% of the landed price of coal on an average. The larger proportion of this price is on account of cost of railway freight and the various levies such as royalty, excise duty, cess and sales tax. As a consequence, Indian coal is getting priced out in several locations and there is a sharp increase in the import of coal. The import of non-coking coal has increased more than 10 times from 1993-94. The State Electricity Boards and the State Government Power companies/corporations are also struggling hard to make both ends meet. The steel industry is yet to get out of the depression. Any increase in royalty rates on coal at this stage may well deepen the crisis for the power sector, steel sector and the domestic coal sector. Therefore, a decision has been taken not to enhance the existing royalty rates on coal at this stage and not to change the existing system of determination of coal royalty rates from tonnage basis to ad-valorem basis.

Import Tariff

1838. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several countries including developed countries have increased import tariff to save their domestic production;

(b) if so, whether rubber producers are in great difficulty and hardship due to low import tariff on artificial rubber and polyurethane; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Under the WTO, members may provide tariff protection to their domestic industry within the overall limits of their respective commitments. A Member may also increase its tariffs so long as such increase does not exceed the commitment so made.

(b) and (c) Representations have been received from the natural rubber producers for increasing the import duty on polyurethane. However, the duty structure of various products including polyurethane and synthetic rubber is decided after taking into account the level of protection required for the domestic industry while keeping in mind the concerns of the user industry.

Activities of Central Silk Board

1839. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to improve the standard and status of the activities of the Central Silk Board in the coming years;

(b) whether the Government propose to open a Research and Development Centre with laboratory facilities for the testing silk threads at Dharmapuri, district, Tamil Nadu so as to facilitate the silk producers of this region to have their silk tested here itself instead of going to Kancheepuram;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Central Silk Board provides research and development, training, extension and basic seed support to the industry. The Government extends budgetary support to the Board for meeting its objectives. The improvement in the standards and status of activities of the Central Silk Board is a continuous process to which the Government provides all necessary support. In addition, it facilitates the Central Silk Board to enter into collaboration with international organisations like the World Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency for taking up intensive R & D projects for the development of sericulture.

(b) to (d) There is presently no proposal with Central Silk Board to open a Research and Development Centre at Dharmapuri, Tamilnadu. The CSB, however, has established at Dharmapuri in April 1996 a Demonstration-cum-Technical Service Centre (DCTSC) which is equipped with facilities for conducting preliminary tests to know the denier and winding breaks in raw silk.

Prices of Natural Rubber

1840. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sharp fluctuations in the prices of natural rubber produced in the country;

(b) if so, the details of prices during the last three years;

(c) whether the market intervention by the Government has not helped sustain the prices at a reasonable level; and

(d) if so, the proposal, if any, to ensure remunerative prices for the natural rubber?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Average domestic price of Natural Rubber during the last three years is given below :

(Rs. Qtl.)

Year	Domestic Price (RSS-IV)
1996	5122
1997	3988
1998	3013

(c) and (d) To enable the rubber growers to get a remunerative price for their produce, Government has authorised procurement of 30,000 MTs of rubber on Government Account. The import of Natural Rubber under Advance Licences has also been banned since February 1999. The Price of Natural Rubber has moved up from an average of Rs. 2695 per qtl. for January 1999 to Rs. 2958 per qtl. for October 1999.

Supply of Water in Mines

1841. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited has carried out any survey for supply of water at its various mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total cost likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of surveys carried out and various projects and schemes undertaken by the different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited and the total cost incurred there on are as given below:

Sl. No.	Company	Details of Project and Schemes	Total expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1	ECL	(a) Raniganj coalfields area W/S Schemes Part-I.	4279.00
		(b) -Do- part-II.	
		(c) Chirkunda-Kumardhubi W/S scheme PHED Govt. of Bihar	
2	BCCL	(a) (i) Water Treatment Plant-84 Nos. (Since nationalisation) 12.85 MGD.	860.00
		(ii) Deep Borewells-100 (Approx.) 1.115 MGD.	70.00

1	2	3	4
		(b) (i) Project Varun	498.50
		(ii) Water Treatment Plant at Bhowra.	86.70
		(iii) Short Term Schemes for Augmentation of Water Supply in different units.	155.00
			1670.20
3	CCL	(a) Argada W/S Scheme for Argada Sirka GM Unit.	62.00
		(b) W/S Scheme of Gidi "R"	32.23
		(c) IWSS at B & K, Dhori.	60.00
		(d) IWSS for KBS PH-II Kargali.	19.68
		(e) Kuju & Hazaribagh	1300.00
		(f) W/S Scheme, Jerangdih	52.00
		(g) W/S Govindupur	10.00
		(h) (i) IWSS for Ashoka Rohini Purbadh on Karketta	70.00
		(ii) Storage Reservoir	50.00
			1655.91
4	WCL	(a) 50 numbers of drinking water supply schemes in different areas of WCL were taken up during 1993-94 to 1996-97	1278.16
		(b) 12 numbers of water supply schemes undertaken during 1997-98	393.00
5	SECL	(a) Kusmunda-2.00 capacity MGD. (Approx.)	290
		(b) Gevra-1.00 capacity MGD.	370 (Approx.)
		(c) Chirmiri-2.60 capacity MGD.	770 (Approx.)
		(d) Hasdeo-2.50 capacity MGD.	250 (Approx.)
		(e) Baikunthpur-0.50 capacity MGD	120 (Approx.)
		(f) Bhatgaon-0.50 capacity MGD.	140 (Approx.)
		(g) Sohagpur	150 (Approx.)
		Phase-I-1.00 capacity MGD.	
		Phase-II-1.00 capacity MGD.	250 (Approx.)
		(h) Johilla-0.50 capacity MGD.	140 (Approx.)
		(i) J & K -1.00 capacity MGD.	220 (Approx.)
			2700

1	2	3	4
6	NCL	(a) IWSS capacity MGD for 8 mining projects and 1 central workshop 2530 (Approx.)	
		(b) Scheme for linking balance 2 projects and HQRS of NCL with IWSS is drawing water from Rihand Reservoir through NTPC & Supply is being made after treatment of water 900 (Approx.)	
			3430 (Approx.)
7	MCL	Talcher coalfields	61.00
		(a) Construction of 4.90 MGD water retreatment plant IWSS Phase-I at Talcher	
		(b) Intake Well	35.00
		(c) Providing and laying of CI PIPE lines.	58.00
		(d) P&L of Hume Steel Pipes for IWSS Phase-II at Talcher.	876.84
		(e) Commission of 5 MGD for IWSS Phase-I	105.70
		(f) Design & Construction of intake well for 5 MGD capacity water retreatment plant for Talcher.	14.70
		Valley coalfields	
		(g) Construction of 2.00 MGD water retreatment plant at IB Valley area.	80.00
		(h) Laying of pipe lines	247.00
		(i) Providing, supplying, laying, jointing and testing of steel Hume Pipes for Lakhanpur Group of Mines in IB Valley Area.	588.00
		(j) Commission of water treatment plant 1.6 MGD for Bellpahar IWSS.	207.48
		MCL, HQrs. Sambalpur	24.44
		(k) Design Supply and commissioning of 1.35 MGD Water Treatment Plant of turn key basis at MCL. HQrs.	2298.16
8	CMPDIL	In CMPDIL colonies supply of drinking water is made through Municipal Water Supply in some colonies, some Borewells have been driven to augment the water supply.	

Assistance from West Asian Countries

1842. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several West Asian Countries have offered financial assistance for development of sanitation and inter-related projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such projects, the names of those West Asian countries and the amount of assistance offered by them;

(c) whether such assistance is also offered to the Government of Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Gold Mines

1843. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA:
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Mines and their locations where the gold mining is going on presently;

(b) the quantity of gold has been produced by these mines during the last three years; and

(c) the expenditure made by the Government on maintaining/running these mines during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) The primary gold in the country is produced by Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), a Central Government Public Sector Undertaking, and Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML), a State Government of Karnataka Public Sector Undertaking. The locations of their mines are as under:

A. BGML

S.No.	Name of the Mine	District
1	Chigargunta	Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
2	Mysore Champion Amalgamated	Kolar, Karnataka
3	Nundydroog	Kolar, Karnataka
4	Old Bisanatham	Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
5	Yeppamana*	Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh

*At present mining operations are suspended.

B. HGML

S.No.	Name of the Mine	District
1	Hutti	Raichur, Karnataka
2	Utti	Raichur, Karnataka

(b) The total gold produced by BGML and HGML during the last three years is as under:

(In kg.)

	BGML	HGML
1996-97	692	1594
1997-98	514	1648
1998-99	531	1427

(c) BGML has been declared as a sick unit under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act (SICA), 1985. Its operations are supported by Non Plan and Plan loans released by the Government of India from time to time. The loans extended by the Government of India to BGML during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 were Rs. 20.00 crores, Rs. 16.15 crores and Rs. 21.05 crores respectively.

The working of HGML does not come under the purview of the Central Government.

Employees in Public Sector Undertakings

1844. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers and employees in the Central Public Sector during 1991-1992;

(b) the number of workers and employees took Voluntary Retirement/Voluntary Separation under VRS/VSS during each of the last three years; and

(c) the number of workers/employees lost their jobs due to dismissal, closure and lay off in the Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The total number of employees in the Central Public Sector Enterprises during 1991-1992 was 21.84 lakhs. The number of employees who have opted for VRS/VSS etc. in 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, upto which period the information is available, was 19247, 19145 and 26853 respectively.

The number of employees who lost their jobs due to dismissal, closure and lay off etc. in the Central PSUs, is not centrally maintained.

Trade Fair

1845. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "The trade part: The Government of India has no record of the transactions carried out-Trade Fair : Nothing international about it" appearing in the 'Express' Newslime dated November 24, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the steps taken to improve the participation of foreign countries for national and international buyers; and

(d) the amount of business transacted in the fair?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The thrust of the said news item is on dwindling participation of foreign companies and non-availability of record about the business transacted during India International Trade Fair (IITF)-1999.

(c) and (d) IITF-1999 was held during November 14-27, 1999 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Being a general trade fair, it has limited scope for foreign companies, who prefer to participate in specialised fairs relevant to their fields of operation. The objective of ITPO to bring in more business delegates from abroad was met, in as much as 230 delegates from 54 countries visited this fair and held business negotiations.

It has not possible to indicate the exact amount of business transacted during IITF-1999 as all the trade enquiries and negotiations do not fructify into actual business.

[Translation]

Overman/Mining Engineers in CIL

1846. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria prescribed by the Directorate General of Mines Safety for the appointment of Junior Overman/Overman and Mining Engineers to each ancillary company of the Coal India Limited;

(b) the category-wise number of above personnel in ancillary company at present alongwith their shortage/surplus manpower;

(c) whether the present manpower of above employees/Officers is as per the norms fixed by the Directorate General of Mines Safety; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, the criteria for appointment of overman and mining engineers in various capacities of manager, assistant manager, safety officer, ventilation officer in all coal mines where the Mines Act 1952 is applicable are prescribed in the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957.

(b) The information is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The estimation of the requirement given in Statement annexed is as per the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (c) above.

Statement

Table-I

Status of Mining Engineers in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited

(Inclusive of 1st and 2nd Class Managers)

(As on November, 1999)

Subsidiary	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	Surplus
ECL	634	584	50	-
BCCL	555	561	-	6
CCL	524	535	-	11
NCL	211	211	-	-
WCL	688	631	57*	-
SECL	859	794	65**	-
MCL	257	248	09	-
NEC	37	29	08	-
CIL	3765	3593	189	17

* 70 Junior Executive Trainees (Mining) are working in WCL who will be getting 2nd Class Mines Manager Certificate of competency and then shortages will get reduced.

** 111 Junior Executive Trainees (Mining) are working in SECL who will be getting 2nd Class Mines Manager Certificate of competency and then shortages will get reduced.

Table-II

Subsidiary-wise Status of Overmen

Subsidiary	Overman			
	Requirement	Existing	Shortage	Surplus
ECL	1378	1372	6	0
BCCL	1220	1232	-	12
CCL	745	676	69	0
NCL	247	231	16	0
WCL	1080	951	129	0
SECL	1171	1043	128	0
MCL	292	280	12	0
NEC	61	55	6	0
CIL	6194	5840	366	12

[English]

Indian Bank Mutual Fund

1847. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Indian Express' dated November 28, 1999 under the caption "Indian Bank MF may incur losses";

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

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to safeguard the interest of the investors of the mutual fund who are likely to lose about Rs. 70 crores as reported in the news report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Where a scheme of a mutual fund offers any assured return, or in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which is the regulatory authority, the return proposed is in the nature of an assurance to the investors, SEBI has insisted that the mutual fund should honour its commitments. In case the fund is unable to pay the same to the investors, the shortfall has to be borne by the sponsors of the asset management company of the mutual fund. The Indian Bank Mutual Fund had floated the Ind Jyothi Scheme in 1990 and the Ind Prakash Scheme in 1992 which offered assured returns. Subsequently, SEBI received complaints from investors stating that the fund was not honouring its commitments made under the schemes. Accordingly, on 30th November, 1999, under Section 11B of the SEBI Act, 1992, SEBI issued directions to Indian Bank Mutual Fund to pay the assured returns to the investors and in case it is unable to do so, the shortfall shall be borne by Indian Bank which is the sponsor as well as the Principal Trustee of the mutual fund.

Excise Duty Evasion

1848. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major excise duty evasion racket involving hundreds of textile yarn traders and processing units had been busted by the Central Excise Department in Mumbai in the recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter;

(c) whether the Excise Department has investigated the involvement of 200 traders, 100 processor and five printing presses suspected to be involved in the evasion racket for years;

(d) if so, whether the investigation has been completed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (e) No major case of excise duty evasion by textile traders and processing units have been detected in Mumbai zone in recent months. However, in the financial year 1998-99 major cases of evasion of central excise duty by textile traders and processing units were detected. The Department enquired into the price declarations by the traders/processors to detect cases of under-valuation of fabric, especially the invoices of grey fabrics sent to the processors. 180 traders, 93 independent processors and 11 printing presses were found to be involved in cases of excise evasion in the country. The estimated amount of evasion was Rs. 3.37 crores (approx.) Three persons were arrested. So far, Show Cause Notices have already been issued for excise evasion of Rs. 1.40 crores (approx.) consequent to the investigations. An advance recovery of Rs. 0.39 crore was also made.

[Translation]

Development of Handlooms in Himachal Pradesh

1849. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is vast potential for development of handlooms in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to explore the possibilities for development of handlooms in the State and the details of assistance to be made available for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India extends financial assistance under various schemes to the States, including Himachal Pradesh, for the overall development of handloom sector on the basis of receipt of viable proposals and availability of funds. There is no State-wise allocation of assistance. However, during the last three years (1996-97 to 1998-99), Central Assistance of Rs. 370.12 lakhs has been released under different schemes to Himachal Pradesh for development of handlooms.

[English]

Sanction of Funds by IDBI

1850. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loan amount sanctioned by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has declined during the last three years;

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

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that there has been steady growth in assistance sanctioned by IDBI during the last three years. The assistance sanctioned by IDBI during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Total Sanctions
1996-97	14976.7
1997-98	23982.0
1998-99	25554.7

Export Quota of Cotton Bales

1851. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1997-98 Union Government sanctioned an export quota of 75 thousand cotton bales to the Cotton Federation of Maharashtra for cotton seasons;

(b) if so, whether 5 lakhs unsold cotton bales of the season are yet laying down;

(c) whether the Federation has approached the Union Government with the request to sanction additional export quota of one lakh cotton bales to the Federation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government sanctioned export quota of 55 thousand cotton bales to the Federation for 1998-99 season;

(f) whether the Federation has requested the Union Government to sanction export quota of 5 lakhs tonnes bales for 1998-99;

(g) whether the demand of the Federation to the Government of India for release of sanction of 5 lakhs bales quota for the season 1998-99 is still pending; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Federation has requested to sanction additional export quota of one lakh bales which was sanctioned.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) to (h) The Federation had requested for grant of a fresh export quota of one lakh bales of cotton. The Federation was advised to utilise the quota (55,000 bales) allotted to it and to request for additional quota only after the utilisation of the allotted quota.

Contribution by Private Banks in RIDF

1852. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2706 dated March 12, 1999 regarding contribution by Private banks in RIDF (Rural Infrastructure Development Fund) and state:

(a) the details of the money deposited by the banks and how much of that used by NABARD;

(b) the reasons for not depositing the remaining amount;

(c) whether the commercial banks are implementing DRI scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has reported the details of the deposits received by it under Rural Infrastructure Development as on 30-11-1999 as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	Public Sector Banks	Private Sector Banks
RIDF-I	142625.70	9362.80
RIDF-II	157000.00	-
RIDF-III	57804.00	7436.00
RIDF-IV	15156.00	4844.00
Total	372085.70	21642.80

The entire amount so collected is fully utilized by NABARD for disbursing loans to the State Governments.

(b) NABARD approaches the banks for giving deposits from time to time depending upon the disbursement of loans. Hence, the question of not depositing the remaining amount by banks does not arise.

(c) and (d) All Indian scheduled commercial banks are implementing the Differential Rates of Interest (DRI) Scheme which aims at providing bank finance at a concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum to the weaker sections of the community for engaging in productive and gainful activities so that they could improve their economic conditions. The scheme is implemented throughout the country. The income ceiling for eligibility is an annual income of Rs. 7200/- per family in urban or semi-urban areas and Rs. 6400/- per family in rural areas.

Banks are required to lend under the scheme at least 1 per cent of their aggregate advances as at the end of the previous year. The maximum assistance per beneficiary has been fixed at Rs. 6500/- for productive purposes. No margin money has been prescribed under the scheme. The details of the loans granted by all scheduled commercial banks under DRI Scheme (amount outstanding) for the last three years, as reported by RBI, is as under.

(Amount in Rs. Crores)

Period (Year ended)	Amount Outstanding at the end of the year No. of Accounts	Amount Outstanding
March 1996	15,86,277	696.52
March 1997	12,45,247	654.20
March 1998	9,29,147	561.90

Import of Substandard Silk

1853. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that substandard silk is being brought into the country under the garb of certified silk of grade 2A and above.

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the import of substandard silk;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey to know the impact of import of silk on the domestic silk industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Presently import of silk is permitted under the Duty Exemption Scheme. In addition, import of mulberry raw silk of Grade 2A and above is permitted through canalisation by Handicraft and Handloom Export Corporation (HHEC), National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) and other State Corporations dealing with Handlooms/Powerlooms and silk. No complaints of import of substandard silk through these routes have been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Increase in Profit of Indian Companies

1854. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the net profit of top 350 Indian Companies has increased by 34.1 per cent in the first half of 1999;

(b) the reasons for increase in such profits; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the industrial production further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) According to information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India, profits after tax (net profit) of the top 350 companies in terms of sales rose by 21.7 per cent during the period April to September 1999, compared to the corresponding period during 1998. This growth rate is based on the data from abridged audited/unaudited results of the non-Government non-financial public limited companies available with the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) According to the Reserve Bank of India, *prima facie*, the favourable factors for increase in such profits could be (i) a lower growth in expenditure at 13.4 per cent as compared to the rise in sales by 14 per cent (ii) relatively lower growth in interest payments of these companies over the same period last year.

(c) The steps taken to improve industrial production, *inter alia*, include :

- (i) announcement of special package for revival of growth in exports;
- (ii) repeal of ULCRA and provision of incentive to house ownership;
- (iii) allowing buy back of shares and inter-corporate loans to boost investment and revive the capital market;
- (iv) announcement of a new power policy;
- (v) rationalisation of excise duties;
- (vi) reduction of income tax rate and custom duties on infrastructure projects;
- (vii) liberalization of inflow of FDI/NRI/OCB investment and the modification of guidelines for foreign equity investment in NBFC further;
- (viii) setting up of Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) to provide single point interface between foreign investors and Government machinery;
- (ix) setting up of National Accreditation Boards including a National Patent Office and National Benchmarking Patent House to promote integration of best practices in the Indian Industry;
- (x) restoration of 100% MODVAT credit;
- (xi) reduction of CRR; and
- (xii) withdrawal of interest rate surcharge on import finance.

[Translation]

Export of Rice

1855. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of basmati and non-basmati rice has fallen down in the first six months of the current year in comparison with the corresponding period of the previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of rice?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of export of basmati and non-basmati rice during the period April-August, 1999 and April-August 1998 are as follows:

Period	Qty : in lakh MT Value: Rs. Crores			
	Basmati Rice		Non-Basmati Rice	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
April-Aug.99 (Prov.)	2.01	641.03	4.67	499.85
April-August,98	2.69	807.46	13.72	1346.26

Source: DGCI&S Calcutta.

(c) The exports of rice would depend upon international demand and the domestic supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preferences, and varieties traded. Low international demand and better crop production in rice consuming countries has led to the shrinking of Indian rice exports.

(d) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of rice include conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in international trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

[English]

World Bank Report on India's Poverty Picture

1856. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the state of poverty in India continues to be grim as the number of both, the rural and the urban poor have been increasing in the post reform era of 1990s as per the World Bank Poverty Update Analysing Trends;

(b) if so, the main features of the World Bank's report on India's poverty picture;

(c) whether the Union Government have examined these remarks made by the World Bank in its latest report about India's poverty picture;

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to see that India's poverty picture is improved;

(e) the suggestions made by the World Bank in this regard; and

(f) the extent to which they have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) According to the World Bank report "Reducing Poverty in India - Options for More Effective Public Services-1998" the incidence of poverty has declined from 45 to 36 percent between 1950 and 1993-94. However, population growth caused the number of the poor to increase from 164 to 320 million during the same period. Of this total, 76 percent live in rural areas. The report also mentions that the reforms started in 1991 hold promise of considerably improving the living standards of the country's 320 million poor. The economy has responded well to the reforms and the Government has explicitly committed itself to accelerate the development of the country's human resources.

(c) to (f) Policy making is the sovereign right of the Government of India and the policy decisions are taken on the basis of our national priorities. However, the Government is already seized with the issue and has taken a number of steps in this regard.

The suggestions made by the World Bank in the report are:

- (i) Priority should be placed on development of human capital. For this education and public health programmes should focus on access as well as quality of service.
- (ii) Targeting Government spending to primary education, reducing communicable diseases, improving water and sanitation and reducing household insecurity through public works programmes would do most to reduce poverty.

The government has a three pronged attack on poverty, namely (1) Acceleration of economic growth; (2) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, elevating social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society; and (3) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset building for the poor.

Further details are available in Chapter 10 of the Economic Survey 1998-99 and in the budget speech of the Finance Minister for 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Transfer Policy

1857. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers working in the NTC mills located in Maharashtra have been posted there for quite a long time;

(b) if so, the details of such officers working in the same mill for 5,10,15 years or more;

(c) the details of transfer policy in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to transfer these officers from one mill to another?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Subsidy on Housing for Weavers in Andhra Pradesh

1858. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the housing scheme for weavers is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Guntur district;

(b) the number of weavers who have been benefited from this subsidy scheme in the State;

(c) whether there is any proposal to enhance this subsidy on housing for economically weaker people belonging to the weaver community;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme is being implemented to cover all the States including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) 13,624 Weavers have benefited under the scheme from 1992-93 to 1998-99.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In the year 1997-98 the grant under the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme was enhanced.

Obsolete Technology

1859. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry has been facing problems due to obsolete technology;

(b) if so, the extent to which the overall performance of textile industry and the export of garments has been affected; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for modernisation of textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The technological obsolescence is one of the reasons for sickness in industry. It affects production, productivity and quality of textiles. However overall performance of garment exports has not been affected negatively. In order to deal with it and other problems, Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries which is in operation since 01.04.1999 for a period of 5 years, i.e., up to 31.03.2004. Government funding is limited to reimbursement of interest at 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme.

Besides, the EXIM Policy provides for concessional import of capital goods which could facilitate production of quality products.

Loan to Educated Unemployed Youth under PMRY

1860. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed youths who have applied for loan under PMRY for setting up their own business/industries during each of the last three years, State-wise; particularly from Andhra Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) the State-wise amount of loan allocated and distributed by the each commercial bank and the number of youths benefited therefrom during the above period;

(c) the State-wise number of applications still pending for approval;

(d) whether applicants are facing difficulties in getting loans through banks in time; and

(e) if so, the reasons for delay and the steps taken for speedy disposal of such applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported the details relating to the number of applications received by agencies and sponsored to banks from educated unemployed youth who have applied for loan under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for setting up their own business/industries as well as the sanctions/disbursements made by banks during each of the last three years i.e., 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 State-wise including that of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar which are given in enclosed Statements I to VI.

(c) Sponsoring of applications/sanctions/disbursements of loans is a continuous process under this scheme. The total number of applications pending with the banks were 52,643 as on 31st March 1999. State-wise/bank-wise position as on 31st March 1999 is given in enclosed Statements III and VI.

(d) and (e) Under the extant guidelines of RBI banks have to dispose of the loan applications under the scheme within a stipulated time frame depending upon quantum of loan sanctioned. Based on the study conducted by RBI and also complaints received from the applicants, it is revealed that beneficiaries face some difficulties in getting the loans sanctioned from the banks which, inter-alia comprise borrowers not able to obtain licence/power connection in time to commence the activity, borrower unable to secure premises, inability of borrower to complete the formalities required for sanction of loan, inadequate training facilities. Government agencies/banks are under instructions to assist the borrowers in complying with the requirements/documentation etc. for early sanction/disbursement of loan amounts and the problems faced by the beneficiaries are reviewed on continuous basis and appropriate remedial measures are taken at various forums viz. Block Level Consultative Committee/State Level/ District Level Consultative Committee/State Level Banker's Committee.

Statement - I

Statement showing cumulative position of Bank-wise performance under PMRY for the year ended 31st March, 1997

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the Bank	No. of applications Recd.	Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
Public Sector Banks					
Allahabad Bank	21970	9610	6309.97	7305	4694.48
Andhra Bank	12311	7845	4447.05	5822	3289.41
Bank of Baroda	27357	15046	8885.69	12549	6934.45
Bank of India	30486	15907	9859.23	14009	8098.37
Bank of Maharashtra	14256	8468	4545.52	7955	4454.80
Canara Bank	25442	14313	7695.37	12010	6787.10
Central Bank of India	38072	17681	11173.50	15625	9871.61
Corporation Bank	4600	2696	1701.04	2854	1472.84
Dena Bank	11496	5889	3393.26	5220	2951.30
Indian Bank	15279	6801	3912.60	5510	3115.17
Indian Overseas Bank	13969	7280	4136.20	6179	3686.05
Oriental Bank of Commerce	8001	3562	2018.47	3103	1732.75
Punjab National Bank	41959	20028	12456.94	16107	9580.61
Punjab & Sind Bank	6505	2525	1522.35	2392	1501.98
Syndicate Bank	15866	7802	4310.00	6779	3748.00
Union Bank of India	20413	12304	7738.22	10046	6052.25
United Bank of India	13788	5120	3701.79	4007	2589.73
UCO Bank	18025	8474	5667.68	7376	4874.64
Vijaya Bank	8593	4931	2963.74	4827	2583.15
State Bank of India	106493	56231	36029.25	45616	27622.16
State Bank of B & J	7659	3778	1968.75	2913	1438.08
State Bank of Hyd.	9205	6937	3746.52	6094	3446.67
State Bank of Indore	5981	3965	2630.92	3108	1951.43
State Bank of Mysore	3824	2945	1783.25	2639	1438.00
State Bank of Patiala	5700	3257	1920.33	2919	1709.80
State Bank of Saurashtra	1850	1127	545.58	1041	493.64
State Bank of Travancore	7023	3444	1844.25	3174	1796.91
Total of Public Sector Banks	496123	257966	156907.42	216179	127915.33
Private Sector Banks					
Bk. of Madura Ltd.	0	338	180.97	332	177.47
Bk. of Rajasthan Ltd.	2619	1189	684.47	833	445.92
Bharat Overseas Bk. Ltd.	58	38	23.97	32	19.35
Banaras St. Bk. Ltd.	0	247	186.40	186	122.38

1	2	3	4	5	6
Catholic Syr. Bk. Ltd.	2071	978	537.21	800	436.78
Dhans Lakshmi Bk. Ltd.	920	422	246.53	422	245.15
Federal Bank Ltd.	2186	1586	860.74	1586	860.74
J & K Bank Ltd.	1923	964	693.05	741	509.54
Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1239	767	486.50	733	456.06
Karur Vysya Bk. Ltd.	577	306	171.88	265	145.93
Lakshmi Vilas Bk. Ltd.	527	272	176.38	269	173.71
Nedungadi Bk. Ltd.	1105	704	394.34	694	363.27
Ratnakar Bk. Ltd.	397	220	115.27	196	103.83
Sangli Bk. Ltd.	393	362	176.18	246	116.62
South Indian Bk. Ltd.	0	757	435.91	757	435.91
Tamilnadu Mer. Bk. Ltd.	1037	313	243.18	313	242.40
United West Bk. Ltd.	2547	1482	1041.45	1482	1041.45
Vysya Bank Ltd.	2852	2059	1279.80	1721	974.26
Baranilly Corp. Bk. Ltd.	619	217	133.01	168	103.91
Nainital Bk. Ltd.	219	178	84.06	166	77.65
City Union Bk. Ltd.	259	240	154.55	211	136.31
Lord Krishna Bk. Ltd.	433	183	112.67	181	111.43
Total of Pvt. Sector Banks	21981	13802	8398.52	12316	7300.07
Total of All Banks	518104	271768	165305.94	228495	135215.40

Statement - II

Statement showing cumulative position of Bank-wise performance under PMRY for the year ended 31st March, 1998

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the Bank	No. of applications Recd.	Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
Public Sector Banks					
Allahabad Bank	20666	9710	6614.04	7125	4798.30
Andhra Bank	11715	7590	4200.25	5566	3027.13
Bank of Baroda	26499	16394	9107.87	13585	6988.93
Bank of India	27116	14879	8968.20	12938	7330.57
Bank of Maharashtra	15830	8998	4739.22	6214	3238.90
Canara Bank	25245	13242	6920.26	11118	5891.70
Central Bank of India	37404	18142	11715.59	14858	9500.96
Corporation Bank	4393	2655	1709.14	2277	1429.83
Dena Bank	10988	5202	3131.12	3382	1856.24
Indian Bank	15006	6038	3416.73	4966	2709.16
Indian Overseas Bank	13969	7280	4136.20	4461	2359.94
Oriental Bank of Commerce	7399	3824	2321.59	3278	1843.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Punjab National Bank	38802	20529	13141.47	17077	10263.92
Punjab & Sind Bank	5524	2009	1254.01	1429	857.88
Syndicate Bank	14056	7251	4251.13	6748	3792.24
Union Bank of India	19644	12335	7662.06	9066	5166.43
United Bank of India	9132	2394	1606.41	1564	949.35
UCO Bank	15810	7414	4907.82	5983	3809.52
Vijaya Bank	7893	4833	2887.54	4296	2581.50
State Bank of India	101610	53079	33262.83	40374	24690.34
State Bank of B & J	8137	4740	2443.89	3637	1804.31
State Bank of Hyd.	9985	7509	3969.82	6023	3274.26
State Bank of Indore	5591	3650	2594.82	3306	2165.24
State Bank of Mysore	3927	3205	1863.59	2743	1599.86
State Bank of Patiala	5109	3244	1973.71	2851	1667.45
State Bank of Saurashtra	1004	656	314.22	587	281.33
State Bank of Travancore	7633	3618	2076.26	2686	1546.26
Total of Public Sector Banks	470087	250420	151189.79	198148	115524.55
<i>Private Sector Banks</i>					
Bk. of Madura Ltd.	410	410	246.75	410	246.75
Bk. of Rajasthan Ltd.	3026	1396	783.19	990	523.59
Bharat Overseas Bk. Ltd.	78	61	34.24	55	31.31
Benares St. Bk. Ltd.	35	1	0.95	0	0.00
Catholic Syr. Bk. Ltd.	832	129	73.25	58	33.46
Dhans Lakshmi Bk. Ltd.	863	449	276.74	357	209.15
Federal Bank Ltd.	2857	1665	940.61	1463	875.40
J & K Bank Ltd.	2415	1315	970.83	811	567.22
Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1750	952	545.90	426	242.93
Karur Vysya Bk. Ltd.	441	321	186.15	246	144.45
Lakshmi Vilas Bk. Ltd.	728	271	167.03	200	126.39
Nedungadi Bk. Ltd.	908	546	312.09	526	305.84
Ratnakar Bk. Ltd.	395	248	143.84	215	131.27
Sangli Bk. Ltd.	1023	356	181.31	173	96.52
South Indian Bk. Ltd.	1737	801	470.61	801	470.61
Tamilnadu Mer. Bk. Ltd.	1275	376	254.87	376	253.91
United West Bk. Ltd.	2562	1317	855.11	1037	610.47
Vysya Bank Ltd.	2747	1743	1007.66	1473	869.42
Bareilly Corp. Bk. Ltd.	576	224	157.89	197	133.94
Nainital Bk. Ltd.	330	246	134.37	234	127.06
City Union Bk. Ltd.	366	319	179.98	280	155.72
Lord Krishna Bk. Ltd.	169	57	38.09	34	23.87
Total of Pvt. Sector Banks	25523	13203	7961.46	10372	6179.28
Total of all Banks	495610	263623	159151.25	208520	121703.83

Statement - III

Statement showing cumulative position of Bank-wise performance under PMRY for the year ended 31st March, 1999

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the Bank	No. of applications Recd.	Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed		Appls. Pending
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Public Sector Banks</i>						
Allahabad Bank	21089	10225	6829.31	4364	2886.24	700
Andhra Bank	11466	7110	3750.97	2778	1483.01	1958
Bank of Baroda	28702	17943	9798.75	11256	5525.17	1126
Bank of India	26414	14148	8450.71	7189	4033.29	3653
Bank of Maharashtra	15776	9434	4984.42	5177	2798.90	1831
Canara Bank	22160	11470	5679.92	5680	2871.98	2781
Central Bank of India	36314	17852	11523.80	8977	5361.34	4130
Corporation Bank	4349	2571	1571.55	1515	927.73	86
Dena Bank	10685	4998	2836.13	3555	1884.20	464
Indian Bank	13680	5692	3031.44	2353	1270.02	
Indian Overseas Bank	13723	7127	4048.00	3584	2096.84	1899
Oriental Bank of Commerce	8408	4464	2731.70	2923	1767.34	0
Punjab National Bank	39745	20697	13100.63	10089	6063.62	3799
Punjab & Sind Bank	6369	2791	1803.75	1849	1222.33	1365
Syndicate Bank	14267	7416	4404.97	4299	2487.51	1483
Union Bank of India	19346	12150	7804.99	5792	33368.14	0
United Bank of India	10993	4474	2970.16	2156	1297.95	1793
UCO Bank	13020	3821	2557.89	2127	1430.23	6357
Vijaya Bank	7780	4876	2815.82	2527	1439.08	889
State Bank of India	102123	55051	34013.34	36945	21244.40	9375
State Bank of B & J	8457	4941	2597.51	2083	993.80	770
State Bank of Hyd.	7739	4652	2392.06	3002	1571.25	2378
State Bank of Indore	7030	4283	2859.14	1713	1119.79	
State Bank of Mysore	4500	3147	1695.67	1279	782.29	393
State Bank of Patiala	5707	3424	2058.80	1897	1129.92	0
State Bank of Saurashtra	1697	1360	612.62	1165	565.48	47
State Bank of Travancore	7631	4359	2426.78	2839	1549.20	756
Total of Public Sector Banks	469170	250476	149350.8	139113	79171.05	48013

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Private Sector Banks						
Bk. of Madras Ltd.	229	228	106.27	100	51.01	1
Bk. of Rajasthan Ltd.	3141	1508	857.64	595	311.87	0
Bharat Overseas Bk. Ltd.	81	59	33.66	44	24.55	2
Banaras St. Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Catholic Syr. Bk. Ltd.	1583	547	310.49	329	174.26	255
Dhana Lakshmi Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Federal Bank Ltd.	2861	1439	849.34	1020	570.25	1422
J & K Bank Ltd.	1626	766	582.84	304	232.81	492
Karnataka Bank Ltd.	1674	581	356.51	464	288.27	890
Kanur Vysya Bk. Ltd.	821	455	258.58	411	232.02	188
Lakshmi Vilas Bk. Ltd.	749	308	217.75	206	148.75	171
Nedungadi Bk. Ltd.	1110	597	348.48	461	263.98	0
Ratnakar Bk. Ltd.	397	285	168.82	166	100.66	0
Sangli Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
South Indian Bk. Ltd.	1824	936	513.52	621	354.02	314
Tamilnadu Mer. Bk. Ltd.	1365	500	325.59	411	269.05	165
United West Bk. Ltd.	2773	1444	877.19	1099	682.31	295
Vysya Bank Ltd.	2453	1550	882.56	838	493.55	396
Bareilly Corp. Bk. Ltd.	653	143	93.44	104	65.36	0
Nainital Bk. Ltd.	0	24	15.53	24	15.53	0
City Union Bk. Ltd.	72	72	35.94	72	35.94	0
Lord Krishna Bk. Ltd.	332	173	104.87	143	86.53	39
Total of Pvt. Sector Banks	23744	11615	6939.02	7412	4400.72	4630
Total of all Banks	492914	262091	156289.8	146525	83571.77	52643

Statement - IV

Statement showing cumulative position of Bank-wise performance of banks under PMRY for the year ended 31st March, 1997

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of applications Recd.	Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	41063	28199	16441.64	22275	13116.11
Arunachal Pradesh	440	405	276.01	239	135.05
Assam	14063	10798	8509.86	8869	6587.88

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bihar	41910	18227	14070.58	15589	11550.61
Gujarat	17388	9930	4512.48	8254	3498.02
Goa	724	453	348.96	386	281.60
Haryana	15435	8220	4470.60	6653	3549.95
Himachal Pradesh	4252	2393	1324.65	2218	1193.91
Jammu & Kashmir	3916	1898	1402.51	1303	907.51
Karnataka	27024	15873	9083.56	13541	7633.17
Kerala	26193	14747	8172.01	13939	7481.34
Manipur	2439	2041	1590.82	1570	1133.35
Maharashtra	63367	37147	19479.33	33007	17687.07
Madhya Pradesh	68134	32003	21280.45	25080	16361.72
Meghalaya	476	419	325.52	370	230.13
Mizoram	602	217	200.78	139	110.40
Nagaland	470	436	297.39	434	358.69
Orissa	14315	7563	5320.91	6076	4088.09
Punjab	19424	9325	5622.71	8000	4595.95
Rajasthan	20658	10407	5733.61	8080	3978.12
Sikkim	224	110	49.32	110	50.99
Tamil Nadu	30894	16379	9471.58	14709	8076.95
Tripura	2678	1611	1124.95	766	507.34
West Bengal	21873	6850	4474.53	6141	3858.60
Uttar Pradesh	73380	34217	20664.20	29407	17508.12
NCT of Delhi	5396	1132	599.15	765	397.48
Andaman & Nicobar	93	45	50.79	39	25.32
Chandigarh	238	150	117.61	133	99.60
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	215	140	83.98	91	63.63
Daman & Diu	48	27	18.75	22	15.18
Lakshadweep	75	36	29.00	29	29.00
Pondicherry	664	352	148.35	268	116.26
Not Specified	33	18	11.55	13	8.62
ALL INDIA	518104	271768	165305.94	226495	135215.40

Statement - V

Statement showing cumulative position of Bank-wise performance of banks under PMRY for the year ended 31st March, 1998

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of applications Recd.	Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Andhra Pradesh	39278	26309	14694.76	20546	11552.90
Arunachal Pradesh	277	269	218.40	178	124.56
Assam	14556	9355	7629.61	7437	5301.39
Bihar	32492	14071	11226.46	12137	9104.18
Gujarat	17312	8223	3660.25	7110	3159.71
Goa	460	313	235.72	251	180.85
Haryana	11091	6202	3387.69	4918	2634.58
Himachal Pradesh	3763	2341	1353.97	2009	1160.11
Jammu & Kashmir	5045	2882	2276.90	1989	1349.41
Karnataka	29892	17283	9994.62	14021	8095.53
Kerala	26658	13829	7797.74	11541	6473.51
Manipur	1051	832	475.20	658	339.77
Maharashtra	68496	38845	20355.08	30497	15954.03
Madhya Pradesh	59327	30910	20398.68	22205	13922.62
Meghalaya	514	456	320.18	377	211.66
Mizoram	281	286	238.59	334	252.68
Nagaland	443	403	338.71	335	249.21
Orissa	15125	7982	5952.13	4903	2938.73
Punjab	17287	9354	5751.90	7549	4586.24
Rajasthan	22758	12779	6601.93	9681	4691.04
Sikkim	105	87	39.51	58	27.89
Tamil Nadu	32420	15383	8195.11	12741	6512.99
Tripura	1166	549	366.15	211	114.98
West Bengal	14337	5103	3359.05	4014	2525.01
Uttar Pradesh	74266	37798	23294.99	31472	19469.93
NCT of Delhi	5825	996	553.61	755	423.95
Andaman & Nicobar	114	70	54.41	61	42.85
Chandigarh	275	168	126.51	114	85.56
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	111	75	48.55	67	45.30
Daman & Diu	33	23	13.71	23	13.71
Lakshadweep	89	47	38.58	40	31.47
Pondicherry	763	420	171.72	308	127.49
Not Specified	12	-	-	-	-
All India	495610	263623	159151.25	208520	121703.83

Statement - VI

Statement showing cumulative position of State-wise performance of Banks under PMRY for the year ended 31st March, 1999

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of applications Recd.	Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed		Appls. Pending
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	
Andhra Pradesh	36885	22745	12773.05	12151	6788.24	6950
Arunachal Pradesh	246	205	175.43	178	144.10	0
Assam	15585	9820	7976.10	4243	3055.08	2854
Bihar	24988	10337	8393.09	6927	5298.99	3218
Gujarat	19908	11476	4929.37	9882	4251.10	1261
Goa	586	373	266.19	263	183.71	34
Haryana	13350	7871	4377.11	4120	2240.97	210
Himachal Pradesh	3557	2139	1290.93	1478	953.54	392
Jammu & Kashmir	4305	2214	1805.04	1076	827.80	840
Karnataka	30100	16995	9407.41	8655	5062.79	4224
Kerala	27009	14790	8148.19	9543	5154.32	3466
Manipur	889	813	453.80	364	151.17	24
Maharashtra	64105	35331	18690.96	21977	11793.76	7239
Madhya Pradesh	61178	30767	19589.35	12365	7441.48	4644
Meghalaya	441	348	269.90	256	133.15	17
Mizoram	443	160	143.45	210	126.00	155
Nagaland	179	165	150.46	110	91.58	2
Orissa	16431	7708	6122.51	1623	875.35	2602
Punjab	17348	9624	6118.28	5975	3489.04	1488
Rajasthan	25030	13345	7063.27	5817	2828.82	2131
Sikkim	144	87	44.58	58	29.84	13
Tamil Nadu	29562	15193	7263.06	8028	4067.71	1781
Tripura	1447	894	514.92	49	22.66	320
West Bengal	11744	3519	2305.89	2168	1340.64	3785
Uttar Pradesh	83018	43787	27246.62	28275	16696.83	4589
NCT of Delhi	3081	669	376.46	376	205.90	327
Andaman & Nicobar	198	92	74.26	85	142.78	44
Chandigarh	188	105	83.01	56	40.30	9
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	46	37	24.34	28	18.61	
Daman & Diu	38	25	17.08	21	14.05	9
Lakshadweep	62	33	27.20	31	25.59	10
Pondicherry	823	424	165.54	207	75.87	25
All India	492914	262091	156299.85	146525	83571.77	52643

Import of Tin Plates

1861. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that unscrupulous importers are bringing in defective tin plates in the guise of tin free steel;

(b) if so, the quantum of tin free steel plates imported during the last one year;

(c) whether the import of defective tin plates are being used for packaging of baby foods and other edibles;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such imports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) There is no entry in the ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items by the name of 'Tin Free Steel'. Products of iron or non-alloy steel, not coated with tin can be imported under ITC code No. 72105000 and 72125000. Since these entries are for products not coated with tin, defective tin plates cannot be imported under these code numbers. Inquiries with some major Customs Houses have indicated that no seizures in respect of import of defective tin plates in the guise of tin free steel have taken place.

(c) to (e) There are no reports from States/Union Territory Governments regarding packaging of baby foods in tins made from defective tin plates. However, instances of packaging of edible oils in tins made from defective tin plates have been reported in the past. The State Governments have been alerted to keep a strict vigil on the market. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is separately taking steps to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, so as to provide for the use of Indian Standard grade tin for making the containers for food packaging.

Revenue from Taxes

1862. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of revenue earned by the Government from income tax, excise duty, customs duty, small savings and other sources during each of the last three year, State-wise;

(b) the amount of tax realised from each source during the said period; and

(c) the details of amount allocated out of this amount during the said period, State-wise, particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The details of collection during the last three years are as under:

(In crores of Rupees)

	1996-97(Actuals)		1997-98(Actuals)		1998-99(RE)	
	Collection	Share of States	Collection	Share of States	Collection	Share of States
Income Tax	18234.00	13529.44	26655.00	21116.21	21430.00	14498.03
Excise Duty	45008.00	21578.00	47962.00	22446.00	53200.00	24665.06
Customs Duty	42851.00	-	40193.00	-	42648.00	-
Non-Tax Revenue	32578.00	-	38229.00	-	48128.00	-

Customs Duty and Non-tax Revenue are not shareable with State Governments. Government accounts are not maintained according to State in which the taxes are collected.

As far as Small Savings Schemes are concerned;

the Central Government is not earning any revenue through small savings schemes. These are the liabilities of the Central Government.

(c) State-wise allocation for the last three years including Bihar is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement**Statement showing the releases made to the State Governments during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99****(In crores of Rupees)**

Sl. No.	State	1996-97				1997-98				1998-99			
		Basic Excise Duties	Additional Excise Duties	Income Tax	Total	Basic Excise Duties	Additional Excise Duties	Income Tax	Total	Basic Excise Duties	Additional Excise Duties	Income Tax	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1580.38	232.98	1145.35	2938.71	1365.23	258.09	1787.42	3410.74	1524.44	256.47	1227.26	3008.17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	152.90	3.10	23.03	179.03	204.54	3.41	35.88	243.83	240.78	3.41	24.65	268.84
3.	Assam	724.88	73.97	376.71	1175.56	806.27	81.14	587.84	1475.25	864.28	81.43	403.62	1349.33
4.	Bihar	2101.38	236.67	1740.16	4078.21	2074.51	260.81	2715.64	5050.96	2316.11	280.53	1864.59	4441.23
5.	Goa	59.26	6.91	24.38	90.55	64.58	7.66	38.00	110.24	63.38	7.64	26.10	97.12
6.	Gujarat	633.69	178.61	547.24	1359.54	651.96	197.81	854.48	1704.25	728.64	196.61	586.59	1511.84
7.	Haryana	193.90	70.49	167.49	431.88	199.80	78.1	261.41	539.31	222.95	77.60	179.49	480.04
8.	Himachal Pradesh	425.77	17.73	95.29	538.79	538.52	19.54	148.63	704.69	607.28	19.51	102.07	728.86
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	656.09	25.50	148.55	830.14	839.67	28.01	231.55	1099.23	965.44	28.7	159.04	1152.55
10.	Karnataka	836.20	171.13	722.47	1729.80	860.07	188.97	1127.29	2176.33	961.9	188.38	774.05	1923.92
11.	Kerala	606.91	111.42	524.32	1242.65	624.49	123.3	818.22	1566.01	697.84	122.66	561.80	1382.3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1298.39	215.58	1121.63	2635.60	1337.47	238.66	1750.51	3326.64	1492.93	237.31	1201.89	2932.13
13.	Maharashtra	959.46	358.32	828.14	2145.92	987.99	396.74	1294.07	2678.80	1103.22	394.44	88.15	2385.81
14.	Manipur	187.80	5.87	38.18	231.85	244.86	6.44	59.52	310.82	284.34	6.46	40.88	331.68
15.	Meghalaya	173.62	5.60	38.32	217.54	220.85	6.18	59.74	286.77	253.90	2.59	21.60	280.09
16.	Mizoram	159.24	2.35	20.19	181.78	213.83	2.64	31.45	247.92	255.90	2.59	21.60	280.09
17.	Nagaland	246.16	4.08	24.51	274.75	338.04	4.57	38.20	380.81	406.46	4.49	26.24	437.19
18.	Orissa	858.13	99.66	608.20	1565.99	875.97	109.86	949.13	1934.96	903.13	109.70	651.69	1664.52
19.	Punjab	228.82	101.95	197.58	528.35	235.92	112.49	308.57	656.98	263.11	112.23	211.82	587.16
20.	Rajasthan	869.40	145.18	751.25	1765.83	897.20	161.07	1172.00	2230.27	999.67	159.82	804.78	1964.27
21.	Sikkim	62.99	1.58	17.08	81.65	78.56	1.76	26.58	106.90	89.62	1.74	18.27	109.63
22.	Tamil Nadu	1039.49	228.48	897.53	2165.50	1072.19	254.33	1401.78	2728.30	1195.24	251.51	962.23	2408.98
23.	Tripura	259.10	8.52	51.16	318.78	340.51	9.45	79.81	429.77	392.84	9.38	54.80	457.02
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3134.68	434.17	2410.06	5978.89	2873.84	480.05	3780.77	7114.66	3207.54	477.94	2582.24	6267.72
25.	West Bengal	1170.12	239.41	1010.62	2420.15	1205.55	264.5	1577.72	3047.77	1345.44	263.55	1083.15	2692.14
Total		18598.74	2979.26	13529.44	35107.44	19150.42	3295.58	21116.21	43562.21	21385.43	3279.63	14498.03	38163.09

*Includes adjustment on the basis of certified figures of C&AG.

[Translation]

Loans to Commercial Sector

1863. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been heavy decline in bank loans given to commercial sectors during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue any directives to the banks in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The net advances of public sector banks (PSBs) have increased from Rs. 259647 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 2973450 crore in 1998-99 registering a growth of 14.52 per cent during the year.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of the above reply.

[English]

Inspection of Mines

1864. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special drive is being conducted for thorough inspection of all mines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether efforts are being made to identify the accident prone mines; and

(d) if so, the details of measures being taken to reduce incidents of accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A thorough inspection is done at the following levels the details of which are given below:

(i) Mine Level

Regular inspections of all working places of each mine is done in every shift by Mining Sirdars and Overmen. Daily inspections of mines are being carried out but Assistance Managers, Safety Officers & Ventilation Offices. Colliery Manager is making minimum of 4 inspections per week.

Representatives of workmen nominated by the trade unions as per guidelines of Mines Rules (workmens inspectors) also carry out frequent inspections of mines.

(ii) Area Level

General Managers, Technical Staff Officers and Area Safety Officers frequently inspect of mines.

(iii) Subsidiary Company Headquarters Level

Besides, other officers of the company headquarters, officers of the Internal Safety Organisation of the companies are also making regular inspection of mines.

(iv) Apex (CIL) Level

Officers of the Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) of Coal India Limited are carrying out regular inspections of mines.

This Expert Mining Engineers conduct periodic safety audits of each and every mine of Coal India Ltd. and monitor the status of implementation of the same.

(c) Yes, Sir. Based on the past record of accidents every year DGMS identifies coal mines as accident prone mine. Special efforts are made to upgrade safety standard of the identified accident prone mines.

(d) In addition to the implementation of the statutory requirements of the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder, the following measures are being adopted by Coal India Limited (CIL) to reduce the incidence of accidents in coal mines:

(1) Review of safety status of mines at various level:

(A) National Level

Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines
Chaired by Minister of coal.

(B) CIL level

- (i) Coal India Safety Board chaired by Chairman, CIL.
- (ii) The monthly meeting with CMDs of subsidiary companies.
- (iii) Monthly co-ordination meeting of the Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) of CIL and subsidiary companies etc.

(C) Subsidiary level

A Tripartite Committee consisting of representatives of Director General of Mines Safety, Management & Trade Unions which meets twice a year chaired on rotation system.

(D) Unit Level

Regular review of the safety standard of the mines by Workmen's Inspectors and Pit Safety Committee at mine level.

(2) Safety Audit

Regular and repeated safety audit of mines is carried out by experienced senior mining engineers.

(3) Accident Enquiry

Each and every fatal accident is enquired into by officers of the ISO of the subsidiary companies DGMS separately. Fact finding inquires into major accidents are also made by officers of the ISO of CIL Head Quarters. The accident enquiry and inspection reports are analysed to formulate appropriate strategies to prevent accidents.

(4) Implementation of the recommendations

Implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee, the CIL Safety Board, the Safety Committees, the Tripartite Committees and Safety Audits are carried out in right earnest.

Misuse of VBAL Scheme

1865. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Value Based Advance Licensing (VBAL) Scheme introduced in the Exim Policy to help the exporters has revealed wide spread misuse of the scheme by exporters;

(b) if so, the name of the exporters who have misused the said scheme;

(c) the action taken by the Government against those exporters who have misused the Scheme; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remove the bottlenecks in the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme (VBAL) which was in operation during the Exim Policy period 1982-97 was misused by some unscrupulous elements by declaring incorrect values of exports and imports. The VBAL scheme has since been discontinued with effect from 1st April, 1997. Case-wise details of misuse are not centrally maintained. However, provisions exist in the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, for taking penal action against the offenders. Detailed Enforcement Guidelines were issued in this regard by the Director General of Foreign Trade (D.G.F.T.) to the field formations in October, 1997, for dealing with cases of suspected misdeclaration of value to take the following action:

(i) Cancellation of licence;

(ii) Imposition of fiscal penalty;

(iii) Cancellation of Importer-Exporter Code Number.

Import of Textiles Products

1866. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of textiles products have been rising;

(b) if so, the details of import of textiles products during the last three years;

(c) the details of measures taken/being taken by Government to safeguard the domestic textile products;

(d) whether various State Governments have requested the Union Govt. to impose ban on import of textile products; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) During the last three years, imports of textile products have shown increasing trend. However, during the current year, provisional import data for the period April-July 1999 indicate overall decline in imports of textile products in comparison with the corresponding period of the previous year. The details of imports during the last three years are given below:

Year	Value in Rs. Lakhs
1996-97	263,987.28
1997-98	301,268.88
1998-99	329,729.21
1998-99 (Apr. - July)	128540.44
1999-2000 (Apr. - July)	113,673.67

Source : DGCIS, Calcutta.

(c) To safeguard the interest of domestic industry, the Government takes action under the various provisions of International agreements, e.g. the measures like anti-dumping/anti subsidy/fixation of specific duty. In addition, other measures like increase in import duties or changes in other provisions of EXIM policy are also taken from time to time.

(d) and (e) Requests for ban on import of textile products are sometime received and action considered necessary is being taken in the terms of EXIM policy and various international agreements.

Sick Textile Mills of U.P.

1867. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several textile mills in Uttar Pradesh have been sick and on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details about performance of these sick mills; and

(c) the details of the action plan prepared for the revival of these sick mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) There were 36 sick textile mills registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as on 9.9.1999 in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The status of mills is given below:

Status with BIFR	No. of cases
Declared no longer sick	3
Scheme sanctioned	4
Winding up Recommended	18
Winding up Notice	1
Draft Scheme	1
Under enquiry	4
Non-maintainable	5
Total	36

Out of the above 36 sick mills, a total number of 15 mills are reported to be closed as on 30.9.99.

(c) The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, SICA, 1985 and established the BIFR with a view to timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies, change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions.

Audit of Public Sector Banks

1868. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India is examining the feasibility of introducing half-yearly audit in public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the purpose of auditing the public sector banks half-yearly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has set up a Working Group to examine the feasibility of introducing half yearly review, which will be restricted to limited parameters such as NPAs, investments, profits etc. The final decision to introduce half yearly review will depend on the recommendations of the Working Group, including inter alia the cost of undertaking such audit and the proportionate advantages that might arise.

Sick Public Sector Undertakings

1869. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick Pubic Sector Undertakings in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for their sickness; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the sickness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Sick PSUs are referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). As on 30.6.99, 67 Sick Industrial PSUs are registered with BIFR. The state-wise list of these PSUs is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) The reasons for sickness are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons for sickness include inheritance sickness in case of taken over units from the private sector, obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, low capacity utilisation, excess manpower, resource crunch and erosion of network due to continuous losses, lack of credit worthiness, heavy interest burden etc.

(c) Enterprise specific measures are taken for halting sickness and for improving the performance of the PSUs. BIFR formulating appropriate revival and rehabilitation schemes under the Provision of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 for the sick PSUs registered with it. The measures adopted include business and financial restructuring, conversion of the enterprise into a joint venture formation, rationalisation of manpower, technology upgradation, diversification and change of product mix, modernisation of plant and machinery etc.

Statement*State-wise List of BIFR Referred Central Govt. Enterprises with Status as on 30.06.99*

Sl. No.	Name of Company	Status as on 30.06.99
Andhra Pradesh		
1	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
2	Praga Tools Ltd.	Under Enquiry
3	Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
Assam		
1	North Eastern Regional Agri. Marketing Corp. Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
Bihar		
1	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	Dropped Net Worth become Positive
2	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
3	Heavy Engineerig Corpn. Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
4	India Firebricks & Insulation Co. Ltd.	(NR) Revival Scheme Sanctioned
5	Mica Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	(NR) Declared No Longer Sick
6	Projects & Development India Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
Delhi		
1	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	Draft Scheme circulated
2	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	Under Enquiry
3	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	Under Enquiry
4	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corn. Ltd.	Under Enquiry
5	NTC (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
Gujarat		
1	NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.	Winding Up Notice Issued
Haryana		
1	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Failed & Reopen
Karnataka		
1	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	Under Enquiry
2	Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
3	NTC (A. Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe) Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
4	Vignyan Industries Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
Madhya Pradesh		
1	Nepa Ltd.	Under Enquiry
2	NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.	Winding Up Notice Issued
Maharashtra		
1	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	Under Enquiry
2	Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Winding Up Notice Issued
3	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
4	NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
5	NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
6	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
Manipur		
1	Manipur State Drugs & Pharmaceutical Ltd.	Dismissed as non Maintainable

Sl. No.	Name of Company	Status as on 30.06.99
<i>Nagaland</i>		
1	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.	Dismissed as Non Maintainable
<i>Orissa</i>		
1	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
<i>Rajasthan</i>		
1	Instrumentation Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
<i>Tamilnadu</i>		
1	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.	Under Enquiry
<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>		
1	Bharat Immunological & Biologicals Corp. Ltd.	Under Enquiry
2	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
3	British India Corporation Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
4	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
5	Elgin Mills Company Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
6	NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
7	Scooters India Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
8	Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
9	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
10	U.P. Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Remanded By AAIFR
<i>West Bengal</i>		
1	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
2	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
3	Bharat Brakes & Balves Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
4	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	Draft Scheme circulated
5	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended
6	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	Declared No Longer Sick
7	Birds, Jute & Exports Ltd.	Under Enquiry
8	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
9	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
10	Cycle Cororation of India Ltd.	Under Enquiry
11	Damodar Cement and Slag Ltd.	(NR) Revival Scheme Sanctioned
12	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	Dropped Net Worth Become Positive
13	IISCO Ujjain Pipe & Foundry Co. Ltd.	(NR) Remanded by Court
14	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	Under Enquiry
15	Jessop & Co. Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
16	Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.	Stay Order By Court
17	National Instruments Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
18	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.	Under Enquiry
19	NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.	Winding Up Notice Issued
20	R B I Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
21	Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Revival Scheme Sanctioned
22	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	Draft Scheme Circulated
23	Weighbird (India) Ltd.	Winding Up Recommended

Production of Aluminium

1870. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aluminium manufacturing units and NALCO have made significant achievement in the production of alumina and aluminium during the last three years upto October, 1999; and

(b) if so, the year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) There are five primary producers of aluminium including NALCO. The production of Alumina and Aluminium for the years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto October, 1999) company-wise is as under:

	Alumina				Aluminium			
	1996-1997	1997-98	1998-1999	April-Oct. 99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	April-Oct. 99
NALCO	840062	883300	894500	504736	203162	200162	146206	120187
BALCO	172800	180020	176025	102275	91564	88198	91844	54218
HINDALCO	333223	361520	421486	253439	166272	200304	240926	144914
INDAL	329100	368200	379500	234100	37370	38790	42193	25115
MALCO	44670	47560	47894	12393	23348	26085	24536	6638
Total	1719855	1840600	1919405	1106943	521716	553539	545705	351072

Corruption Cases

1871 DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons have been booked for corruption cases in Department of Supply, Ministry of Commerce and Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics during each of the last three years;

(b) the details in this regard:

(c) the number out of them have been penalised so far: and

(d) the time target fixed to deal/dispose of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) During last three years in Ministry of Commerce, Deptt. of Supply and DGCI&S sanctions for prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Indian Penal Code read with Imports & Exports (Control) Act, 1947/ Imports & Exports (Control) Order 1955 have been accorded by the competent Authority as follows.

	No. of Persons	
Ministry of Commerce (incl. O/O/ DGFT)	8	(7 cases)
Deptt. of Supply	2	(2 cases)
DGCI & S	Nil	

(Figures in brackets relate to no. of cases)

Sanctions for prosecution have been issued in cases where officers have been caught red handed by the Anti-corruption branch of CBI/Police for obtaining legal gratification, obtaining illegal gratification through misuse of official position, issuance of advance licences on forged documents issuance of advance licence to bogus firms and for non compliance of policy provisions.

(c) and (d) The prosecution cases are pending in the Competent Courts. The prosecuting agencies are periodically advised to get the proceedings completed expeditiously.

Waiving of Loans

1872. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State which are reeling under extremists and terrorist attacks in the country;

(b) whether there is a disparity in waiving off loans in regard to State under such attacks;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total loan waived during the last three years in regard to Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States;

(e) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested for waiving of loans taken from the Union Government for fighting naxalites in the State; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The major concerns in this regard centre around Pakistan sponsored terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, interlinked and externally supported subversive activities of militant groups in some States of the North-East and violence perpetrated by the Left Wing Extremist groups, mainly in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

(b) to (d) Loan waive to the State Governments is considered and recommended by the Finance Commission within the framework of their terms of reference. The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) recommended three schemes of loan waiver for all the State Governments. The total loan waived under these schemes in respect of Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

States	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Punjab	88.13	102.30	120.93
J & K	2.42	7.20	7.76
Assam	2.94	3.24	3.61
Arunachal Pradesh	0.73	0.31	0.37
Meghalaya	0.54	0.23	0.26
Mizoram	0.22	0.24	0.27
Tripura	0.39	0.59	1.42
Nagaland	0.31	0.34	0.37

In addition to above, Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) had also recommended write off of 1/3rd of the repayment of principal for the period 1995-2000 in respect of the special term loans given to Punjab to fight militancy and insurgency. The Government of India had waived the remaining repayment obligation in respect of these loans for the same period. J & K and the North-East States have not been given any Special terms loan in the context of the militancy.

Total Amount Waived

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Punjab
1996-97	88.07
1997-98	672.23
1998-99	881.44

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Since the terms of reference of the Eleventh Finance Commission include the issue of loan write off the State Government was informed accordingly.

Exports of Marine Products

1873. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marine exports have picked up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to improve marine exports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Our export of Marine Products during the current year (April-September, 1999) has gone up by 4.22% in terms of volume although in terms of value it has fallen by 2.57% (in Rupee term) and by 5.92% in US \$ term) in comparison to the corresponding period last year (April-September, 1998).

The total export for the period April-September, 1999-2000 and the corresponding period in the previous year 1998-99 with variation and percentage of variation is as follows:

Q: Metric Tonnes
V: Value in Rs. Crores
\$: Value in US \$ Million

April-September 1999-2000	April-September 1998-99	Variation	Variation %
Q: 125378	120296	5082	+4.22
V: 2270.57	2330.54	-59.97	-2.57
\$: 530.26	563.61	-33.35	-5.92

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) In order to improve the export of marine products, Government of India has initiated several steps mentioned as follows:

- (i) Processors of seafood have been encouraged to produce more value added products for export to markets where they are in demand. Several training courses and workshops in this field (in association with INFOFISH) have been organised for exporters.
- (ii) Various schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industries are in operation. Such as:
 - (a) Subsidy for Automatic Flake/Chip/Tube Ice making machines.
 - (b) Subsidy for Generator Sets.

- (c) Subsidy for upgrading deficient cold storages.
- (d) Subsidy for acquisition of all processing machinery and equipment for production of value added marine products.
- (e) Financial assistance at the rate of 10% of FOB value of exports is given to boost export of ornamental fish from India.
- (f) Grant in aid @ 25% of the Cost of machines limits to Rs. 25 lakhs per unit is given for acquiring processing machineries.
- (iii) The Aquaculture farmers are given training and education to stock healthy and disease free seed and adopt sound management practices to prevent white spot disease in shrimps.
- (iv) Necessary steps have been taken to upgrade the processing facilities to meet the EU standards of food hygiene and safety.
- (v) To help exports penetrate new market, overseas market survey in South Africa, Republic of Korea, China and Taiwan and Seven East European countries have been conducted.
- (vi) MPEDA has been participating in several major food/seafood fairs abroad along with exporters. Similarly it has been organising seafood fair every two years, in India.
- (vii) MPEDA has been sponsoring trade delegations to target markets for maintaining cordial relations with importers.
- (viii) Assistance for setting up of Water Effluent Treatment Plant in sea food processing industry has been provided by MPEDA.

Mettur Textile Mills

1874. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been taken any measures to save and stabilize the fast vanishing textile and weaving industry on the basis of Sathyam Commission report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reopen the closed textile mills in Tamil Nadu like the Mettur Textile Mills at Mettur in Tamil Nadu which was closed due to financial crisis and other sick textile units in this regions.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Government had appointed an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam in July, 1998 to, *inter-alia*, review and evaluate the impact of the existing Textile Policy and suggest policy measures that are now necessary, particularly in the context of the new imperatives of international competition. The committee has since submitted its report. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration in the Ministry.

(c) to (e) The Govt. of India has enacted the sick Industrial Companies (special provisions) Act, SICA, 1985 and established the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination preventive, ameliorative and remedial measure which need to be taken in respect of such companies/mills in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu.

The Mettur Textiles Mills at Mettur in Tamil Nadu was closed down from 16th July, 1985 due to financial crisis. The mill is presently under official liquidator.

Contractual System of Removal of Overburden

1875. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contractual system of removal of overburden is rampant in the opencast mines of various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited against the provisions of Contract Labour Regulation & Abolition Act, 1970;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount paid to each contractor so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

Export/Import from Russia

1876. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA:
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of items/goods exported from India to Russia during the last three years;

(b) the number and details of items/goods imported from Russia to India during the last three years;

(c) whether any agreement has been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) India's bilateral trade with Russia during the last three years is as under:

Value in Rupees Crores

Financial Year	Exports	Imports
1996-97	2879.60	2230.93
1997-98	3541.68	2520.53
1998-99	3038.16	2220.97

Details of items/goods exported from India to Russia and imported from Russia to India are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by DGCI&S, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) An agreement has been signed on 4th May, 1992 between the Government of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Trade and Economic Cooperation to promote trade and economic cooperation on a stable and long term basis. The Article 6 of the Arrangement between the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of the USSR and the Reserve Bank of India for implementing the provisions of the letters dated 28-29 January, 1993 and 6th September, 1993 exchanged between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of India dated 6th September 1993 stipulates that in accordance with the Letters of Exchange, the repayment of State credits received from the Indian side will be used by the Russian side for the purchase of goods and services from India that are permissible for export under the Import and Export policy of the Government of India in force from time to time.

Dismissal of Employees in Eastern Coalfields Limited

1877. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers have been dismissed in Eastern Coalfields Limited during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 indicating the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of workmen out of them belong to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, separately;

(c) whether such dismissal has adversely affected the production of underground coal-mines; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to engage the required number of underground workers to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES OF MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, the number of workers dismissed in the Eastern Coalfields Limited during the last three years for long unauthorised absence and habitual absence, theft, fraud and dishonesty as per the Standing Orders, are as under:

1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
703	647	752

(b) The number of workers dismissed during the above period belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are as under:

Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
707	586

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (c) above.

[Translation]

Coal Projects Lagging behind Schedule

1878. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of projects of Central Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited which are laying behind the Schedule and resulting escalation in terms of cost and time;

(b) the extent to which cost of these projects has been escalated and the present estimated cost of each of such projects; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for an early completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) Steps taken by the Government for expeditious implementation of coal projects, *inter-alia*, include:

(i) Coal companies have been directed to monitor implementation of coal projects regularly and rigorously. In the coal companies a three tier structure for monitoring the projects i.e. at colliery level, area level and head quarter level is in existence.

(ii) Projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above are being monitored by the Department of

Programme Implementation, Government of India based on inputs of coal companies on quarterly basis.

(iii) Implementation of coal projects is often subjected to review by the Cabinet Secretariat as also by Prime Minister's Office.

Statement

On going coal projects (costing Rs. 20 crores and above) of CCL & BCCL having time & cost over-run

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of sanction	Sanctioned cost (Rs. Crores)	Anticipated cost (Rs. Crores)	Scheduled date of completion	Anticipated date of completion	Time escalation (years)	Cost escalation (in Rs. crs.)	Reasons for escalation
CCL									
1	Parej East OCP	3/1993	116.19	169.74	3/1998	3/2001	3	53.55	R&R Problem
2	Saunda DOC	9/1991	48.96	48.96	3/1999	3/2001	2	-	Problem of fire.
3	Saunda DUG	3/1991	47.94	47.94	3/1998	3/2001	3	-	Adverse geominig conditions
4	Ray-Bachra UG	3/1991	30.19	30.19	3/1997	3/2000	2	-	Difficult geominig conditions
5	Parej East UG	11/1992	28.42	28.42	3/1991	3/2001	2	-	Non-availability of land for incline cutting
6	Urimari OC	8/1994	95.33	95.33	9/1999	3/2000	0.5	-	R&R Problem.
7	Sangam Expn. OC	2/1995	32.66	32.66	3/1998	3/2001	3	-	Problem of fire
BCCL									
8	Pootkee Balihari UG	12/1983	199.87	181.94	3/1994	3/2001	7	-	Adverse geominig conditions. Poor Progress of work by M/s. TSL.
9	Block III OC	8/1991	45.97	45.97	3/1998	-	-	-	Kept in abeyance due to fire.

[English]

International Trade

1879. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the growth in India's international trade in terms of volume and value during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have drawn up any new strategy to boost the foreign trade including identification of products and prospective markets including export diversification; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics data growth in US \$ terms in India's international trade for the last three years in value terms has been as under:

Year	Export growth%	Import growth%
1996-97	5.3	6.7
1997-98	4.6	6.0
1998-99*	3.7	7.9

*Provisional.

(b) and (c) Export promotion is a continuous process which includes reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

[Translation]

Import of Apple under OGL

1880. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which the permission for import of Apples through Open General License has been given,

(b) whether the apple growers of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir have been adversely affected due to this;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to remove apples import from OGL;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) In 1997, India had notified 2714 items on which, import restrictions on which were being maintained on account of balance of payments reasons (under Article XVIII B of GATT) to the WTO. India had also notified a phase out schedule for removing these restrictions. In view of these commitments, import of fresh apple (Exim-Code 080810 00) has been made free on 31-3-1999. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has represented that this could adversely affect the domestic apple producers of Himachal Pradesh. However, the import of apple is subjected to a basic customs duty of 40% and Special Additional Duty of 4% which should provide adequate protection to domestic apple growers. The import of fresh apple during the period April-June 1999 only Rs. 86 Lakhs as per the provisional data available with the Government.

[English]

Use of Rupee-Rouble Debt Funds for Investment

1881. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have decided to finalize an agreement permitting use of rupee-rouble debt funds for investment in India;

(b) if so, whether rupee-rouble debt payment is for use of imports from India into Russia;

(c) if so, whether any meeting between the two countries was recently held to review the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission to discuss ways and means of expanding bilateral trade and to utilise the funds for investment in Indian projects; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In the discussions held in the annual India Russia Inter-Governmental Commission in November, 1998 and in the Sub Group on Banking And Financial Matters in June 1999, both sides have agreed to continue discussions for early finalization of the guidelines for use of rupee-rouble debt funds for investment in India.

Complaints of Small Investors

1882. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI and Finance Ministry have received thousand of complaints from small investors against various plantation companies;

(b) if so, whether the Mumbai High Court and Delhi High Court have given orders and directives to the Union Government and SEBI to take corrective measures; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of small investors of plantation companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Some complaints have been received from small investors against various plantation companies.

(b) In a Transfer Petition filed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Supreme Court has stayed further proceedings in the writ petitions filed by plantation companies before different High Courts.

(c) In order to protect the interest of the investors in existing Collective Investment Schemes, SEBI moved the courts by way of Public Interest Litigations and sought urgent relief against the companies and its promoters. Show cause notices have been issued to various entities operating such schemes.

Further, the SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 were notified on October 15, 1999. Henceforth, no person other than a Collective Investment Management Company which has obtained a certificate of registration under the Regulations can carry on or sponsor or launch a Collective Investment Scheme. Also no existing Collective Investment Scheme is allowed to launch any new scheme or raise money from the investors even under the existing schemes, unless a certificate of registration is granted to it under the Regulations.

Lending by Private Sector Banks

1883. SHRI C.N. SINGH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Most private banks violating RBI norms on lending" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated May 6, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of the facts brought out therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

As per the existing guidelines, as target of 40 per cent and sub-target of 18 percent of net bank credit (NBC) have been prescribed for lending to the priority sector and to agriculture respectively by domestic banks including private sector banks.

Private sector banks' outstanding advances to priority sector and agriculture as on the last reporting Friday of

March 1996 to 1999 as reported by RBI are furnished below:
(Amounts in Rs. crore)

March	Priority Sector adv.	Agricultural adv
1996	6283 (33.5%)	1162(6.3%)
1997	8697(41.1%)	1909(9.0)%
1998	11614(40.9%)	2746(9.7%)
1999*	14155(41.4%)	3257(9.5%)

* Provisional data

While both the priority sector and agricultural advances of private sector banks have been increasing in absolute terms over the year, they have fallen short of the sub-target for lending to agriculture.

As regards contribution to RIDF mentioned in the news item, the private sector banks were asked to contribute to the corpus of RIDF-I (April 1995) amounts on a pro-rata basis, depending on the shortfall in their agricultural lending as at March 1994 subject to a ceiling of 1.5 percent of NBC. Thereafter, in the case of RIDF-III, IV and V, established during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively, private sector banks which did not achieve the overall priority sector lending target of 40 percent as at March, 1997 March 1998 and March 1999 respectively, were asked to contribute amounts equivalent to the shortfall in total priority sector lending. The aggregate amounts allocated to private sector banks in RIDF-I to V are furnished below:

(Amount in Rs. crore)

RIDF	Corpus	Allocation to Private Sector Banks
RIDF-I	2000	124.49
RIDF-III	2500	296.00
RIDF-IV	3000	571.65
RIDF-V	3500	891.60

As per guidelines issued to banks, deposits made in RIDF are treated as indirect finance to agriculture under the priority sector.

Lending to agriculture by private sector banks is lower as compared to public sector banks mainly because of their lack of wide branch network in rural/semi-urban areas. This is particularly true in the case of new private sector Banks.

In respect of credit to small the marginal farmers, data relating to disbursement of credit by public sector banks to small and marginal farmers under Special Agricultural Credit Plans (SACP) for the last three years as reported by RBI is furnished below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Total disbursement to agriculture	Disbursement to small and marginal farmers	Percentage to (3) to (2)
1996-97	12782.53	2175.81	21.39
1997-98	14808.35	4680.34	31.62
1998-99	17787.63	4951.63	27.84

Export of Fruits, Vegetables and Meat

1884. SHRI J.S. BRAR:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

DR. ASHOK PATEL:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended to impose the ban on export of meat, vegetables and fruits.

(b) if so, the grounds on which the Law Commission has made such a recommendation;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to implement the above recommendation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Law Commission has made the recommendation on the ground that the export ban could ensure the availability of meat, vegetables and fruits to the poorer section of the society at reasonable rates.

(c) to (e) The Government has examined the recommendation made by the Law Commission. Keeping in view the demand and supply position, growers' interests and India's long term export interest in meat, fruits and vegetables, it is not the opportune time to ban the export of these items.

Revival of Instrumentation Limited

1885. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently given clearance to a proposal to provide Government guarantee to a consortium of banks that would be providing funds for rehabilitation scheme for Instrumentation Limited and Sick public sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, whether the Government have pointed out that guarantee was part of the rehabilitation scheme for the company by BIFR; and

(c) if so, to what extent this decision is likely to enable the company to continue with the existing cash credit limit?

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

United Bank of India

1886. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Bank of India has overstated profits during 1998-99;

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

(c) whether such discrepancies in the profits of other banks have also been noticed/detected;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) United Bank of India has shown a net profit of Rs. 14.70 crores for the year 1998-99. In the Note forming parts of the accounts, the bank has stated that:

Interest earned others in Schedule 13 includes Rs. 36.30 crores accounted for as income towards interest on income tax refund relating to assessment year 1981-82 to 1996-97 based on judicial pronouncement and legal opinion.

The auditor's report on the accounts for the year 1998-99 contains the following qualification:

"Rs. 36.30 crores has been accounted for as interest on income tax refund, claims for Rs. 21.74 crores are yet to be allowed by the Income Tax Deptt. Such accounting is not in conformity with AS-9, issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountant of India. Ultimately realisation of Rs. 77.61 crores (including Rs. 55.87 crores of previous year) including as other assets being aggregate amount of such outstanding claim is dependent on the decision of appropriate authority. The profit for the year is overstated by Rs. 21.74 crores."

(c) and (d) RBI have stated that no discrepancy was noticed in the audited figures of profit of other banks. Auditors have, however, recorded qualifications relating to changes in accounting policy resorted to by some of the banks.

(e) RBI and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India have commenced joint efforts aimed at reducing variation in accounting practices and policy.

[Translation]

Swadeshi Cotton Mills

1887. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the Swadeshi Cotton Mill located at Maunath Bhanjan in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the year-wise production in this mill at present;

(c) the details of various categories of workers employed in this mill, at present;

(d) whether all the workers of the mill are getting their salaries and allowances in time;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for carrying out modernisation of this mill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Swadesh Cotton Mills, Maunath Bhanjan is unit of NTC (UP) Ltd. It is a spinning unit which is presently working partially.

(b) The year-wise production of yarn both own and for job work for the last 3 years is given below :

Year	Yarn Production Own (Lakh Kgs.)	Job-work
1996-97	1.21	10.39
1997-98	0.87	10.04
1998-99	0.86	8.38
Apl. Sept. 99 (Prov.) -	-	3.90

(c) There are 641 workers on roll as on 30.9.99. The category-wise details are as under:

Permanent	330
Badli	108
Casual/others	203
Total	641

(d) and (e) The workers of the mill are getting their salaries and allowances. Government is meeting the shortfall in payment of salary/wages to the employees. Due to budgetary constraints there is delay occasionally in release of funds.

(f) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth turning positive within the stipulated period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

[English]

Area of Old Mint in A.P.

1888. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of old mint under possession of Union Government at Hyderabad;

(b) whether the mint has been shifted away from Hyderabad;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to exchange this land with Government of Andhra Pradesh to meet their secretarial accommodation demand; and

(e) if so, the present stage of the matter and the time by which this land is likely to be transferred to Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHAB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Mint occupies approx. area of 9508 sq.ft. The Mint is continuing its operations alongwith the new Mint at Cheralapally, Ranga Reddy District, Andhra Pradesh.

(d) and (e) After consideration of the matter, Andhra Pradesh Government has been informed that the mint premises are required by Government of India for minting/ security printing activities.

Rehabilitation of Employees of HCL

1889. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR:
SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of copper achieved from Ghatsila mines during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Hindustan Copper Limited has decided to close down its some mines at Ghatsila or propose to hand over them to the private sector;

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

(d) the number of employees likely to be affected or rendered jobless as a result thereof;

(e) whether the Hindustan Copper Limited has framed any plan to rehabilitate the employees likely to be rendered jobless due to closure of its mines at Ghatsila;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether it is fact that Rs. 400 crore which was sanctioned by the Union Government for survival of Indian Copper Complex was diverted by Hindustan Copper Limited for other purposes;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) The production of copper from Ghatsila mines during the last three years is as given below:

Year	Production of Copper metal in concentrate (in tonnes)
1996-97	9241
1997-98	8305
1998-99	5521

(b) and (c) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) has taken an inprinciple decision to close down Pathargora and Kendadih mines and has sought the permission from the Government for closure of these mines under section 25(O) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The mining operations at Pathargora and Kendadih mines are highly uneconomical and HCL is incurring heavy losses in operating these mines. There is no proposal to hand over these mines to the private sector.

(d) The number of employees likely to be affected is 1099.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, the affected workmen, till one week before the date of closure of the mines, may avail the benefit of Voluntary Retirement Scheme, the payment under which is higher than the statutory compensation under Section 25 (O), sub-section 8 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(g) to (i) No, Sir. While approving the capital restructuring proposal for HCL on 24.12.98, the Government has approved a non-plan loan of Rs. 414 crores for separation of surplus employees of HCL under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in a phased manner during 1998-99 to 2001-02. No money was sanctioned for survival of Indian Copper Complex and hence, question of diversion does not arise.

I.T. Raids on Traders in the Capital

1890. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax authorities in the capital conducted raids at several premises in the Walled City recently;

(b) if so, whether the traders in the Walled City area protested against such harassment meted out to them by the officials of Income Tax;

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

(d) the steps Government propose to take to check their accounts etc. in a planned way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Income Tax Department conducted searches at nine premises in the Walled City area recently. No formal protest or any specific report of harassment has been lodged with the Department. The books of accounts maintained by the traders are checked in the course of assessments following a search or when the cases are selected for scrutiny.

Meeting of WTO

1891. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government have been consulted on evolving a strategy for the Seattle Meet of WTO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consensus has been evolved in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Government have taken steps to consult all stakeholders including the State Governments while formulating our negotiating strategy for the Third Session of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO which was held at Seattle, USA from 30th November to 3rd December 1999. As early as on 28.6.1999, all State Governments were requested to give their suggestions and feed back on various issues that were expected to come up for discussion at this Conference. Political parties represented in Parliament and leaders of apex trade unions were also consulted in this regard. State Governments were also consulted on specific issues from time to time. Suggestions and feed back as received from the State Governments and the various stakeholders were fully taken into account while formulating India's negotiating strategy.

Evaluation Rules for Foreign Investors

1892. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have amended evaluation rules to allow foreign investors to make disinvestment of unlisted or low trading shares;

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

(c) the benefits likely to be derived by the NRIs due to the amended evaluation rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of the recommendations made by the informal expert group set up by Reserve Bank of India, All India Financial Institutions, Professional accountants etc., RBI have announced revised valuation guidelines on 18th September 1996 for disinvestment of unlisted/low trading shares by foreign investors.

(c) Besides being more rational and in line with the current capital market trends, the revised guidelines

introduce transparency and clarity in the valuation methodology thereby improving the investment environment for Non-resident Indian and other foreign investors.

Import of Edible Oils

1893. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unrestricted import of edible oils since 1994-95 by placing them in OGL list and reduction in import duty has had an adverse effect on domestic oilseed growers;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Union Government to enhance the import duty on edible oils and to impose restriction on import of oilseeds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The import policy and import duty reduction on edible oils does not seem to indicate a definite correlation with the production trend of oilseeds. The domestic production of oilseeds has shown growth between 1994-95 and 1998-99, except for 1997-98. In this regard a representation is received from the Government of Karnataka.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to increase the import duty on edible oils to 65% and to restrict import of oilseeds.

(d) The import of some oilseeds has been permitted keeping in view the requirement of domestic industry. The request for increasing import duty on edible oils is presently, under examination.

Expenditure Commission

1894. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Expenditure Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to give statutory powers to the Commission so that it can recast public expenditure, particularly revenue expenditure; and

(d) the time by which the Expenditure Commission is likely to be set up and its composition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Details for setting up the Expenditure Commission are being worked out.

Surplus Manpower in Public Sector Undertakings

1895. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some Public Sector Undertakings where there are surplus manpower;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to retrench the surplus employees in those PSUs;

(d) whether any programme has been chalked out by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) Managements of Public Sector Undertakings are to identify the number of surplus staff depending on their requirements, from time to time Government have no proposal to retrench the surplus employees of PSUs. With a view to reducing surplus manpower with the Public Sector Undertakings, Government had formulated a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). This is purely voluntary in nature.

Achievements of ITPO

1896. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of India Trade Promotion Organisation;

(b) the projects and programmes for stipulating and assisting export;

(c) the export made during the last three years, in dollar term; and

(d) the year-wise and item-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has been playing an important role in promoting trade and effectively mirroring the latest developments in various sectors of industry through trade fairs and exhibitions. ITPO caters to the requirements of export and import sectors and offers its infrastructural facilities in Pragati Maidan to other fair

organisers in trade and industry circles. ITPO provides information and inputs relating to international trade to the interested parties. The organisation has recently taken an initiative to establish Regional Trade Promotion Centres with exhibition halls and ancillary facilities in important cities like Bangalore and Calcutta etc.

In order to assist and stimulate the export sector, ITPO undertakes various projects and programmes such as organising participation in international trade fairs, holding exclusive Indian trade exhibitions abroad, organising international and national trade fairs in India, arranging Buyer-Seller Meets and Contact Promotion Programmes etc.

(c) and (d) The exports of Principal Commodities from India during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 have been to the tune of USD 33469.76 Million, USD 35007.85 Million and USD 33658.54 Million (provisional) respectively. The year-wise and item-wise details of exports are available in the publications of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, which are available in the Parliament library.

Import of Dairy Products

1897. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the National Dairy Development Board to formulate suitable import policy to prevent indiscriminate import of dairy products in the country;

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

(c) whether any appraisal of Operation Flood has been done by the World Bank recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has received representation from the National Dairy Development Board to formulate a suitable import policy in respect of dairy products in the country to prevent indiscriminate import of dairy products. However, in 1997, when India notified 2714 items to WTO for phased removal of import restrictions thereon, some of the dairy products were also included in the said list. An import policy based on quantitative restrictions is violative of our commitment to WTO. Protection to most of our dairy industry products is available through tariff mechanism.

(c) and (d) The World Bank has not made any recent appraisal of the Operation Flood Project. However, after completion of the Operation Flood Project in April '96 the World Bank had prepared an Implementation completion report and published the same in January, 1997. The Project's outcome has been rated satisfactory.

New Schemes for Development of Textile Industry

1898. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government expected to achieve through the new measures for strengthening the Textile Industry viz. (i) cotton Technology Mission (CTN) (ii) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) and (iii) Textile Policy;

(b) whether the Government consider the development of Handlooms in the country through various new schemes; and

(c) if so, the details of new schemes to be introduced, stating inter alia their aims and objectives, their implementation, the target area of the schemes as well as the expected expenditure during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In his Budget speech for 1999-2000, the Finance Minister had announced introduction of a new integrated handloom promotion scheme, viz. 'Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana' which would encourage infrastructure development, processing facilities, new design inputs to weavers and opening new avenues for marketing of handloom fabrics. The detail of the scheme are yet to be worked out.

Steps to Strengthen the Economy

1899. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA:
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which the Government are thinking of hard decision in order to strengthen the economy; and

(b) the expected outcome to these hard-decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The trends in the economy are closely monitored and under constant review and appropriate decisions taken in the light of emerging trends as and when necessary. The various economic reforms undertaken by the Government are expected to have a favourable impact on the economy.

Permanent Employment to Women in Coal Industry

1900. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union government have taken a decision for providing permanent employment to women

or on compassionate ground in the Central Public Sectors particularly in coal Mining Industry;

(b) if so, the number of women provided the permanent employment in the coal industry during 1997-1998 and 1998-99, subsidiary-wise.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of women likely to be provided with the permanent employment in the Eastern Coalfields Limited during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) As reported by the Department of Public Enterprises, employment to below Board level posts comes under the purview of the respective public sector enterprises and no general guidelines for compassionate appointments have been issued. Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries have made a provision in the National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA) to offer permanent employment to the dependants including women dependent of workmen, who die in harness or who are permanently disabled

(b) The number of women provided with permanent employment under these provisions in the subsidiaries of CIL during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is given below:

Name of Subsidiary	1997-98	1998-99
ECL	309	214
BCCL	182	170
CCL	88	112
SECL	171	208
NCL	11	25
WCL	170	33
MCL	31	33
CMPDIL	2	3
NEC	11	03

(c) Does not arise in view of the given to part (b) above.

(d) In ECL, seven number of female dependants have been offered employment upto November, 1999. The exact figures for the year 1999-2000 as a whole can not be forecast at this stage, however, 57 cases have been empanelled in this category.

Anti-Dumping Duty

1901. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the anti-dumping duty to include safeguards and counter-vailing duties also in the anti-dumping legislation,

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

(c) the time by which a decision for bringing legislation in this regard is likely to be taken?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Insurance Scheme for Cyclone Hit Areas

1902. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced any insurance scheme to cover the entire people affected by cyclone/flood, like the one happened in Orissa recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme for poor families (PASS), covering people in the age group of 18 to 60 whose total family income does not exceed Rs. 7,200/- p.a., against accidental deaths including those due to cyclone/floods, is in force throughout the country. A compensation of Rs. 3,000/- is payable to the dependants of the deceased earning member of the family.

New Public Issues

1903. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new public issues have come up during 1999-2000 so far;

(b) the number of public issues have come up during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for revival of primary market for winning back the confidence of small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) During April to November 1999, 21 new public issues (initial public offerings by unlisted companies) for raising Rs. 1633.28 crores have opened for public subscription.

(b) The number of public issues (initial public offerings by unlisted companies and public issues by listed companies) that opened for public subscription during

the last three years is as follows:

Year	No. of Issues
1996-97	751
1997-98	62
1998-99	32
Apr.-Nov.99	31

(c) Steps taken by the Government and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the market regulator, for the revival of investors' confidence in the primary market, include relaxation from listing conditions for companies in the information technology sector, modification in free pricing norms for public issues by unlisted companies, modification in book building guidelines, notification of the buy back regulations etc.

Joint Venture for Exploration of Gold and Diamonds in Andhra Pradesh

1904. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering joint venture proposals for exploration of gold and diamonds in different parts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any concrete plan in this regard have been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to throw open exploration of these deposits to international agencies also;

(e) if so, whether about 66 agencies from all over the world have come forward and the Government have considered their proposals; and

(f) if so, the total number of agencies selected so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (f) The Central Government is not considering any joint venture proposal for exploration of gold and diamonds in Andhra Pradesh. However, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that they have decided to form joint, venture companies for exploration and exploitation of its vast resources of valuable minerals like gold, diamond etc. Considering the commercial nature of these joint ventures, the State Government further decided to authorise the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation, a fully owned State Government Undertaking, to assist the State Government in finalisation of the process. Out of the 66 parties who have been shown interest, 24 parties for gold and 18 parties for diamond have been short listed. The matter is under consideration by the State Government.

Upgradation of Skills of Weavers by UNDP

1905. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have considered any proposal to invite UNDP or other international agencies to upgrade the skills of weavers of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the weavers of Andhra Pradesh have not received any technical benefits or know-how from the Government;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to include the works of Andhra Pradesh weavers in international exhibitions and other marketing avenues;

(e) whether the Government are considering to provide special package for weavers of Andhra Pradesh;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India have extended adequate assistance under various Developmental Programmes to provide technical benefits to the weavers of Andhra Pradesh. The Central assistance has been extended to set up Institute of Handloom Technology at Venktagiri to provide technical trained manpower to the sector. Two Weavers Service Centres (WSC's) located at Hyderabad and Vijayawada are also providing technical services to the weavers.

(d) Under the Scheme Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Assistance has been extended to the Primary and Apex Society to develop exportable products. The participation of handloom organisation in the International and domestic fairs and exhibitions is encouraged.

(e) to (g) The Government of India would continue to extend assistance under various developmental and welfare schemes to Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of handloom weavers on receipt of viable proposals and availability of funds.

Trade with France

1906. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of the France plans to double its trade with India;

(b) if so, the details of the items with which the trade with France is presently made;

(c) the benefits likely to be derived while doubling the trade with France; and

(d) the latest trade position with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) In the 9th Session of Indo-French Joint Committee held in New Delhi during November 23-24, 1998, both sides agreed that the current levels of trade and investment between the two countries were not commensurate with the potential. Both agreed on the need for concerted efforts through the Joint Committee in order to help realise the full potential of Indo-French trade and economic relations.

India's major exports to France and cotton/manmade textiles, finished leather, leather garments/goods, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, organic/inorganic/agro-chemicals, transport equipment, machinery and instruments, drugs and pharmaceuticals, castor oil, carpets, spices, cashew, marine products, coffee, etc.

India's major imports from France are project goods, machinery, transport equipment, organic chemicals, electronic goods, iron and steel, synthetic rubber, manufactures of metals, gold & silver, medicinal & pharmaceutical products, professional instruments, etc.

Expansion of Indo-French trade to the desired levels is expected to yield benefits such as diversification of Indian export basket, increase in India's foreign exchange earnings, stepping up of French investment in India, availability of latest French technology to India, etc. Deeper trade ties would strengthen over all relations with France.

(d) A statement showing India's trade position with 10 major trading partners during April-August, 1999 along with corresponding figures for April-August, 1998 is enclosed.

Statement

Table showing India's position with ten major trading partners during April-August, 1999 alongwith corresponding figures for April-August, 1998

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Country	April-August 1999		April-August, 1998	
		Exports from India	Imports by India	Exports from India	Imports by India
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	U.S.A	14150.35	671.89	12301.39	6255.89
2	U.K	3618.35	4560.52	3028.90	5175.76
3	Belgium	2188.95	4823.28	2250.73	5030.77

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	U.A.E.	3254.86	3728.98	2817.63	2864.82
5	Japan	2729.59	3772.36	2693.87	4127.49
6	Federal Republic of Germany	3166.11	2983.95	2964.60	3761.26
7	Switzerland	540.52	5480.42	516.42	5427.81
8	Saudi Arabia	1191.21	3727.47	1298.01	2752.02
9	Hong Kong	3695.29	1160.26	2883.56	672.51
10	Nigeria	449.32	3929.24	324.35	1636.43

[Translation]

GDP

1907. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Gross Domestic Product likely to be in the country during the current financial year and G.D.P. during the first six month of current financial year;

(b) whether the said target is likely to be achieved; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) As per the latest data available with the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the quarterly gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost at constant (1993-94) prices for the first quarter (April-June) of 1999-2000 is estimated at Rs. 2,74,066 crore, as against Rs. 2,59,759 crore for the first quarter of 1998-99. The GDP estimate for the quarter July-September, 1999 (second quarter of 1999-2000) will be released on 31.12.1999 and for the full current financial year as and when the advance estimates are released by the CSO.

Trade Mark of Veterinary Medicines

1908. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade mark of uteroton, katon and katkaif all veterinary medicines are registered in the name of Hathras based firm in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the trade mark of the above medicines are also registered in the name of a Sirsaganj based firm in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The trade Marks CATONE (trade mark No. 372340), UTEROTONE (trade

mark No. 3723339) and CATCOUGH (trade mark No. 372341) all in Class 5 for veterinary medicines are registered in the name of Shri Shrinath Garg, trading as M/s Bioherb Pharma, Hathras, U.P. as of 17-2-1981. The above trade marks have been renewed from time to time and are in force upto 17-2-2002.

(b) M/s Cattle Remedies, Sirsaganj has also filed applications for registering trade marks UTEROTONE (appl. No. 562099), CATONE (appl. No. 562100) and CATCOUGH (appl. No. 562101) all in class 5 for veterinary medicines on 18-11-1991. These applications have been advertised before acceptance under Section 20(1) of the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 in Journal No. 1200 (Supplementary) dated 8-6-1999 but have not been registered.

(c) Oppositions to the above applications have been filed at the Delhi Branch of the Trade Marks Registry by M/s Bioherb, Pharma, Hathras, UP on 27-9-1999 and are awaiting hearing before the Deputy Registrar of Trade Marks.

[English]

Export of Software

1909. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the target of export of software fixed and achievements made during each of the last three years; and

(b) the projection of target made for 1999-2000 and for the Ninth Plan period, separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The target of export of software fixed and achievement during each of the last three years are as below:

(In Rs. Crores)

	1996-1997	1997-98	1998-99
Target	3905	6132	11149
Achievement*	4113	6800	12500

*Source: Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council

(b) The projection of target for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 19427 Crores. The Projection of computer software export target during the 9th Five Year Plan as per Report of the Working Group on Electronics Industry, 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002), Deptt. of Electronics, Government of India are as below:

(In Rs. Crores)

1997-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	Total
5880	9250	14500	23100	36500	89300

Navratna and Miniratna

1910. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded enhanced financial and operational powers to the Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises and Miniratna Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for the selection of enterprises as Navratna and Miniratna;

(c) the number and names of Public Sector enterprises which are in Navratna and Miniratna; and

(d) the details regarding their performances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Enterprises which have comparative advantages and the potential to become global players based on their size, performance, nature of activity, future prospects etc. are categorised as Navratnas.

Similarly, enterprises which have a continuous trend of profit earning during last three years, have been categorised as Mini-Ratna I and Mini-Ratna II based on amount of profit earned.

(c) The list of enterprises in Navratna, Mini-Ratna I and Mini-Ratna II categories is enclosed as Statement.

(d) The details of their performance are given in Public Enterprises Survey Volume I to III, 1997-98, which was laid in the both the House of the Parliament on 26.2.99 and is a published document.

Statement*Navratna and Mini-Ratna**Navratna Enterprises*

Sl. No.	Name of PSEs
1	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
2	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.
3	Gas Authority of India Ltd.
4	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.
5	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
6	Indian Petro Chemicals Corpn. Ltd.
7	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.
8	Natioanal Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.
9	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of PSEs
10	Steel Authority of India Ltd.
11	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

*Mini Ratna Enterprises**Category I*

1	Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.
2	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.
3	Central Warehousing Corpn.
4	Cochin Refineries Ltd.
5	Container Corporation of India Ltd.
6	Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.
7	Engineers India Ltd.
8	Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.
9	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.
10	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.
11	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.
12	I.B.P. Co. Ltd.
13	India Tourism Dev. Corp. Ltd.
14	Ircon International Ltd.
15	Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.
16	Lubrizol India Ltd.
17	M M T C Ltd.
18	Madras Refineries Ltd.
19	National Aluminium Company Ltd.
20	National Fertilizers Ltd.
21	National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
22	Oil India Ltd.
23	Power Finance Corporation
24	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.
25	Rashtriya Chemicals And Fertilizers Ltd.
26	State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.
27	Telecommunications Consultants (India) Ltd.

Category II

28	Educational Consultants (India) Ltd.
29	Ferro Scrap Nagiam Ltd.
30	H. M.T. (International) Ltd.
31	Hospital Services Consultancy Corp. India Ltd.
32	Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corpn. Ltd.
33	M S T C Ltd.
34	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.
35	Metallurgical & Engg. Consultants (India) Ltd.
36	National Film Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
37	PEC Ltd.
38	Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Ltd.
39	Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd.

Revival of Textile Mills

1911. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 200 textile mills of the country are lying closed at present;

(b) if so, the details of such textile mills, State-wise;

(c) since when these mills are lying closed and the reasons for their closure;

(d) the number of workers rendered jobless due to their closure;

(e) the steps taken by the Government for their revival, rehabilitation of workers and to make payment of dues to the affected persons during the last three years;

(f) the number of textile mills revived so far during the above period; State-wise;

(g) the further steps proposed to be taken for the revival of closed textile mills;

(h) whether the Government are considering to start some new textiles mills in the country; and

(i) if so, the details thereof indicating the places where such mills are proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise details of cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) were reported as closed as on 30.9.1999 are given below:

State	Mills Closed
Andhra Pradesh	28
Assam	4
Bihar	3
Gujarat	75
Haryana	10
Karnataka	17
Kerala	6
Madhya Pradesh	10
Maharashtra	33
Orissa	5
Punjab	5

State	Mills Closed
Rajasthan	10
Tamil Nadu	80
Uttar Pradesh	26
West Bengal	15
Delhi	3
Pondicherry	1
Total	331

(c) As on September 30, 1990, two hundred and seven (207) mills were closed for a period of less than five years, and one hundred and twenty four (124) mills were closed for more than five years. The closure of these mills can be attributed to many factors including obsolete technology, increase in cost of inputs, difficulties in getting timely and adequate credit, mismanagement, recessionary conditions, etc.

(d) In these 331 mills there were 3,26,447 workers on their roll.

(e) to (g) The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial companies (Special Provisions) Act, SICA, 1985 and established the BIFR with a view to timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies, change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions.

One hundred and eight (108) Mills were registered with BIFR as on September 9, 1999, the state-wise status of these mills is as under:

State	Mills Registered with BIFR
Andhra Pradesh	7
Assam	2
Gujarat	30
Haryana	5
Karnataka	2
Kerala	2
Madhya Pradesh	5
Maharashtra	11
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	6
Tamil Nadu	16
Uttar Pradesh	15
West Bengal	6
Total	108

In pursuance of the Statement of Textile Policy, 1985, Government have set up the TWRFS to protect the interest of workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure or partial closure of textile mills in the private sector only, in the country, including in Tamil Nadu. The objective of the TWRFS is to provide interim relief to the eligible workers only for a period of 3 years on a tapering basis, 75% of wage equivalent in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year as per norms of the scheme. So far, TWRF Scheme has been made applicable in respect of 32 units and 51,404 workers have been paid.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

Textile Policy

1912. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new textile policy is being drafted by the Government to restructure the textile industry to face the new imperatives of international competition;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be finalised and the time by which it would be presented to the Parliament;

(c) whether the new policy would be framed to ensure balanced healthy growth of handloom and powerloom sectors and enabling provision of loan facilities and raw materials at controlled rate to the handloom weavers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof??

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam to, *inter-alia*, review the impact of the existing Textile Policy and suggest policy measures for the industry to focus on changes resulting from over-all trade policy reforms. The Committee has since submitted its report. The recommendations of the Committee mostly focus on measures to secure progressive increase in production and exportable surplus, removal of technological obsolescence strengthen the competitive framework of all segments of the textile industry, removal of avoidable regulations and facilitation for orderly transition of the industry to that of a market oriented forward looking industry. Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Report, the Government is in the process of framing the new Textile Policy.

Revival of MAMC

1913. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering M/s Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC) for revival; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) M/s Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC) is a Public Sector Undertaking before the Board for Industrial and Financial Restructuring (BIFR). An Expert Group was appointed by the Government to explore the possibilities of revival of some PSUs, including MAMC. The Group has recently submitted its report. Government is to take a decision on the report of the Expert Group and communicate their decision to the BIFR.

Exploitation of Mines and Minerals by Private Sector

1914. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any relaxation in the National Minerals Policy through which the Private Sector can involve in the exploitation of Mines and Minerals which hitherto reserved exclusively for Public Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Minerals which can be mined or exploited by the Private Sector either with private or foreign investment; and

(d) the estimated reserves of Minerals open to private sector in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Under the National Mineral Policy, 1993, thirteen minerals of basic and strategic importance, hitherto reserved exclusively for Public Sector were thrown open for exploitation by the Private Sector. These minerals are Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Chrome Ore, Molybdenum, Sulphur, Gold, Diamond, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Tungsten, Nickel, and Platinum group of minerals. All these minerals can be mined or exploited by the Private Sector provided that the person holding the mining lease is an Indian national, or is a company as defined in sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(d) A Statement on estimated reserves of the above minerals (except platinum group of minerals) as available with the Indian Bureau of Mines (a subordinate office of the Department of Mines), is enclosed.

Statement

Exploitation of Mines and Minerals by Private Sector

Reserves of the Minerals (as on 1.4.1995)

Mineral	State	Reserves
Iron Ore (million tonnes)	Andhra pradesh	469
	Bihar	2662
	Goa	909
	Karnataka	3856
	Kerala	36
	Madhya Pradesh	1998
	Maharashtra	227
	Orissa	3294
	Rajasthan	9
	Tamil Nadu	1
	All India	13461
Manganese Ore (thousand tonnes)	Andhra pradesh	11905
	Bihar	2363
	Goa	16865
	Gujarat	1477
	Karnataka	41054
	Madhya Pradesh	23644
	Maharashtra	16657
	Orissa	52814
	Rajasthan	430
	West Bengal	100
	All India	167309
Chrome Ore (thousand tonnes)	Andhra Pradesh	116
	Bihar	334
	Karnataka	1452
	Maharashtra	478
	Manipur	7
	Orissa	83602
	Tamil Nadu	240
	All India	86229
Molybdenum Ore (tonnes)	Madhya Pradesh	8000000
	Tamil Nadu	36000
	Karnataka	900
	All India	8036900

Mineral	State	Reserves
Sulphur (thousand tonnes)	Jammu & Kashmir	210
	All India	210
Gold Ore (tonnes)	Andhra Pradesh	3791881
	Bihar	7200
	Karnataka	12863434
	Kerala	558460
	Madhya Pradesh	976000
Diamond (Carats)	All India	17787975
	Andhra Pradesh	5465
	Madhya Pradesh	976050
	All India	981515
Copper Ore (thousand tonnes)	Andhra Pradesh	5449
	Bihar	108690
	Gujarat	8124
	Karnataka	5669
	Madhya Pradesh	177437
	Maharashtra	606
	Meghalaya	616
	Orissa	3226
	Rajasthan	104974
	Sikkim	820
Lead and Zinc (thousand tonnes)	Uttar Pradesh	1120
	West bengal	79
	All India	416810
	Andhra pradesh	1954
	Gujarat	7876
	Madhya Pradesh	615
	Maharashtra	5790
	Meghalaya	660
	Orissa	2113
	Rajasthan	155275
Tungsten Ore (tonnes)	Sikkim	406
	Tamil Nadu	462
	Uttar Pradesh	1200
	West Bengal	2781
	All India	179132
	Andhra Pradesh	14395300
	Haryana	1672500
	Maharashtra	8077250
	Rajasthan	13473221
	West Bengal	492690
Nickel Ore (million tonnes)	All India	38110961
	Bihar	9.00
	Orissa	174.48
	All India	183.48

WTO Obligations

1915. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the country's obligations under the World Trade Organisation yet to be fulfilled; and

(b) the steps proposed for early legislation in respect thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The WTO Agreements have provided specific transition periods for meeting certain obligations thereunder. These include phasing out of certain Trade Related Investment Measures by 1-1-2000, making/amending laws to provide for intellectual property protection in areas such as patents, copy rights, industrial designs, layout design of integrated circuits, trade marks, sui generis plant variety protection and protection of trade secrets.

(b) All necessary steps have been/are being taken by the Government to meet these obligations within the stipulated time period.

New Garment Export Quota Policy

1916. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new Garment Export Quota Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said Policy;

(c) the time by which this Policy is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the likely impact of this Policy on Indian economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Garments and Knitwear Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy 2000-2004, which will be applicable for the years 2000-2004, has been notified on 12.11.1999. The salient features of this Policy are:

(i) The system of allotment will be as follows:

System of Allotment	% age of Annual Level (2000-2004)	% age of Pre-sent Policy (1997-1999)
Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) System (Out of which HVE)	70% (5%)	75% 5%
New Investors Entitlement (NIE) System	15%	10%
Non Quota Entitlement (NQE) System	5%	5%
First Come First Served (FCFS) Entitlement System	10%	10%

(ii) The New Investors Entitlement (NIE) System has been linked to Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs). Further, it has been made non-transferable.

(iii) The new policy is introducing the concept of the periodic utilisation. The allotments under various systems except FCFS, under the new policy, will be made in two parts. The allotments of the first part will have to be utilised by 31st May, however, with a relaxation that the shipment can be effected by 20th of June. The quotas which are not utilised by this date will lapse.

(iv) In case of apparel exports, the transfers can be effected only through Electronic Transfer System (ETS).

(v) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) system has been retained to encourage exports to non-quota countries and non-quota goods to quota countries.

(d) The Policy is expected to

(i) result into better utilisation of quotas and thus better realisation,

(ii) encourage new investment in garments sector and this would result into greater employment generations,

(iii) encourage exports of high value garments.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Ltd. Kanpur, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 602/99]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Textile Corporation Ltd. New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 603/99]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central for Development Economics at the Delhi School of Economics for the year 1998-99.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central for Development Economics at the Delhi School of Economics for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding review by the Government of the working of the Central for Development Economics at the Delhi School of Economics of the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 604/99]

(2) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Research, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 605/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of

section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 606/99]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Calcutta, of the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Calcutta for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 607/99]

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 608/99]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 609/99]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Bihar Udyog Nigam Limited, Calcutta for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Calcutta for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 610/99]

(f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 611/99]

(g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 612/99]

(h) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 613/99]

(i) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Leather Corporation Limited, Agra for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Leather Corporation Limited, Agra for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 614/99]

(j) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 615/99]

(k) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Durgapur for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 616/99]

(l) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) For statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) to (d) of item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 617/99]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, and the Ministry of Industry, Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 618/99]

(4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, and the Ministry of Industry, Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 619/99]

(5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Cables Limited and the Ministry of Industry, Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 620/99]

(6) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 621/99]

- (7) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Calcutta and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 622/99]

- (8) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited, and the Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 623/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972:

- (i) The General Insurance (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 461(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 1999.
- (ii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Supervisory Clerical and Subordinate Staff) Amendment Scheme, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 694(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 1999.
- (iii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Officers) Amendment Scheme, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 695(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 624/99]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section of 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:

- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Employees) Pension (Third Amendment) Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 349 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 1999.

- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 443 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 1999.

- (iii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 444 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 1999 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 584(E) dated the 10th August, 1999.

- (iv) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 611(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 1999.

- (v) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class I Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 612(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 625/99]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:

- (i) The Consumer Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 494 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1999, together with an explanatory memorandum thereto.

- (ii) The Central Excise (Eighteenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 775 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 1999, together with an explanatory memorandum thereto.

- (iii) The Central Excise (Twentieth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 790 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 1999, together with an explanatory memorandum thereto.

- (iv) The Ad-hoc exemption order No. 77/3/99-Cx dated the 2nd November, 1999, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to all excisable goods donated or purchased out of cash donations, for charitable purpose in relation to the relief

and rehabilitation of the people affected by the cyclone in the State of Orissa.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 626/99]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income tax Act, 1961:

- (i) The Income-tax (Thirty-first Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 1150 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1999.
- (ii) The Income-tax (32nd Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 1151 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1999.

- (5) A copy of the results of the Twenty Ninth Valuation of the Life Insurance Corporation of India on the year ended the 31st March, 1999 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 627/99]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:

- (i) G.S.R. 751 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in certain Notifications mentioned therein.
- (ii) G.S.R. 752 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in certain Notification No. 29/97-Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.
- (iii) G.S.R. 759 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in certain Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 628/99]

- (7) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Bank of the year ended on the 31st March, 1999, together with Auditor's Report thereon:

- (i) Gaur Gramin Bank, Malda (West Bengal)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 629/99]

- (ii) Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank, Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 630/99]

- (iii) Howrah Gramin Bank, Howrah (West Bengal)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 631/99]

- (iv) Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Murshidabad (West Bengal)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 632/99]

- (v) Chhatrasal Gramin Bank, Orai (U.P.)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 633/99]

- (vi) Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank, Mainpuri (U.P.)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 634/99]

- (vii) Sagar Gramin Bank, Kolkatta (West Bengal)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 635/99]

- (viii) Srirama Grameena Bank, Nizamabad (Andhra Pradesh)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 636/99]

- (ix) Sangameshwara Grameena Bank, Mahbubnagar (Andhra Pradesh)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 637/99]

- (x) Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank, Nalbari (Assam)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 638/99]

- (xi) Chaitanya Grameena Bank, Tenali (Andhra Pradesh)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 639/99]

- (xii) Mayurakshi Gramin Bank Birbhum (West Bengal)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 640/99]

- (xiii) Nagaland Rural Bank, Kohima (Nagaland)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 641/99]

- (8) A copy of the Consolidated Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of 196 Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 642/99]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906 :

- (i) The Coinage (Standard weight and remedy of commemorative coins of One hundred rupees (containing silver 50% copper 4% nickel 5% and Zinc 5%), fifty rupees, and two rupees (containing copper 75% and nickel 25%), coined in the memory of "CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI" , Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 451(E) in Gazette of India dated 22nd June, 1999.
- (ii) The Coinage (Standard Weight and remedy of commemorative coins) of the Fifty rupees (containing silver 50% copper 40% nickel 5% and Zinc 5%), Two rupees (containing copper 75% and nickel 25%), coined to commemorate the occasion of "Golden Jubilee of Supreme Court" , Rule, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 783(E) in Gazette of India dated 22nd November, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 643/99]

(10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938 :

- (i) The Redressal of Public Grievances Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 670 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 1998.
- (ii) G.S.R. 448(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 1999 making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 670(E) dated the 11th November, 1998.
- (iii) The Redressal of Public Grievances (Amendment) Rules, 1998, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 752(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 644/99]

(11) A copy each of the Notification from SO. 802(E) to S.O. 997(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1999, containing 196 Regional Rural Banks (Meetings of Boards) Rules, 1999 under sub-section (3) of section 29 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 645/99]

(12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:

- (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Institutional Investors) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 263(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 1999.
- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Depositories and participants) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 357(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 1999.
- (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Stock Brokers and Sub-Brokers) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 541(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th July 1999.
- (iv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Depositories and Participants) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 546(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7, July, 1999.
- (v) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Institutional Investors) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 688(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 1999.
- (vi) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Third Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 775(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1999.
- (vii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Buy-back of Securities) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 776(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1999.
- (viii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Debenture Trustees) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 795(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1999.
- (ix) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Registrar to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 796(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1999.

(x) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Underwriter) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 797(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1999.

(xi) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Portfolio Managers) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 798(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1999.

(xii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Merchant Bankers) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 799(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1999.

(xiii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Bankers to an Issue) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 800(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1999.

(xiv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulation, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 1035(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th October, 1999.

(xv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Stock Brokers and sub-Brokers) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 1078(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 646/99]

(13) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Housing Bank for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 40 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

(14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 647/99]

(15) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on Trend and Progress of Housing in India for the year ended June, 1998 under section 42 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

(16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 648/99]

(17) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India- Union Government (Civil)- Performance Appraisals (No. 3 of 1999) for the year ended the March, 1998 under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 649/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 650/99]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 651/99]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 652/99]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 653/99]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (d) of item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 654/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 655/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Plastics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Plastic Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 656/99]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 657/99]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 658/99]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 659/99]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 660/99]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 661/99]

- (13) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the India, Trade Promotion Organisation and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 662/99]

- (14) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 663/99]

- (15) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 664/99]

- (16) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the PEC Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 665/99]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1998-99 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 666/99]

- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Cochin, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Cochin, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 667/99]

- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 668/99]

- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 669/99]

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 670/99]

- (22) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

- (23) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (22) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 671/99]

- (24) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) of the General Fund Accounts of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

- (25) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (24) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 672/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):
Sir, on behalf of Dr. Raman, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Fortieth Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Controller General of Patents, Design and Trade Marks, for the year 1998-99, under section 128 of the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 673/99]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English version) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 674/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English version) by the Government of the working of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 675/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, for the year 1998-99.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 676/99]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Man Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Working of the Man Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 677/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Silk & Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Silk & Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 678/99]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Working of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 679/99]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 680/99]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 1997-98.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 681/99]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 682/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of India, the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Indore, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Saurashtra and State Bank of Travancore for the year 1998-99, alongwith audited Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1995 and Sub-Section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, respectively.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 683/99]

- (2) A copy each of the following Annual Report (Hindi and English version) under sub-section(8) of section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :

- (i) Report on the working and activities of the Andhra Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 684/99]

- (ii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Baroda for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 685/99]

- (iii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of India for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 686/99]

- (iv) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Maharashtra for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 687/99]

- (v) Report on the working and activities of the Canara Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 688/99]

- (vi) Report on the working and activities of the Central Bank of India for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 689/99]

- (vii) Report on the working and activities of the Corporation Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 690/99]

- (viii) Report on the working and activities of the Dena Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 691/99]

- (ix) Report on the working and activities of the Indian Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 692/99]

- (x) Report on the working and activities of the Indian Overseas Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 693/99]

- (xi) Report on the working and activities of the Oriental Bank of Commerce for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 694/99]

- (xii) Report on the working and activities of the Punjab National Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 695/99]

- (xiii) Report on the working and activities of the Punjab and Sind Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 696/99]

- (xiv) Report on the working and activities of the Syndicate Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 697/99]

- (xv) Report on the working and activities of the United Bank of India for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 698/99]

- (xvi) Report on the working and activities of the Union Bank of India for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 699/99]

- (xvii) Report on the working and activities of the UCO Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 700/99]

- (xviii) Report on the working and activities of the Vijaya Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 701/99]

- (xix) Report on the working and activities of the Allahabad Bank for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed on Library. See LT 702/99]

- (3) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation for the year ended the 31st March, 1999, under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 703/99]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palghat for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palghat, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 704/99]

12.4 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the

Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th December, 1999 agreed without any amendment to the Foreign Exchange Management Bill, 1999 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd December, 1999."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up item No. 12, Statement by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pramod Mahajan.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, he is not here. Is it the way to take the House everyday?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Where is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs?

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now he has come.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I am very sorry about this... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You do not know the decorum of the House... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has already expressed his regret.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I have already said that I am very much sorry about it... (Interruptions). There is no ego as far as the House is concerned.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the Statement by the Minister.

12.05 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, 13th December, 1999 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1999-2000.
3. Consideration and passing of:
 - (a) The National Trust for Welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental

Retardation and Multiple Disability Bill, 1999.

- (b) The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999.
 - (c) The Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1999.
 - (d) The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Protection Bill, 1999.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:
- (a) The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Bill, 1999.
 - (b) The Designs (Amendment) Bill, 1999.
 - (c) The Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1999.
 - (d) The Trade Marks Bill, 1999.
5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha:
- (a) The Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1999.
 - (b) The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1999.
 - (c) The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : What about the Women's Reservation Bill? When is it coming up before the House? Women Members say that parties should take up this issue. When will the Women's Reservation Bill come? It is not being given priority. I urge upon the Government to say what is their priority on Women's Reservation Bill. In the President's Address priority was fixed on Lokpal Bill, Electoral Reforms Bill and Women's Reservation Bill.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Please listen to me. Shri Rudy, please do not be rude to me. He has given the details of the Statement for the next week and as usual, as you all know, Submission must have been made by Members. There are as many as ten Member who have given Submissions to include their items for the next week. I will call those Members who have given the Submissions. If you stand up like this, it will be disturbing.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : When are you counting the Zero Hour? Submissions are taken up after the Zero Hour.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Will you resume your seat? I will not allow you to speak. Things are to be moved according to the procedure laid down by this House. I am only conducting the business of the House. He has made the statement as per the programme. If you have to make any suggestion, you will have to make it according to rules. You will have to give notice for Submissions to include the items for the next week. That is what I said. Ten Members have given notices for makings their Submissions. I think it is very clear now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : With all respect to you, Submissions which they feel are important are made by Members as per their established traditions of the House. But, Members of the Treasury Benches have assured the nation in the Address of the President that the priority of the Government is to bring the Women's Resevation Bill. The second week of the current session gets over today. But the Government is not coming forward with a statement as to when they are likely to introduce the Bill. Is it that they depend on the Submissions of the Members?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I too have a submission... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not Zero Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, public opinion should be mobilised before bringing the Women's Reservation Bill ... (Interruptions). The Bill should not be brought in this manner... (Interruptions). No controversial Bill should come... (Interruptions). The Bill should be brought only after mobilising public opinion... (Interruptions) We too have right to speak... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You cannot rise just like this.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: They cannot rise just like this.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No body is allowed to rise.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: If they speak, we too will speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will not allow this. Shri Mandal, please resume your seat. It is still not clear. I have said that only for the next week the programme has been announced.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, this is a very important point. This issue of women's reservation and empowering women has been agitating the minds of the people for a very long time. The Government also, as my colleague has pointed out, has mentioned in the President's Address that this is going to be one of the priority items on its agenda. At least the Minister can tell us as to what is the intention of the Government. He can clarify the Government's position. Is he going to bring it in this session?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. For the next week items are going to be included. You could have given the items.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: At least he can give us some idea about it. We would like to know this from the Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You could have suggested this in the Business Advisory Committee meeting. In the Submissions also, it is not there.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: This is a very important issue. At least the Government should tell us this much.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not make it a Zero Hour now.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: As far as the Women's Reservation Bill is concerned, what is the intention of the Government. Please let us know about this. Are they going to make the speech of the Rashtrapati meaningless? They say something, but what are they doing? They are making it absolutely meaningless. They have put it in the speech of the Rashtrapati. They must come up with what they have mentioned there.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I would strongly object to it. Our Submissions are waiting. If they wanted their Submission to be included in the business of the House, they should have got up early, given a notice, so that it could have been included and they could have presented it. How can it go on like this?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We should know what they are going to do with the Women's Reservation Bill. Please do not make the speech of the Rashtrapati meaningless. After all, you are giving priority to certain areas. Let us know your intentions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister wants to say something.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, I have given the floor to Shri Pramod Mahajan.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on one hand, you permit the Members of other side then why don't you listen to us too?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You withdraw that word. I take it seriously. Did I discriminate against you? I will not tolerate this. I want you to withdraw that word.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: How can I withdraw without saying something... (Interruptions) I have not uttered anything to hurt your feelings. I withdraw it if your feelings are hurt. But I want to say one thing.. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are a senior member. I allowed the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and you have stood up. Is this the right track.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I wanted to express my views on the same subject on which the hon. Minister was to speak. Therefore I wish that you listen to me also before the hon. Minister speaks. I want to say only one thing that public opinion should be mobilised before bringing and disputed bill in the House. The Women's Reservation Bill should not be brought in the House without mobilising public opinion as this is a disputed bill... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not allowing this. I am not going to make this as a Zero Hour. Please resume your seat.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): We, Members of the Trinamool Congress, are also for the introduction of the Women's Reservation Bill in this session.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra): The Women's Reservation Bill should be introduced.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad): From TDP also we would urge upon the Government to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill in the current session itself.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I cannot convert it into a Zero Hour. He has raised a point and the Minister is replying. We are not going to ascertain opinions of different parties now.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is committed to move the Women's Reservation Bill. We are also committed to whatever is contained in the President's Address. Therefore, I will decide the date for introducing the Bill after discussing it with the Hon. Prime Minister as two weeks are still left before the Session concludes. But there is no difference of opinion in the Government towards it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah. Please do not make a statement. Just mention the subject. That is all.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have got the written text. I am reading it.

I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Jute Industry is facing serious problems in the country. Many Jute Mills were closed and thousands of workers lost jobs. The sick Jute Mills are not revived by utilizing Jute Development Fund as promised by the Government. A large number of cases are pending with BIFR. The Textile Ministry should come out with proper package to revitalise the industry.
2. There is wide apprehension due to some announcement by some officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding entry of foreign capital participation in the Indian Print Media. Shri Arun Jaitley is here. I would like to draw his attention to this. This is a serious matter and it must be discussed in details in the House.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, kindly include the following items in the List of Business for the coming week:

1. Need to get Ajmer and Pushkar- the places of Historic and religions tourism importance- significantly placed on the national and global tourist map.

2. Need to complete the construction of high power T.V. relay centre at Taragarh hill at Ajmer and get it commissioned at the earliest.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, kindly include the following items in the List of Business for the coming week :

1. Nationalised Bank while advancing loans to the farmers under Credit Card Scheme indulge in dilly dallying tactics, therefore, a monitoring committee should be constituted in order to mitigate difficulties being faced by the farmers.
2. Bilaspur district in Madhya Pradesh is very rich in medicinal herbs. Villagers fail to derive and benefit due to ignorance and traders are selling these herbs illegally. It should be checked and a research centre should be set up for the benefit of the villagers.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The proposed Lottery Ban should not be made compulsory for all the States as that will cause unemployment to many and loss of revenue to the States. The States like Kerala should be exempted. So, this should be discussed.
2. Reservation for economically backward people without reducing the benefits of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs. This should also be discussed.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. To discuss high level pollution in the Metro Cities causing great damage to human health, especially those of school going age and to take steps to create international awareness on environmental issues, including it in the curriculum of schools and universities, associating all classes of society with special emphasis on participation of women.
2. To discuss the need to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, wherein there is a need to redefine the definition of the word "Workmen" as today even the highest and senior employees claim rights as "Workmen" thereby diluting the basic theory of protection of workmen's rights.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Urgent need for reconsidering the decision of limiting the scope of the T.D.P.S (Targeted Public Distribution System).
2. The various problems faced by the Indian people working in the Gulf countries.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to discuss the present education system which is not relevant to the needs of the present day society and urge upon the Government to bring about suitable reforms therein so as to make it employment oriented.
2. Need to discuss the pitiable condition of labourers in the country in general and the unorganised labourers in particular and urge upon the Government to formulate a new Labour Policy with a view to providing opportunities for round the year employment to all labourers.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Train Facility.
2. Telephone facility in rural area.

[English]

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN (Periyakulam) : Sir, I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

I May be permitted to make a submission on the escalation of prices particularly of essential commodities in the country and its adverse effect mostly on the common man.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

A project of ONGC is being implemented in Mahsana district of Gujarat. Tubewells had been board to make water available for the residents of this area. In ONGC's project, explosives are used for blasting the wells for

producing crude oil, which results in continuous drying up of the tubewells in the adjoining areas. Till date no compensation has been paid to the residents of this area by ONGC.

Therefore, I request the Government to instruct the ONGC to give financial help as a way of compensation to the people affected by this project, so that the water problem of this area can be solved.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no 'Zero Hour' today. Now, we will go to item No. 13.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I gave a notice to the hon. Speaker yesterday on a very important matter... (Interruptions) I would like to bring it to your notice. Therefore, I request you to allow me about this matter.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no 'Zero Hour' today. We will go back to 'Legislative Business'.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, I raised a privilege motion.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have already taken a decision about the 'Zero Hour'.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Urgent business is there. Now, we take up item No. 13.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, this is the most important matter. I gave a notice in a morning. ... (Interruptions) It is a very important matter. It has been reported both in the Indian media and Pakistani media.... (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I have given a notice. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me make an observation regarding the notice given by Dr. Malhotra.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please sit down?

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri, Mohan, please resume your seat. I have to make an observation.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Both of you, please resume your seats.

12.22 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER RE. QUESTION ON PRIVILEGE

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have gone through the notice of question of privilege dated 9 December 1999 given by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, MP against Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, MP for having deliberately misled the House. Shri Malhotra has contended in his notice of question of privilege that Shri S. Jaipal Reddy while speaking in the House on 8 December 1999 had stated that "In the last 50 years on Minister ever held the post if he was charge-sheeted."

On going through the relevant Lok Sabha debates, I find that the actual words used by Shri S. Jaipal Reddy were as follows:

"... I would like the hon. Prime Minister to tell us whether, in his knowledge, a single person facing chargesheet anywhere in the country was allowed to remain a Minister in the last 50 years..."

It would be seen from above that Shri S. Jaipal Reddy merely put forth a poser to the Prime Minister and did not make any categorical statement as alleged by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

Hence the contention of Shri Malhotra that Shri Reddy made an untrue statement in the House and sought to deliberately mislead the House does not hold good. Therefore, no privilege issue against Shri Reddy can be said to be made out.

I, therefore, withhold my consent to the notice of question of privilege given by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

[*Translation*]

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the question put up implies that during the last 50 years nothing of this sort happened in the country. Mrs. Gandhi was a chargesheeted person at the time of taking oath in 1980... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, 'Zero Hour' will have to be confined up to 1 o'clock.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Paighat) : Sir, I have given a notice... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I have also given a notice... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, that is true. But does that matter that I call you first? Shri Dasmunsi has given a notice and his name is first in the list. Am I not to call him first?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, on 13th of October, the day hon. Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee assumed the office, I wrote him a letter first congratulating him followed by asking him, 'Hon. Prime Minister may kindly provide the information since the name of PMO has been dragged in some news reports pertaining to sugar import from Pakistan.'

Unfortunately, I was not favoured with a reply. Immediately after that, on 9th November, I wrote a further letter to hon. Prime Minister asking, 'kindly apprise me the position involving the name of PMO and involving the name of ISI on sugar import'. I am grateful to the Prime Minister that at least he has acknowledged it on November 16th saying, 'I have received your letter dated November 9 regarding sugar import.'

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, two days before, most of the leading dailies of Pakistan, I quote 'Din'. Which was reproduced in *The Times of India*, on the 8th December, 'that the sugar import issue is now becoming a major issue not in India, but also in Pakistan.'

12.28 hrs.

[*MR. SPEAKER in the Chair*]

There are two contradictory reports. Report one is that there is a confessional statement by the son of the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharief, 'Yes, he did this and he did it with India.' The other is, his daughter says, 'that it is not true'. I am not going to cast aspersions on those people who are much more sufferings in Pakistan, I am not at all on that subject.

I am on the issue whether on such a serious matter which has been debated and reported in print and electronic media for a number of months for which I have drawn the attention of the hon. Leader of this House and who has acknowledged the document, but not replied in negative or positive manner, the Government does not consider it important Government to spell it out? I would like to place it on record that the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Kalyan Singh, led a deputation, as Chief Minister, to the hon. Prime Minister that such kind of sugar import might cost heavily to the farmers of this country. He had reiterated his view, while he was in the Office of Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. I do not know whether he would agree to this now.

In that situation, throughout the country, not only the farming community but also the people in general are feeling that something wrong was there in this whole deal. The name of ISI was taken; the name of PMO was taken; and this deals was made in such a scandalous manner as reported in the media.... *(Interruptions)* This is not my allegation. Sir, I am very much within my rights to demand from this Government.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is with regard to import of wheat.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I am coming to that.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I have a serious objection.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I am on my legs. Let him reply after I complete. I am not making any allegation.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am not replying. I am talking to the Speaker.... *(Interruptions)* Sir, what is the use of giving a notice? He has to raise the subject which you have permitted. He has to raise the issue about wheat import and not sugar import... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can he reply before I have completed? This is not proper. Sir, you have to protect me and allow me to express my views.... *(Interruptions)* I am not levelling any allegation against the Prime Minister or against PMO or against the Government. I want to ascertain the facts from the Government.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I only want him to submit what he has written in his notice... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I have written that.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: He cannot speak on sugar or textiles or whatever he wants. This should not be allowed. Otherwise, Member will give a notice on one subject and speak on another.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If I discuss about sugar, is it objectionable? If I discuss about import of sugar, is it unparliamentary?... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, please confine to wheat import.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I am confining to that. I may e allowed to speak. My contention is that such a serious matter has been reported both in the Indian media and Pakistan media. ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, it is highly objectionable.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What is objectionable that I am talking? When the very Office of the Prime Minister has been dragged by the print media both in Pakistan and in our country, I wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister asking for the information, under what circumstances sugar had been imported and through whom;... *(Interruptions)* Is it unfair on my part?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, you have to speak about wheat import and not about sugar import.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I have mentioned about sugar and wheat in my notice. I do not understand why this is being done. I read my notice. It says:

"The Sugar import by the previous Government and the wheat import caused lot of concerns to our countrymen. Several media have reported gross amount of irregularities in such deals. It would be most appropriate that the Government make a statement in this regard immediately; the matter had been taken up twice by our Deputy Leader, Shri Madhavrao Scindia but there was no response. In so far import of sugar is concerned, we are equally anxious to know about the position in this regard."

Am I wrong? What wrong have I done? I wanted to know the Government's position in this regard. I asked the Government to clarify under what circumstances they had imported sugar. Who were the importers? Who exported it from Pakistan? All these details can be placed on the Table of the House in order to take the House into confidence. That is what I have demanded. Is it unfair on my part to do that?

The Prime Minister acknowledged my letter on the 16th November. Today it is 10th December. I have not been favoured with response. So, I take this course to raise it in the House, through you, Sir. If the Government has the sincerity of purpose, let it come out on Monday with a statement and say whether what has been reported in the media of Pakistan and India is totally false and also whether the apprehension expressed by Shri Kalyan Singh, the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, is correct or not. That is all.

Sir, let the Government respond to this. Sir, yesterday also, they did not respond to the matter pertaining to Mattoo but in the newspaper I find that Shri Advani has gone through the judgement and said something. Today also they are not responding. How do they run the House in this manner? What kind of cooperation do they expect from us if they keep quiet when the vital issues are taken up by the Opposition?

Mr. Speaker, Sir the Government must respond and make a statement in this regard.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, the Government has already imposed import duty on wheat. It will come before the House... *(Interruptions)* Do you not want me to complete?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have not said about that.

MR. SPEAKER: No disturbance, please.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, through the Office, I have got only a notice on wheat. I do not have a notice on sugar.

About wheat, the Government has already imposed 50 per cent duty, which will come for the sanction of this House in a week or two; the Members can discuss that and the Finance Minister will reply.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Krishnadas.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have to protect me. The Government should say whether they are prepared to make a statement on sugar import in this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can they keep quiet? Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is the Prime Minister's acknowledgment. The Prime Minister has acknowledged. Now, you have to come with the facts.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pramod Mahajan, there are two things also - sugar and wheat.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I can only give reply on things which have been supplied to me. I do not know about sugar. How can I, on the spot, answer that?

MR. SPEAKER: In the letter, he has mentioned both sugar and wheat.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: No letter has been sent to me.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I cannot send letter to him. I can send a letter to you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, by way to notice. How can I send letter to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House will have to come to some conclusion that all the allegations in the newspapers have been accepted by the Government unless they come out with the facts.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If they take time to verify the files, I can wait. But let them come out with this that they will make a statement in the House on sugar import.... *(Interruptions)* No, Mr. Speaker, Sir, on such matters, this kind of ominous silence of the Government provokes me. I do not want to yield. The Government must react whether they are going to make a statement in the House or not.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA: If they do not deny it, then it is a matter of accepting all the allegations that they are correct.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is not my allegation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has already replied. I think the Finance Minister is going to reply. He has already said that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has replies on wheat import only. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we deserve at least this much minimum protection from the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: What he has said is that the House is going to discuss the import of wheat also. At that time, you can raise it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if they discuss, let us discuss about sugar also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, at that time, you can mention that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How, can I mention? The Government should make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: At present, he has agreed that the Finance Minister is going to reply on the import of wheat and he has already said that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It should be both wheat and sugar together. Mr. Speaker, Sir, let it go on record.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No.

MR. SPEAKER: There are 40 Members in the List. What is this?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: My question is very specific, whether, on such allegations, the Government should clarify their position through a statement on sugar or not. I have demanded nothing more. Why is the Government keeping quiet?... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, when this debate comes up, it will be wheat, sugar and everything. Everything will be answered.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, this is a matter regarding the expansion and development works of the Department of Telecommunications in Kerala circle. It is facing a very serious problem due to the shortage of staff and casual workers. Sir, a total ban on recruitment of regular staff and casual workers has been imposed in the Department of Telecommunications for the last several years. Now, the developmental and maintenance works are being done by engaging hired labourers. This is only for 30 days at a time and is limited to 100 days in a year. If the order by the DoT to limit hired labourers only for 100 days in a year is not further modified or relaxed, the existing thousands of experienced workers will be thrown out very shortly after the completion of the 100 days. This will adversely affect the developmental works of Kerala Circle of the Department of Telecommunications. So, I would like to request the Ministry of Telecommunications to intervene immediately to withdraw the restriction on the limit of 100 days casual employment in a year, and allow the existing workers to continue. Otherwise, all the ongoing developmental works in Kerala will be in a standstill. So, I urge upon the Government to intervene in this matter immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Katihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, R.B.H.M. Jute Mills, Katihar is the only jute mill in Bihar. Due to mismanagement it has been closed down. Today, I want to draw the attention of the House for its revival. This matter pertains to the Ministries of Finance and Textiles. It is also the matter of mismanagement. Katihar Jute Mill is popularly known as RGMC Jute Mill. It is an undertaking of the Government of India and its management is in the hands of NGMC, Calcutta, which treats it in a step-motherly manner. Among the two items which the JCI can give for its revival, there is an option that it may make purchases, which could be supplied from Calcutta. My submission is that :

[English]

- (1) Jute Supply should be from JCI only and not from a private party.
- (2) There should be a strong administration on which the responsibility can be fixed for low production.
- (3) There should be experienced persons on production side.
- (4) There should be modernisation of machinery with immediate effect.

The only one nationalised unit is R.B.H.M. in North Bihar for employment in this area... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Choudhary, you cannot read out the entire thing during Zero Hour. Please understand that. Zero Hour is not meant for reading out the entire thing.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Sir, the existence of this mill is very much essential so that the feelings of the people of this area are attended to and the bread and butter problem of 30,000 people is taken care of.

In 1990-91, Rs. five crore had been allocated to this unit by the India Government but still it could not run efficiently because of the stereotype and corrupt administration. Therefore, I would request you to have a look at the above mentioned problems and take remedial measures to rehabilitate the families which have been affected by the closure of the R.B.H.M. Jute Mills.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bundelkand is a very backward area of Madhya Pradesh with immense possibilities for the development of tourism. There is Sarang temple, Mukhnath, Sidhanath, Pandav water falls and many other places which can be developed from the tourism point of view. In addition to Kalinjar, Khajuraho and Orchha, there are many other picturesque places like Nainigiri, Kundalpur, Bandharpur, Bhimkund and Jata Shankar which can be connected from Jabalpur to Chitrakut and from Orchha to Chitrakut by developing transportation links in this backward areas from the point of view of promotion of tourism. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through the submission in the Zero Hour. I want to put forth the point that facilities for promotion of tourism should be provided for the around development of this area.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am raising a point which is of vital importance so far as the Centre-State relations are concerned. There is a recent move by the Central Government. If I remember correct, the hon. Minister, Shri Dhananjaya Kumar had made a statement to the effect that hereafter the Centrally-sponsored funds will be directed to the Panchayats, over and above the State Governments. This will adversely affect the Centre-State relations. We have introduced three-tier system in the Panchayati Raj, by amending the Constitution. When we are doing a very good work in that direction, it is quite improper and abnormal on the part of the Government to send the Central funds direct to the Panchayats.

This is questioning or challenging the integrity, sincerity and even the honesty of the State Government. I hope that all the State Governments will be opposed to the principle. All funds, whether Central or State, should

be directed through the State Government to the Panchayats. I would like to bring this matter to the attention of the Government and they may clarify their position as to whether the statement of the hon. Minister Shri Dhananjay Kumar is correct and if so it has to be rectified. All the funds should be directed through the State Government.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): There are no two opinions about it.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal), (Bijapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak for the first time. The Central Government on 26.11.99 filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court in the matter of dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka regarding the height of Almatti Dam... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member may please understand that the matter is already in the Supreme Court. You cannot raise the matter here. The matter is pending in the Supreme Court.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): He is a new Member.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not matter whether he is a new Member or an old Member.

[English]

You cannot raise such kind of matters in the House. The matter is *sub judice*.

[Translation]

SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal): I would only like to know from the Central Government whether, it is impartial towards the Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh or not? In Karnataka, demonstrations are on regarding Krishna river and people are planning the Bhartiya Janta Party. I would like to know the viewpoint of the Central Government in this regard. That is, why all I want to know through you.

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Respected Sir, a large area in the State of Maharashtra covering almost 13 districts has shown alarming decline in the ground water level during the last decade. The groundwater authorities have warned that immediate corrective measures should be taken to arrest further decline in the levels. The most bothering fact is that the trends of the last decade suggest that the overall area of water decline is expanding over the years.

The status of groundwater in the State at the end of the year 1998 has been brought out in detail by the Central Ground Water Board, in its report titled "Trends of Ground Water Levels in Maharashtra and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli". The reports point out that water level decline has been noticed in large areas extending from Amravati to Buldana, a large area around Jalgaon and a moderately large area around Aurangabad and Jalna. Few isolated spots in Nagpur district including Kondhali, Satnawari and Nayakund on Amravati Road have shown a noticeable decline.

The water level decline in majority of these areas have been recorded at 0.2 meters per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Muttemwar, please understand that there are other Members. You can say the substance.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Sir, this is a serious matter.... (Interruptions) It means that the water levels have gone down by approximately two meters during the decade. In some of the areas the water level decline rate is more than 0.4 per cent per year.

I, therefore, urge the Union Government to take urgent and necessary measures to arrest further decline in the water levels and also take immediate necessary measures suggested by the Central Ground Water Board.

Thank you.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple is the symbol of national unity, secularism as well as fraternity. Lakhs and lakhs of devotees and pilgrims are visiting this temple. Hon. Speaker, Sir, you are also coming for this pilgrimage. Moreover, lakhs and lakhs of people from your State, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country are visiting this temple.

Unfortunately, in January this year, because of the heavy rush in the Sabarimala Hills, a tragedy occurred as there were some human casualties. Since then the Travancore Devaswom Board is urging the Central Government to give 30 hectares of forest lands to the State Government so that they can make proper arrangements for the pilgrims who are coming from different parts of the country.

Just like the Vaishno Devi Shrine, now Sabarimala is very famous all over the country. At Vaishno Devi Shrine, there are proper arrangements made by the State Government as well as Central Government. There is no arrangement made by the Central Government or the State Government for the lakhs and lakhs of people who are coming for *makarivilakku* and *mandalpuja* at Sabarimala. The Travancore Devaswom Board and the

State Government of Kerala requested the Forest Department of the Centre to give more land so that they can provide more facilities to the pilgrims who are coming from different parts of the country.

More trains should also be started from Andhra Pradesh. There is only one train coming from Vijayawada to Changanur. From Karnataka also, there is only one train. Since these trains are over-crowded, more special trains are needed for the pilgrims. So, I request the Railways to provide more trains in this season. Also, Changanur is nearest halting point for the pilgrims to pampa for the people who are coming from other parts of the country. So, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to make certain provisions for extending facilities for the pilgrims at Changanur also.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Sir, I am also supporting it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rawale is also associating.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I request the hon. Speaker to call both the Minister and have detailed discussion on this because last time, there took place a human tragedy and a lot of people from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh died. So, I request the hon. Speaker to call the Minister of Environment and Forest as well as the Minister of Railways and have a meeting with them for extending facilities for the pilgrimage. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, I have visited that place. It always remains overcrowded. All these facilities should be provided there.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I would also like to associate myself.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rawale and Shri Thomas are associating with it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I would also like to supplement. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. You can associate with him. There are other Members also.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, this is a pilgrimage which is growing just like Tirupati and crores of people are coming here. There is absolutely no place for the lot of pilgrims who are coming here. So, some kind of protection should be provided to them.

MR. SPEAKER: It is already said.

Shri K. Muralaeddharan.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut) : Mr. Speaker Sir, an important news appeared in Malayalam newspapers last week that the Central Government proposes to withdraw subsidised sugar distribution through Public Distribution System. This decision was once implemented, if my memory is correct, in 1997 when the UF Government was in power. I would submit that it would severely affect lakhs of people of poor sections of the society, particularly in the State of Kerala.

The statutory rationing of substances to help the poor in support of their Fundamental Right is adequately guaranteed in the Indian Constitution itself. This move would also affect more than 14,000 ration shops in the State of Kerala. As this august House is well aware that sugar falls among the essential commodities and taking into account the very basic requirement, especially of the poorest of the poor in the society, the Centre should reconsider this proposal as it would go against the policy of the welfare State and also the Fundamental Right of the affected sections of the society.

If the Government is stopping the levy sugar system, the State Government will have to purchase sugar directly from the sugar factories. So, the price of sugar will be increased. Therefore, my humble request is that the present Public Distribution System should continue, especially in the State of Kerala.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the case regarding all India tour by the labourers of Bharat Coal Limited and Central Coalfield Limited for the block year 1994-1999 is pending which involves an expenditure of about Rs. 40 crore. Local management did not pay amount by showing paucity of funds while labourers are being sanctioned leave for this purpose without paying any amount.

Therefore, I request that outstanding amount for all India tour may be paid to the labourers as early as possible and the practice of going on all India tour by the Labourers on their own expense be stopped. Labourers may be allowed to go on this tour only after releasing the funds.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Central Government have launched so many schemes for rural development out of them Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Employment Assurance Scheme and

Indira Awas Yojna are the main schemes and funds for these schemes is released by the Central Government directly to the State Government. That is why irregularities are committed by State Governments and district administration on large scale and no attention is paid to the recommendations of the local MPs. Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that such arrangement be made under which 50 per cent participation of the local MPs be ensured in the developmental works being undertaken by the funds released for the above centrally sponsored schemes and in remaining 50 per cent works, participation of local MLAs and autonomous bodies may be made compulsory.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshetra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 80 per cent people of India depend upon agriculture but unfortunately, even after 52 years of Independence basic facilities have not been provided to the agricultural sector in our country. Mr. Speaker, Sir, power, water and insecticides... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please understand that under rule 193, we have discussed the farmers' issue at length in the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very important issue in the House. We have adequate sources of power generation and water in our country and if these sources are exploited in time with strong will power, the farmers of India can not only produce sufficient foodgrains for the people of our country but also feed the whole world but the several major projects for thermal plants and dams are lying pending and the five year plans are turning to be 50 years plans due to which basic needs of the farmers are not cater in time. If these projects are completed timely, we can remove poverty and unemployment from our country. As a result of which farmers will get power and water so as to increase their production. The production increases, their purchasing power will also increase. Consequently, they can purchase finished goods of the industry in large quantity, as a result of which our industries will get a boost.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to make humble submission of the hon'ble Minister that big projects of thermal power plants and dams lying pending be completed expeditiously so that farmers can be saved from heavy losses.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am fortunate that Shri Ram Jethmalani is here. This issue is regarding the 1976 amendments carried out to Article 312 under which the responsibility

was fixed on the Government for starting an All-India Judicial Service. More than 20 years have passed and still, we have not implemented the amended portion to the Constitution. We have been making noise that there are many pending cases, and we do not find proper persons to be appointed on the High Court Benches. We have, over the last 40 years, not implemented even Article 340 which, according to me, was due to lack of political will that was necessary for development. It took nearly 40 years. Even in the judiciary, one of the objections I find is that if there is an All-India Judicial Service, then the question of reservation will come into it. So, just to stop reservation, this part of the amended Article 312 is not being implemented. What is necessary is that a simple resolution has to be passed in the Council of States, and once a resolution is passed in the Council of States, the ball will start rolling for creating an All-India Judicial Service. The past Government has not done it. The Minister has been in the limelight and he has been talking about his intention to see that the cases which are pending are reduced. Will he move in that direction, at least, from today onwards? Thank You.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): I am not responsible for 20 years or 40 years delay. But be sure that it will be done within the next few months. The delay is because of the fact that you are in the wrong Party.

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the rest of the names could be considered on Monday. Today, very important legislative business is to be taken up. The Members need not give fresh notices again. Please understand that yesterday also we had covered about sixty Members.

13.01/2 hrs.

VICE-PRESIDENT PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the legislative business.

Hon. Home Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Vice President's Pension Act, 1997".

The Motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 10.12.1999.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 P.M.

1301 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

1408 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at eight minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

INDIAN MAJORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up item No. 14 – Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill, 1999 for consideration and passing.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Majority Act, 1875, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill and the next two Bills are totally non-controversial Bills. In fact, they are very sensible ones. But I must say that the sense is no my contribution. These I have inherited from the previous Governments. They were introduced in 1997. They had been passed by one House but unfortunately they got lapsed. So, they have been re-passed by the Rajya Sabha. I must inform this House that in the Rajya Sabha, with the unanimous cooperation of all the sections of the House, all the three Bills were cleared in 20 minutes. And, I hope, Sir, we will repeat that performance here.

Sir, the first Bill is intended to remove one anomaly which exists from 1875. The age of majority for everybody is 18 except those in respect of whom some court had appointed a guardian either of person or property.

Now, we are seeking to abolish that distinction. The distinction is absolutely meaningless.

In fact, we have given voting rights to everybody at the age of 18. Those who can vote, certainly enter into contracts. I suggest that the anomaly should be removed.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Majority Act, 1875, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. As the hon. Minister has said, it is certainly a sensible piece of legalisation and there was indeed no reason to really have that sort of distinction between citizen and citizen of the country and the amendment is very timely. But, at the same time, I seek this opportunity to say only a very few words and assure the hon. Minister that we would like to complete all the three Bills within the time frame that he has laid down. I would have expected the hon. Minister to be more sensible than the previous Government. I must really appreciate his stand that he would try to have an appraisal of all the Bills that are on the Indian statute book now and try to omit, amend or delete wherever there is the need of making an amendment, so that we have a working law and not an archaic law that presently exists on our statute book. For that reason, I thought this Act could have been really replaced by a new Bill altogether. It is a three Section Bill. Why should we continue to have the Indian Majority Act, 1875 after this amendment by this Bill? It is totally innocuous position and, therefore, I am pointing out this position.

It is stated in Section 2 (c) as follows:

"2. Nothing herein contained shall affect:

(c) the capacity or any person who before this Act came into force has attained majority under the law applicable to him."

That was in 1875. I do not think those people to whom this Clause would apply would be living now. It is not an objection. It is just a suggestion. But certainly without any reservation whatever, we support this Bill because it is not really trying to take credit for that, but when Congress Government was in power, a move was initiated to amend the Constitution and then to amend the Representation of People Act to lower the voting age to 18. Very rightly, as the hon. Minister said, there was some disqualification attached to some youngsters in whose cases, there was some appointment of a guardian by the court. In those cases, age of majority was taken to 21. There was absolutely no need therefore, it is rightly reduced to 18. We support this Bill.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): I support the Bill.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): We fully cooperate. This Bill need not be discussed in this House.

* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: The Bill may now be passed.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a procedure in the House that the Bill should at least be discussed for 20 minutes. Otherwise, there will be a problem.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): The hon. Minister can reply for the rest of the period!

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We have been passing Bills without discussion also.

MR. SPEAKER: We can do it without discussion. But we have already started the discussion. Three Bills are there.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You can very well waive that.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan will now speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting the intention of the legislation, I have to mention certain things which may weigh with the Government.

Why do we not reduce the age of majority of 16 years in the changed situation, especially because of the development in scientific knowledge and scientific processes? We have even increased the retirement age of Judges from 65 years to 68 years. To some extent, we have even increased the age of superannuation to 70 years. In that case, why do we not reduce the age of majority to 16 years? Why should it be 18 years? We will have to consider about this aspect.

In the case of some criminal cases, I hope that the hon. Minister will remember, we give weightage to the age of sixteen years because at that age a man is capable of taking a reasonable decision in certain matters. So, I would suggest that in all matters we have to reduce the age of majority from 18 years to 16 years.

Then, why should we not allow the girls to get married at 16 years of age? Girls aged 16 years are not allowed to marry and the Minority Act will come into play. That is why I suggested that the age of majority should be reduced from 18 years to 16 years.... (Interruptions) It should not be reduced below 16 years because there is already a legal conception that sixteen years is the age where we decide *mens rea*. It is at this age that the mind can decide what is wrong. So, why should we not take into consideration and reduce and age of majority to sixteen and allow girls to get married at sixteen years of age? I would suggest that this may be considered by the Law Minister in proper perspective.

With these words, I support the provisions of the Bill and I wholeheartedly support the Minister to proceed with the passing of the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Sir, the hon. Member has talked about sixteen years of age to be the age of majority. Normally it is otherwise also logical that it should be 'sweet sixteen' and not 'eighteen'.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur): Sir, I would like to submit that the hon'ble Member has proposed to reduce the age of majority to 16 years but at this age a person is not matured. There is a saying in Marathi: "WSalawan Varsha Dhokyaacha", which means the age of sixteen years is very dangerous. At this age, a person is not capable of taking a reasonable decision, therefore, instead of 16 years, the age of 18 years is suitable for majority.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, I support the Indian Majority (Amendment Bill) 1999 moved by the hon'ble Law Minister. It is a matter of glad that this legislation was enacted in 1875 and now after more than one hundred and twenty five years, it is being amended the entire House is unanimous on this matter. In fact, there should be uniformity and certainty in respect of a legislation because these two things are very necessary for a land. When the age of casting vote and for other purposes has been fixed 18 years, the reasons for prescribing the age of 21 years in order to be a guardian to look after the property. The Bill has been brought to remove such distinction. I think that now it is high time that if there is any drawback or uncertainty in the legislation enacted during the Britishers period, it should be amended suitably. Two or three bills have been introduced today, these bills have been brought keeping in view the existing requirements. Our present Government will make amendments in public interest after doing intensive study about laws. I strongly support this bill.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. Of course, there is nothing much to be said about it. But the hon. Member Shri Radhakrishnan has suggested that it should be reduced to 16 years. That should be considered seriously.

As it is, an anomaly does exist when in criminal matters, you do consider 16 years as an age, but I do not know why we should be reluctant to accept this age of 16 here. There are various Bills and various Acts which are in the Statute Book.

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

I understand that nearly 116 of them have been identified for purposes of modification or repeal, etc. A Committee, I believe, was appointed by the Government and they had suggested that 116 of these are to be repealed or modified. I would therefore request the Government that the process of consideration of those Acts which are to be modified or repealed should be expedited; and we should act as speedily as possible in that regard.

I would also like to take this opportunity to point out one more anomaly that exists. It may not be very relevant to this particular Bill, but then the Law Minister is here and he will surely apply his mind to that particular question. He has referred to the age which we have accepted for voting right. He has correctly said that one who attained the age of 18 is entitled to vote. You will remember that earlier the voting age was 21 years. But it was reduced to 18 years. At the same time, one more thing was forgotten; that is, the age of a person to be a Member of this House or of the Legislative Assembly, was kept as 25 years when the voting age was 21 years. When we reduced the voting age from 21 years to 18 years, here also, the age at which a person can contest for Assembly or Lok Sabha should have been accordingly reduced from 25 years to 21 years. That particular aspect can be considered, of course, with the reforms of the Electoral Law. I feel that such anomalies should be removed.

With these words, I support the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganpathi.

We have to continue the debate on these Bills up to 3 o'clock, after which we can take up the Private Members' Business. That is why, I am requesting more hon. Members to participate.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

I rise to support the Bill. I also support the views of the hon. Members who suggested that the age may as well be brought down to 16 years. It would have been even better on certain social cause. In villages, child marriages take place and they start at the ages of 13 or 12. In our social conditions, it is better if it is made as 16 years. But then, the Bill suggests, of course, to reduce it only to 18 years.

The clarification which I would like to seek from the hon. Minister is this. There are suits which are to be filed once a person who is a minor becomes a major. The time period given is three years; that is, once a person becomes a major, he can seek remedy within three years.

If the law is amended, assuming that a person is twenty years old, I would like to know whether that person's right to file a suit is extended upto 23 years or it is restricted to 21 years only. How is it differentiated? It is the one point on which I seek the clarification of the hon. Minister.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur) : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Indian majority Bill introduced by the hon. Minister of law. The minors whose challans are submitted in children's court, are children below 15 years of age. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether challans of below 18 years children would be submitted in the children's court. The children below 15 years who are caught for petty crimes and whose challans are submitted in the children's court, are released on probation. After passing this bill, will the challans of children below 15 years of age submitted in the children's court will now be submitted after attaining the age of 18 years. Will the minor rural children whose age is not known will be able to draw the benefit after passing this bill? I have to say this much.

1427 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU in the Chair]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir I am on my legs to speak in favour of the amendment bill introduced by the hon. Minister of Law. The hon. Minister has quite cleverly brought this amendment bill to amend the existing section of the law. An hon. Member has just said that this bill has been introduced to prove the majority at age of 18 years. Speaking on different age limits in different areas an hon. member has suggested to lower the age limited applicable in Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha. I would like to submit with utmost regard that there is no need to do so. As far as Legislative Council, Legislative Assembly, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha are concerned, their age limit is already prescribed. If people of that age or above come, they will be able to make home their ideas with greater maturity. So far as the prescribed age limit in respect of criminals is concerned, it is proper in its own place. So it is not necessary that age limits in various areas should be made uniform. This is not proper.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that if such a thing comes to the mind of the hon. Minister of Law, he should present the same in the House for discussion. At present the amendment Bill introduced by him is quite justified and appropriate. I strongly support this bill.

1431 hrs.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, the Bill before us has got a very limited scope, that is the age be reduced to 18 years. At this juncture, I would wish the hon. Members to have a look at the marriage system in our country. The money that we spend on marriages, is a criminal waste. The society and the Government should ponder over it. The time has come to seriously think about it.

AN HON. MEMBER: How is it connected to the Bill?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The Member is saying, it is not connected with this Bill... (Interruptions) We have to put an end to the pomp and show which is seen in the marriages, today. This has become a social evil. If a person does not have money and so he cannot spend money on marriages, his social prestige is affected. The Government should seriously consider this aspect. This has affected a number of families and the criminal waste of money is very much there. I support the Bill and hope that it will be of great help to us. Shri Banatwalla has suggested that the age of maturity may be reduced to 14. I agree with this.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : I am very grateful to all the hon. Members who have made valuable suggestions. First of all, I must say that we are in the process of relieving our statute book of all the dead wood. They are right that a Committee has been appointed and it has given its Report also to repeal more than thousand of laws from our statute book. We cannot just en bloc accept the Report of the Committee and proceed to repeal thousand laws. They may create complications. Each law has to be studied again. Its implications have to be studied. Every week, we are putting in smaller repealing Bills. Four or five Acts are repealed almost every month. I assure my friends, that process will continue.

There was a suggestion for reducing the age to 16. Any suggestion which comes from any hon. Member is entitled to great respect and it will be seriously considered but when Shri Banatwalla and Shri Radhakrishnan combine the considerations they become imperative.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : If you also combine, it will become more effective.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: We will seriously consider it. This law is only intended to remove a historical anomaly. This is not an amending or a consolidating law. We will certainly consider it and probably some day, we will bring a proper measure before the House.

As regards, why should there be a law of 1875, I am in principle against that kind of an argument. You can also argue that why should there be a Member who is 76 years old?

There are some laws which should retain their historical antecedents and their historical dates. For example, take our great Indian Penal Code of 1861. Now you do not expect me to bring a Bill in the year 2000 to repeal the whole Indian Penal Code.

Sir, my friends' anxiety about the children's courts and other is totally misplaced. The same law will continue to apply because we are reducing the age from 21 years to 18 years in the case of an infinitesimal minority of people who probably do not exist today. Today, the law relating to guardianship is so practised that the test is not so much of the minority, but the ability of the child to make intelligent preference. Sir, I have to learn things from my own grandchildren who are 13 and 14 years of age. They think that I am not educated enough. That is the anomaly which is being possibly removed now.

Sir, the Bill is totally prospective. No vested right of any shall stand affected and this debate can always be quoted in the courts.

So, I would request that we may pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Majority, Act, 1875, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Item No. 15. Shri Ram Jethmalani.

1438 hrs.

ADMINISTRATORS-GENERAL (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Administrators-General Act, 1963, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this is a Bill which deals with a Administrators-General certificate. It is a very cheap and in expeditious remedy which short-circuits on the death of a person the requirement of going to a probate court for obtaining letters of administration which is a complicated process. When this Act was originally passed, it covered assets of only up to Rs. 5000. Then in 1983, because of the fall in the value of money, it was raised to Rs. 50,000. Now we are raising it to Rs. 2 lakh. I think this is a very sensible measure. Again this was originally also passed by the Rajya Sabha. It has again been passed by the Rajya Sabha. I claim no credit for this sensible measure. It is also something which I have inherited.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Administrators-General Act, 1963, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the functions of the Administrators-General appointed under the Act are two-fold. One is to obtain letters of administration in case a person dies where the total assets left behind at the time of his death exceed that specified amount. After the present amendment—which, of course, we support - it would be Rs. 2 lakh. This function of Administrators-General, normally he is not called upon to perform because there are always, in fact, cases where there is unending fight between the people claiming to be heirs and claiming to be the next of kin for the assets of the deceased.

What this Bill really attempts, as the Minister was pleased to refer to, is the grant of the certificate by the Administrator-General himself in order to avoid all the hassles which the claimants to the property of the deceased often have to go through, face or suffer even in petty matters where the total assets left behind by the deceased do not exceed that specific amount, which of course now would be Rs. 2 lakh. Since this Bill as such seeks to enhance that limit, obviously it would again be accepted by all sections of the House, so do we.

There is one point which I would like to make. Keeping in view the enormous erosion in the value of rupee, this amount of Rs. 2 lakh also would sound insignificant when we come to the question of the Administrator-General granting the certificate under Section 29 of the Act. If you kindly permit me to read the first part of the Section to make my point, Section 29 (1) of the Administrators-General Act, 1963, reads :

"Whenever any person had died leaving assets within any State and the Administrator-General of such State is satisfied that such assets, excluding any sum of the money deposited in a Government savings bank or in any Provident Fund to which the provisions of the Provident Funds Act, 1925, apply, did not at the date of death exceed in the whole fifty thousand rupees (now two lakh rupees) in value, he may grant to any person, claiming otherwise than as a creditor to be interested in such assets or in the due administration thereof, a certificate under his hand entitling the claimant to receive the assets thereon mentioned left by the deceased within the State, to a value not exceeding in the whole fifty thousand rupees (now two lakh rupees)."

Any property today if owned by any person, would mostly be above Rs. 2 lakh. Despite the fact that we have a salutary law like this on the statute book which entitles the heirs to avoid going to court, avoid going in for probate, avoid going in for letters of administration, etc, from the court which takes inordinately long time and also because we are today concerned about the delays in the courts, about the tendency of cases in the courts, should we not make an endeavour that Administrators-General really become an alternative dispute-resolution forum? The qualification for the appointment as Administrators-General is good enough. A person can perform that role by considering the claims and the counter-claims of the claimants. Should we not make an amendment - this is my suggestion—to decide those cases up to a reasonable limit? If a person owns a car and he leaves this world, the value of the car will be more than that amount fined.

Similarly, if there could be any piece of other property which would exceed Rs. 2 lakh, application of the provisions of this Act would not be extended to that case. That is the suggestion which I would like to make to the hon. Minister. When we are in the midst of an exercise to cut down delays, this one forum should really be made very effective and working.

My experience over the years is that since a law like this exists, part-time Administrators-General are appointed. I do not have an objection to the appointment of part-time Administrators-General because I would in fact suggest that measure. People from amongst lawyers could be given this job and they can perform it very well.

But the power have to be enhanced to make it a veritable and dynamic forum for dispute-resolution and for dispute-settlement.

The other thing may not strictly fall within the scope of this Act. But I would like to make that point also for consideration of the hon. Minister. Whenever there is any appropriate meeting of the State Chief Ministers or of the State representatives, ensure that some reasonable and respectable conditions of service including the honorarium that is paid to the Administrator-General of the State are prescribed. The name sounds quite big "Administrator-General of the State". But I have seen that is not the status enjoyed by the incumbent of this Office. Something commensurate with the work assigned to him and role expected of him should be provided for.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, I support this Bill. This should have been brought earlier and the amount should have been enhanced much earlier. This helps the legal heirs of the deceased person without going through the court process to get the certificate of administration. It is an easy way of getting an heirship certificate. So, I support this Bill. I also support the point made by the hon. Member that the functions of the Administrator-General are very important. So, the emoluments he gets should also be fixed. A direction should be given to the States that it should be commensurate with the respectability of the post.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I would like to say a word. While supporting the Bill, I have to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister that there are a lot complaints regarding the issuance of certificates by the Administrator-General. Inordinate delay is one of the reasons alleged. Even in spite of repeated requests, it is not being issued at the proper time for proper use. So, if at all any fault or default is there in the procedure adopted, it may kindly be changed so that it may change the conditions. We are now especially following a liberal policy. Hence, the Government should make it more liberal so that the man who is applying for a certificate may get it without difficulty.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, this Bill was very carefully examined by the Standing Committee of Parliament. They did not recommend anything more than rupees two lakh. Left to myself, I would have probably done it a little more. But now that the Standing Committee has unanimously recommended this figure, let us rest content with it. Let us make this experiment now. At some future date, we will try to improve things.

As regards the other suggestion about the working of the Office and the stature of the Administrator-General, I would carefully bear this in mind and examine it. Whatever is possible to be done will be done.

With these words, I move that the Bill be passed now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Administrators-General Act, 1963, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

1450 hrs.

NOTARIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House take up item No. 16.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Notaries Act, 1952 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

This is a Bill further to amend the Notaries Act, 1952. This has also been fully examined by the Standing Committee. There is only one change that I have made. The original Amending Bill proposed that the Notaries

[Shri Ram Jethmalani]

can be conferred certain judicial powers. Now, this will be totally inconsistent with the modern view which has been taken in the Supreme Court. They do not allow courts to be created other than by a procedure which the High Courts and the Supreme Court approve of. So, we cannot possibly create a court by a Notification. So, expect that judicial function not being given to the Notaries.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you will get a chance.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Let me complete the sentence. Notaries Public will be used not only for their notarial functions but it is open to the courts to use them as arbitrators, conciliators, mediators and commissioners for recording evidence.

Originally, we used to give them a period of three years. They also make some investment in their offices, seals and things like that. We have said that at one time, we should appoint them for five years instead of three years. The renewal will also be for a period of five years.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : I am a point of clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; you will get it later on. Please sit down.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Respected Chairperson, it is really a very important Bill and we may support it fully.

Regarding clause 4, as the hon. Minister of Law has observed, the powers of the Notary Public are somewhat widened. It is a very important legislation. It will give more opportunities for the common man to reach the arbitrator. At the same time, they can also save the time of the court. There is already a Bill to be presented regarding the amendment of the Code of Civil Procedure. We could find there also that this type of reducing the time of the court and the method of filing the affidavit before the court regarding the chief examination are also contemplated. But here this Amendment gives much more power. I am just reading it:

"(hb) act a Commissioner to record evidence in any civil or criminal trial if so directed by any court or authority;"

Therefore, this has much widened the recording of evidence in both the civil and the criminal trials. There may also be an opportunity for cross-examination. If that is so, the minimum experience for these Notaries is 10 years. Therefore, they are very experienced. Ten years

is the qualification for a Sub-Judge to occupy that post. Therefore, this type of widening is somewhat good for speedy trial. But the person should be very much properly watched and the Notaries' registers should be properly maintained and the record should be sent to the Government. That type of procedural things have to be taken into consideration.

If necessary, they can also have better training so that they can record the evidence. When we are discussing about combining the timing with the civil proceedings and criminal proceedings, we should take into consideration the grassroot level. Only the Judiciary is giving that last resort for the common man. Therefore, the quality should not be compromised there. Nowadays, every Amendment is coming that there need not be any second appeal for certain classes of cases and other things. But when first and second appeals are there, the trial courts are in a great hurry to finish off the cases.

It is just to report the statistics to the High Court. Therefore, ordinary litigants are suffering very much in the trial court. They could not get justice because no other forum for proper policing has been created. Finally they only go to the court. The court should have a compassionate approach so that they can appreciate the feelings of the litigants and give a proper appreciation of the evidence. Only the trial court and the first appellate court are having the right to appreciate the evidence. Therefore, this sort of forum should be very carefully considered. The common man is having a hope only on the trial court. In the first appellate court, their part is very minimised. The part of the advocate is much more larger than the client's part. Therefore, this should be very much considered and really this objective of widening the power to the notaries is necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, before 3 o'clock, we have to pass this Bill because we have to take up the Private Member's Business at 3'o clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Natchiappan, please conclude. At 3'o clock, we have to take up the Private Member's Business.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Okay.

They act as an arbitrator, mediator and conciliator. This is also a very important provision, which has been given. We feel very happy about the widening of the powers of the notaries. When the economic reforms are coming up, these arbitrators can also play a very important role to settle the matters at the appropriate level. That type of amendment has to be brought in the Arbitration Act so that they can also come within the definitions of 'arbitrator', 'mediator' and 'conciliator'.

Finally, I would like to just submit another point in regard to clause (c), enlargement of the area of the practice. This has not been properly done by the State Governments and the Central Government because they are very strict in enlarging it. In the economic reforms, this should be appreciated by the Government so that the notaries can have more areas to be covered instead of having a restricted area of a particular town or a particular district. Every court, at the lower level, should have a panel of notaries, numbering about five or so.

With these words, I support this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, there is no time.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the number of notaries is not increased, if notaries are not endowed with more powers, the consequences may be serious and I am a victim to it. Many years back as many as forty cases were filed against me only because of the notaries were few. I was an English teacher. I took my salary after 27 years. Each case took 18, 15 and 25 years. So it is my suggestion that notaries should be given more powers or their number too, should be increased. I support this bill.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I would support the hon. Member on this. This is very important. With the enhanced work load of the notaries, the number of notaries to be increased.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many new tehsils have been created, hence it is now quite imperative to increase the number of notaries. The Central Government should prescribe a procedure for their selection. Form would make it convenient otherwise it will take long. So it should be made less time consuming.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a matter of pure administrative policy decision. I assure the House that we will have an adequate number of notaries on our list. I am taking good care to see that persons of integrity and competence are appointed. I insist on examining their previous tax returns. I insist on certificates from the Senior Counsel. I also make my own personal enquiries before appointing them. So, the best persons will be appointed. This is not such an important measure as the hon. Member think. After all, a court could, by the consent of the parties, appoint anybody as an arbitrator.

The Court could, without the consent of parties where parties cannot consent, appoint a person of its own choice. This only indicates to the court the recruiting ground from where they can get arbitrators and conciliators. This also adds to the stature of the Notaries Public that the Legislature thinks that they qualified to act as Arbitrators. Sir, it is a very innocuous measure. It is really one form of alternative dispute resolution that we are allowing them to record evidence. There also Commissioners could be appointed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Notaries Act, 1952, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: My thanks and gratitudes to the House.

1500 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

(I) Sick Public Sector Undertakings – Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will go to Private Members' Business. Four names are there. The remaining available time is 29 minutes. Shri Moinul Hassan, please.

1502 hrs.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad) : Respected Chairman, Sir, on this occasion, I would like to recall the old age when the Public Sector Units were started. At

[Shri Moinul Hassan]

that time, what was the object and aim to build up a public sector enterprise in our country? Firstly, it is to help in the rapid economic growth by way of industrialization of the country. Secondly, It is to promote redistribution of income and wealth and thirdly to create employment opportunities.

1503 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

At that time, for our great newly independent country, self-reliance was an important task. If we have gone through the records, the speech of our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, has enthused the whole nation to build up this nation. So, I suppose in the early days, Public Sector Units were very much related to our nation building. Not only that, it is not suffice to say that it is the backbone of our economy.

I would like to go through the present performance now. Respected, Madam, for the decades, the PSUs have played one important role to build up our national economy. Even today, I would like to quote from the last report. Out of 240 PSUs, 45 are rated as excellent and 25 are rated as very good.

These 240 PSUs increased their net profit by 37.36 per cent in 1997-98, compared to the previous year. This is the present performance of our beloved public sector enterprises. Right from 1991 when the story of open nation and globalisation has started, black days have started for the public sector units. In 1996, the Disinvestment Commission has decided to open the public sector to the private sector. But why this sickness has come now? There are so many reasons for that and I would like to go into some specific points.

These public sector units are traditional enterprises and, therefore, most of them are aging plants. Since long there has been no modernisation. There is lack of competitiveness, there is lack of funds, there is lack of electricity and there is incapability of management also. But what is the Government's attitude to overcome these problems! On 3rd February, 1992, a National Renewal Fund was set up. What was the allocation of Fund! The allocation in 1992-93 was Rs. 829.66 crore; in 1993-94 it was Rs. 1,020 crore; in 1994-95 it was Rs. 200 crore; in 1995-96 it was Rs. 140 crore; in 1996-97 it was Rs. 150 crore; in 1997-1998 it was Rs. 306 crore; and the Budget Estimate for 1998-99 was Rs. 300 crore. Not only that, this Fund has not been properly utilised also. Besides that, this Fund is not in a position to review our sick industries. I am very sorry to say that the Government is very much eager to give us VRS but not to revive a sick unit.

I would just like to mention about the jute industry in the country as a whole and in West Bengal, in particular. Most of the jute mills are closed. There is no plan for

modernisation. There is no adequate plan for diversification of products. The Jute Research Centre is nothing but a rehabilitation centre for Government officials. They are doing nothing. What about the National Jute Manufacturing Corporation? No steady funds flow to this Corporation from the Government of India. Large amount are due to this Corporation and the common farmers are suffering. Yesterday I had seen that only Rs. 46 crore have been allocated for NJMC in the Supplementary Demands. I think this will be spent for paying the salary and TA/DA, and the payment of dues will be withheld. Everybody is talking about the dues to NJMC from big businessmen, but nobody is talking about the dues from the NJMC to the cooperative sector. A large number of farmers are connected with the cooperative sector. I would specifically like to say that nearly Rs. 7 crore are due from the NJMC to the cooperative sector in West Bengal. Particularly in my district, Rs. 2.5 crore are due from NJMC to the cooperative sector.

This is the process of how a Government undertaking becomes sick. This is the attitude of the Government. So, I urge upon the Government on this occasion that a comprehensive programme to revive a sick industry is needed. It is needed since long and it has already waited for years. The public sector enterprise is our national sector. It is repeatedly said not only by me but speaker after speaker that public sector units built our nation since Independence. So, with the slogan 'Save PSU and Save Nation', I would urge upon the Government to come forward to save PSUs.

With these words, I would conclude.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): I just want to make through you to the hon. Minister, only one point. It is a good policy to have disinvestment, but the money you are getting from disinvestment should be invested only in those public sector industries wherein you need money. It should not be adjusted against Budget deficits. I wanted to impress upon the Minister this point.

A decision had been taken even during other days that disinvestment has to be made. I fully agree with you. But when you are making this disinvestment, the money which you are getting out of disinvestments should be used fully, out and out, in the industries which needs it, as per the selection of the Government.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): This is also the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: Yes. But it has been said that the Finance Ministry and other Ministries have thought over it that it should be adjusted in the Budget, which I feel should not happen. In fact, if you go through the Budget, you would see that in the Budget, adjustments from the disinvestment have been put into, which should not happen.

I would like to warn the Minister and through the House, I would request the hon. Minister not to yield to that level. Otherwise, you will be in trouble. This is the only point I wanted to discuss with you and impress upon you. So, please take care of this matter.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the resolution moved by Shrimati Geete Mukherjee. It is a very important resolution. The contribution of the public sector undertakings in our country is great. The public sector undertakings are involved in nation-building activity since Independence. The founder of the modern India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister promoted and helped to grow the public sector undertakings in our country. Nobody can forget the major contributions they have made to our country's progress.

The workers of the public sector undertakings have also contributed a lot to the country. Today, we are living in a changed situation. The effect of globalisation and liberalisation is seen the world over, and India is also a part of that. In the changed environment, it has become difficult for the public sector undertakings to survive. So, in the changed circumstances, we have to evaluate the performance of the public sector undertakings, and we have to induce more strength in these public sector undertakings in order to compete with the other private agencies or institutions or companies.

As you know very well, the Government is not serious about the public sector undertakings. My colleague has rightly mentioned the reasons for the sickness in the public sector undertakings. We should ponder over the serious lapses on our side which caused the sickness in these industries. The public sector undertakings which were running profitably had become sick. For months and years together, certain public sector undertakings were functioning without Managing Directors or Chairmen. In the last Lok Sabha also, we had raised a question that 14 public sector undertakings were headless and that this inordinate delay in selecting the Chairmen of the public sector undertakings also a contributory factors for sickness. I am not blaming anybody. The process is so lengthy that it takes months together to select a Chairman or a Managing Director of a Public Sector Undertaking. It is also causing a lot of problems in PSUs.

Nobody can forget about the mismanagement in the public sector undertakings. For example, take the Cement Corporation of India. The amount of corruptions and mismanagement are so much that, time and again, it was discussed in Parliament. I was a Member of the Public Undertakings Committee during the Twelfth Lok Sabha. When we had gone into this question, we came to know about certain shocking incidents on transactions. Factories were opened in certain areas where the raw-

material was not available; the location of the factory was defected and the imported machinery was totally defective. So many irregularities were seen in these public sector undertakings. Crores and crores of rupees were mismanaged. In some of the public sector undertakings, there was no effort from our side to modernise them; there was no effort for technological upgradation because of dearth of capital. The Government has not allotted any money for renewal or technological upgradation. Extravagance on the part of the management is also one of the major factors behind the institutions becoming sick. Nobody was also interested in productivity. At the State level as well as at the Central level, these public sector undertakings have become white horses, and nobody cares about production. Frequent strikes by workers was also one of the main reasons for this. Of course, now, the attitude of the workers has changed, and I agree. For example, take the case of FACT, which is one of the major public sector undertakings in our States. Now, the workers have come together to save the institution. The entire attitude of the workers is also changing and that is a good sign. In certain institutions, the callous attitude of the workers was also one of the reasons for the sickness of some of these public sector undertakings.

Sir, at the same time the Government agencies also are not giving them proper orders. For examples, I would like to cite the instance of the Hindustan Latex which is one of the premier public sector undertakings in our country. They have two units - one at Trivandrum and the other is located in your State, Madam, Chairperson, that is in Belgaum. These two units are becoming sick. It is because they are not getting orders from the Government. At the same time, the Mumbai based private companies are getting orders from the Union Health Ministry and this Public Sector Undertaking which was running in profit, which has the monopoly in the business and is also supplying to the Health Ministry is not getting orders. Unfortunately, on the other hand, the Health Ministry is giving orders to the Mumbai-based private companies. The products of these two units are piling up in Trivandrum and Belgaum. What will happen to them? After some days these units would become sick and will close down.

Madam, Chairperson, I would also like to cite the case of M/s Hindustan Paper Corporation. It has its headquarters at Calcutta. I do not understand as to why its headquarters is located in Calcutta. But that is a different matter. The management has to interact with the Ministers and officials of various Ministries at Delhi but its headquarters is at Calcutta. Anyway, only one unit, namely, M/s Hindustan Newsprint Limited, which is situated in Kerala, is running in profit. The NEPA Paper Mills have closed down; the Mysore Paper Mills have closed down; the Madras Paper Mills is on the verge of closure, it is still surviving because they are a joint venture unit; the Nowgaon Paper Mills have also closed down.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

Almost all the other units are sick. Only M/s HNL is a profit-making unit. So, we have requested the Government that it should be separated from the Hindstan Paper Corporation. M/s HNL has got productivity award for three times consecutively. This unit should be separated from the Hindustan Paper Corporation.

Madam, Chairperson, I would like to make one thing very clear. If there is one unit which is running on profit, then why did not separate it and make them survive instead of running the other organisations with their profit? After some days, this unit would become sick and it would also have to be closed down. The Mandya Paper Mills have already closed down and there is no chance of its revival. Now, the Government is paying the salaries of the employees of other sick units by taking the profit of M/s HNL. So, my request is that the Government should separate this unit from the Hindustan Paper Corporation so that, at least, this unit can survive. I have requested the hon. Minister to think seriously about this aspect.

Madam, Chairperson, why is HPC in such a condition? There are a lot of reasons for it. But the main reason is the Newsprint policy which we are adopting. The newsprints are being imported from other countries on zero duty and a lot of imports are being made. Moreover, there are no takers for the indigenously manufactured newsprint. Newsprint is being imported from foreign countries and is being dumped here. Even though Anti-dumping laws exist in our country, yet the *Government of India has never invoked this provision* to stop such dumpings. Therefore, our indigenously manufactured newsprints are going waste and our paper mills are becoming sick. We are not in a position to compare with the foreign companies in this regard because their cost of production is very low. Newsprints are coming from Canada and such other countries and we are importing them on zero duty.

Madam, Chairperson, earlier some protection were given to the Public Sector Undertakings but now no such protection is available to them. I think that the Government of India should take care of the Navaratnas, that is the Public Sector Undertakings which are doing well. The streamlining of the activities of the Navaratnas are very much necessary. Otherwise, after some time these organisations which were now doing well would also become sick. The Government has to take stock of the situation and streamline the activities of the public sector undertakings so that they can survive. In the changed situation, the Government should give more preference and protect these organisations because the exchequer had spent crores and crores of rupees on these public undertakings.

With these words, I conclude.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Madam, Chairperson, thank you for giving me this opportunity to put forward a few facts about sick public sector undertakings on Private Members' Resolution moved by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

Madam, after Independence it was felt that the political independence without economic self-reliance would be detrimental to country's sovereignty and autonomy in policy-making. The basic objectives of starting public sector undertakings were: to build up infrastructure for economic development; to promote rapid economic growth and industrialisation of the country; to create more employment opportunities; to promote more balanced regional development; to create a self-reliant economy through development of local industries by encouraging and promoting exports; to generate investible resources for development by earning suitable reserves; and lastly to prevent and reduce concentration of private economic power.

Madam, where are we going now? During 60s and 70s, the public sector policy was guided by the industrial policy. Today, the ultimate aim of the public sector undertakings is totally lost by the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I interrupt for a second?

The time which was allotted for this discussion has expired. If it is the opinion of the House, and if we have no objection, we can extend the time to complete the discussion. If everybody is agreeable, I will extend the time by one hour. There are quite a number of speakers and I think we will need at least one hour to complete it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, the time is extended by one hour.

DR. V. SAROJA : Madam, to a Starred Question on 18th December, 1998 in the Lok Sabha, the Government had replied that:

"Sick industrial central sector undertakings are referred to BIFR for evolving revival/rehabilitation plan. As on 30th September, 1998, Sixty-four sick public sector undertakings were registered with BIFR. Of these, revival scheme has been sanctioned in 21 cases of which two Central public sector undertakings have been declared as no longer sick and one has been divested and other are at different stages of implementation. BIFR have circulated draft scheme for eight Central Public sector undertakings and 14 cases are under enquiry."

I would request the hon. Minister to underline that phrase, 'no longer sick.'

Madam, is it that the BIFR has become a statutory body? Is it that the Government is depending only on BIFR report to close down all the public sector undertakings forgetting the time taken, the finances invested, and the human resources wasted? I would urge upon the Government to review the composition of BIFR. I understand that out of 14 members in BIFR, at present only three members are to decide about the fate of PSUs of this country.

Madam, Chairperson, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a very important and viable pharmaceutical industry at Chennai. I am a doctor. I am a professionalist prescribing the drugs of IDPL. I know the standards of this drug company. My point is that out of Rs. 2 lakh crore of the Annual Budget of the Government of India, is it that difficult to earmark even only Rs. 8 crore to Rs. 10 crore for the revival of this IDPL pharmaceutical industry at Chennai?

The BIFR report has been submitted. All the conditions referred to by the BIFR had been adequately scrutinised. The plant was hived off and the following sacrifices were to be made by the workmen as per the package for the rehabilitation :

- the man-power strength was reduced from 1200 to 325;
- accepted revised work norms and responsibilities in all categories to shoulder additional workload due to reduction in strength;
- accepted job enlargement under multi-disciplinary system including redeployment with suitable training;
- accepted to keep in abeyance the wage revision for the first four years of the revival plan; and
- accepted for postponement of LTC facilities and conveyance allowance.

Madam, I do not find any reasons as to why all these conditions were to be put.

IDPL, is one of the standardized companies. Its Unit at Chennai has the capacity to produce drugs, tablets, capsules, surgical instruments and fabrication of hospital equipment. It caters not only to the State of Tamil Nadu but also Pondicherry. It produces not only the surgical equipment but also other appliances in the medical field with ISI specifications. In its quality, it is number one. The plant maintenance is also of the international quality.

Madam, as proposed earlier, to keep the prices under the control of the Government of India as also to help the plant to survive, this plant can be put under the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Madam, I would also like to draw the attention of this august House that during the previous Government's regime, the then Minister, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala inspected this Unit and had promised that he would help us for its revival, but I am sorry to say that this Government is taking a different attitude as far this Unit is concerned. But at the same time, the drug industries which are situated in Hyderabad, Rishikesh and Gurgaon were rehabilitated to the tune of Rs. 1,000 crore. My point is that why has the IDPL Unit at Chennai been given a step-motherly treatment? In order to avoid the regular and frequent use of spurious drugs in the market also, it is necessary to have this Unit revived.

Madam, Chairperson, I am not able to find any reasons as to why this Government is giving a step-motherly treatment to this Unit. Just because it is situated at Chennai, is it that the Government of India not accepting the revival plans relating to this Unit?

I once again urge upon the Government to kindly to revive this Unit. I would also urge upon the Government to give the regular salaries of the workers working in the plant and see that this pharmaceutical company is included, along with other IDPL Units, in the Government of India List for market survey.

I am coming to another area. In Tamil Nadu, we are facing a crisis in the textile industry. The textile industry which contributes over 30 per cent to forex earnings accounts for 20 per cent of industrial production and contributes 9 per cent of GDP and provides millions of jobs and it has been passing through a critical period for the last two years. The major problems encountered by textile units are demand recession, liquidity crunch, unhealthy competition on account of excise evasion, sagging exports following East Asian currency turmoil and surging imports of textile products.

The textile industry started in the year, 1968 with 119 mills all over the country and out of nine subsidiary Units, eight have been referred to BIFR, but till now the BIFR has not come out with any final solution to the problem.

The industries which have made some development and progress, have already become sick. It is something unimaginable. Where is the flaw? Why are the industries going sick? Why then have we started the industry at all? Are we to allow those industries to become sick? This is a point of doubt. The hon. Minister should see that a continuous Monitoring Cell is set up in every public sector undertaking constituting a Body with the Managing Director of the Unit, the Managing Director of the financial institution and also the Secretary to Industry and Commerce to advise and to monitor the sick units. There is no point in allowing the Units going sick. The revival of those sick industries is the problem which we are facing today.

[Dr. V. Saroja]

The Government is making undue delay after the report of the BIFR and that has added fuel to fire. In the case of NTC, the implementation of Turn Around Strategy as approved by the Government of India in 1995 was dependent primarily on the resources available after disposal and replacement in and around mills and it has not so far materialised. This undue delay is highly condemnable. It was assured during the visit of hon. Minister for Textiles in the year, 1998 that the revival of NTC-run mills would be given top priority. I urge upon the Government to give a serious thought to it.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that most of the composite textile mills are in a bad shape. It has been estimated that the fund required for updating these mills in two phases would be Rs. 2,500 crore out of which Rs. 1,780 crore would be raised through sale of land of 25 mills. Then why should there be a delay? Why is the Government not taking immediate steps in this regard?

I would like to say that Government should not privatise everything in the name of globalisation and liberalisation. I urge upon the Government to revive IDPL Units at Chennai and Gurgaon.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Madam Chairperson, in Private Members Bill presented by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, the concern has been expressed over the closure of sick units in public sector. In fact it is quite unfortunate for our country. On the one hand there is a problem of employment in the entire India, our youths are searching employment, emigration from villages is taking place. People are not getting work as such if the closure of units takes place, the problem of employment will aggravate. The production in our country will adversely affect due to the closure of these units. There are some reasons behind sickness of units, management is one of the main reasons.

If the participation is provided and responsibility is fixed for workers, certainly these sick units can be made viable. The persons working in these units must be given due share which will increase their interest in these units and these units cannot be closed. If the government dare make such improvements, these sick units can be made viable and conducive atmosphere can be created in the country. That is why, on this occasion, I would like to thank Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee because she has raised such a serious question in the House. The Government must consider it and arrangements should be made to provide maximum opportunities of employment. Now I conclude my speech.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Chairman, Madam, I have given my name to speak on this Bill. Please, I may be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ajoy Chakraborty has arrived, till then you can prepare yourself.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) Hon. Madam Chairperson, I wholeheartedly support the Resolution which has been initiated by our senior colleague, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

I hope, all the Members cutting across party lines will support this Resolution and adopt this Resolution wholeheartedly because it is a question of survival of our country. It is a question of life and death for thousands and thousands of workers employed in those public sector undertakings and are on the verge of retrenchment.

Under the leadership and initiative of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was a great statesman of our country, the then Government adopted the policy of socialistic pattern of society. During that very period, the Government took up building heavy industries and public undertakings for self-reliance of our country, thus creating employment scope for the unemployed youth of our country. So, the big steel industries such as those at Durgapur, Bokaro, Bhilai and Rourkela, the Sindri Fertilizers Factory and Chittaranjan Locomotive Works were built under the initiative of the Government and thousands and thousands of young men of our country were working efficiently in those industries.

We are proud of those industries. It is a pride of our country. The Chittaranjan Locomotive Works is constructing and manufacturing high standard engines for Railways. It is not bad in quality comparing other countries. But at present, after the globalization or liberalization policy of the Government, these public sector undertakings are ruined day by day.

Except Bhilai Steel Plant, all other big steel industries are now running in losses. Many colleagues have mentioned the names of other public sector units and I need not mention the names of the PSUs which will take much time of the House.

We are proud of 'navaratnas'. But at the present juncture, there is a policy of the Government whereby the 'ratnas' are being removed from the 'crown'. They have thus become 'crownless navaratnas'. So many different industries are there like jute, textile, tannery, etc. They are now sinking or being ruined day by day. The cotton industry or the textile industry are one of the most important industries of our country. Gujarat is the Manchester of India.

1547 hrs.

[Dr. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Not only in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, but all over India practically, the textile industries or the cotton industries are very important industries of our country. But those industries are now being ruined and becoming sick day by day.

If you take the jute industry, West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, Bihar and Orissa are the States which are jute-growing States. But mainly the jute industries are situated in West Bengal, on the banks of Ganga and on both sides of the Bhagirathi river. Jute mills are situated there. Thousands and thousands of workers from Bihar, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Assam and other States are working in those jute mills. Now, all the jute mills are being closed and thousands and thousands of workers are out of job. They are now living under the blue sky with their families. Some of the workers committed suicide due to unemployment which is again due to closure of jute industries.

Let us come to other industries. Kanpur is industrially a big city of Uttar Pradesh. Tannery is very famous in Kanpur. Now Kanpur has become a ghost city. It is now destroyed. If you visit a tannery, you will see that there is only sheds and no employees. No person is now working there. Now it has become a ghost tannery in Kanpur. Same is the case with industries in Gujarat and Maharashtra. In Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore is a famous city for textile industries. They are now becoming sick and being ruined.

IDPL is one of the medicine manufacturing companies. It is one of the public sector undertakings of our country which has its units in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and most other States of India. Now, IDL is becoming sick day by day and the employees of IDPL are coming to Delhi and participate in *dhama*. Every year we are witnessing that these people are coming from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal and other States to Delhi, participate in *dhama* and meet the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister also gives an assurance that he would look into the problems but nothing happens. There is no result. My colleagues have mentioned many things on this issue and I would not like to repeat them. I would like to say that the Government should change its policy. The Government should come forward and take measures to revive the sick public sector undertakings. The workers who are on the verge of retrenchment should be saved. In the Question Hour, a question about the ECL was raised. It is the oldest and the biggest coal industry in our country. Seventy thousand employees are on the verge of retrenchment and they are going to lose their jobs. What would happen to them? It is the

Government's duty to provide them jobs. It is an obligation on the part of the Government to provide jobs for those who are working in the public sector. As we all know, unemployment problem is one of the greatest problems in our country. If the Government is silent, then what would happen to our country? The Government of India should come forward and take measures to save the sick public sector undertakings and its employees.

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have come to the end of a very interesting and a very telling debate on the public sector. I have been one of those who have served on the Committee on Public Undertakings. We have analysed the problems being faced by the public sector in various fields. I must say that most often we tend to blame the public sector for all the problems that it is facing, forgetting the pioneering role it has played in this country. In areas, in places where the private sector was not prepared to invest, the Government, in the early years of Independence built the public sector and laid the foundations for industrial growth and development. It has played a pioneering role in the social sector as well. The social priorities of the public sector cannot be ignored. Over the years, due to various reasons, the public sector has run into problems. There has been no investment when it is most needed there is no modernisation and no effort at keeping the profitability as the main purpose. I have seen in Government and I was involved in the process of selecting the Chairmen and personnel for the public sector undertakings. I have seen the problems that are faced by the public sector undertakings. Most of those who are involved in the selection process belong to everywhere but the public sector. There is no commitment to selecting the right people. The public sector positions, whether Directors of Board Chairmen, are filled up by the retired bureaucrats or the bureaucrats who have not been empanelled or those who do not want to leave a particular place. There is no permanent commitment, interest or responsibility. They are appointed for three years and they get all the benefits even though the undertaking is incurring losses, but they are not held responsible for what has happened. These people go back either to some other Department or to the Government itself. This has been the bane of the public sector undertakings. The Chairmen and other technocrats have repeatedly complained to me that they had to wait for two or three days in the corridors of power for getting an appointment with the Joint Secretary or a middle level officer to get something passed to get some little things cleared.

This kind of a dual control from the Ministries on the public sector has been the bane of the public sector. There is no point blaming them. They have not been allowed to function commercially. They do not have the autonomy to take decisions and required clearances have never

[Smt. Margaret Alva]

come in time. Besides, there is dumping, as I said, of unwanted people on the public sector. Even the Public Sector Enterprises Board, has not had people from industry in the selection process to be able to say that they need these kinds of people with them. The public sector somehow has not been cost-effective. There has been no competition over many years in this country. They were in areas there was no competition. The Government did not allow foreign companies to operate and so, there was complacency. But, more than that, there was over-staffing of the public sector to please all the powers that be. The Minister want the people appointed, Member of Parliament want the people appointed. The Chief Ministers want the people appointed. So, this attitude of "please all" has dumped into the public sector staff and the people who are really redundant. I think rationalisation and modernisation are what the public sector needs rather than closing down as a blank kind of a decision. Policy changes have come. We were then in Government, I agree because every time when something happens people say that it happened during Shri Narasimha Rao's Government. We were in Government. We had discussed the issue. BIFR was established so that would be a support system for revival, investment and help to undertakings which were in trouble because as we opened up, there was competition.

The Finance Minister has been in the Government for the last two years. I have written to Shri Sinha. BIFR comes under the Ministry of Finance. I have been to the Chairman of the BIFR pleading that cases be heard. Once the Chairman told me to do something. He said that he was the Chairman and he had one more member on the Board. They cannot even constitute a Bench because a minimum of two members are required to constitute a Bench. In the entire BIFR appointments are just not made. As was just pointed out, 14 members were to be appointed and today we have only three. The Government is telling the world and the country that it is involved in reviving and helping the units which are sick. How can the BIFR function if you are not even serious about appointing people? Why cannot these retired bureaucrats at least be appointed? They want to be the Chairmen of certain companies. If nothings else, they can at least work on BIFR. That has not been done. This whole sham of saying, that it has been referred to BIFR, means, the moment a company is referred to the BIFR, it has to be closed down because the banks stop financing saying, the money cannot be given as it has been referred to BTFR. Everybody withdraws the moment it goes to the BIFR because they know it is the end of the story.

[Translation]

Hence no dealings can be transacted with the company.

[English]

So, nobody is prepared to bail out a company which goes to the BIFR.

I can give you any number of examples. So many companies have been mentioned. But, I must say about the dues to the public sector from public sector and the State Governments. Take for instance coal. There are losses in the coal industry. The electricity boards do not pay their dues for the coal which has been supplied. You cannot stop supply because immediately there will be a crisis. If you look at their balance sheets, the dues from the public sector itself are being paid to them by the Government by some ways and means so that they have the money to survive. They have the property which can be sold, re-invested, to modernise and made to function.

Today, I must say at the cost of objection from my friends in the Left, the Unions at last have begun to become very responsible as far as the revival is concerned. NTC was mentioned. I was in the Committee which was set up by the Government of India to work on the revival package for the NTC. We tried to negotiate. The Unions were there. Without meaning offence, there were two units which were always running into loss. The Units in the South were making profits. All the money that came by way of profits from the working units in the South went to pay the salaries, bonus and everything else which was demanded in the Bengal and I think Bihar. When we asked them to close down the units which were not workings was said just now, and let the other Units work, there was a hue and cry in Bengal and everywhere.

1600 hrs.

The people in the South kept saying why they should be giving a profit because they are suffering at the end of it after all the work that they are doing. In fact, when a Minister went to one of the public sector undertaking, he was greeted with a banner saying, "We are paid to come to work, give us overtime to do the work" as the overtime had been stopped. These were the slogans at one time. But today, the Unions are prepared to cooperate, to give up a lot of their demands, and to help. I think, a time has come when the Government should get the Unions, the management and the Government representatives together and see how revival can be done.

Now we have opened up. Suddenly you are asking the public sector to meet the competition of companies who have been in the field for a hundred years or more,

who have the scales of production and the moneys to invest. They want to take over your good companies. They are not interested in your loss making companies. They are going for your Navratnas and for your good companies. Wherever they come, they will discharge your staff saying that they are over-staffed, and they try to run it their way. You are going to have more unemployment and other problems. Remember, when you talk about the public sector employees, you are talking about the whole families who are going to be on the streets. In my own Constituency, there is the Indian Plywood Company. Sir, four of the employees have hanged themselves in the premises of the factory not having anywhere to go and work. Their families are starving. Not only that it is before the BIFR for four years without a single hearing. I have been pleading for them. The workers are saying that they are dying, the BIFR does not come forth, the company is closed, the assets are being disposed off and there is no one to talk for them. If this is the condition, I feel that the Government today should take a stand and say that they will see what can be done. Instead of just being negative about it and saying "you meet the competition of the international companies" will not help. I think you have to give some protection to some extent because after all this is tax-payers money which has been invested. But you cannot just dump them and say that they will have to be closed down. There is a way of reviving them and I think we have to do it.

Sir, just one or two more points I will make regarding ITI, HMT and the paper industry. The HMT was the pride of this nation. Today, you do not even want to give minimum orders from the Government Departments to HMT to survive. Ancillary units are being closed. HMT means hundreds of others who have invested in small scale ancillary units and all that was built around it.

Same is the case with the telephone industry. Today, we are talking big. The pioneering effort ITI made in Bangalore was something which brought telephones to our door-steps. Today, we want to condemn it as something which cannot work. Worst of all are the paper mills. Sir, we have the capacity to run the paper mills. Outside companies are being allowed to dump paper in this country and even the newsprint, because there are lobbies which say that they want to import. There was a time when 30 per cent could be imported and 70 per cent had to be bought in the Indian market. We fought against it and Shri Chidambaram lifted that and said they will not allow even 30 per cent. But I am told after that Government went, this has been again allowed. Sir, today foreign paper might be cheaper. Your companies will close down. Tomorrow, when they raise their prices and charge what they want they will have no competition from within the country because all your domestic industry has closed.

Therefore, I would like the Minister to take a long term view on this and not just *ad hoc* policy on the functioning of the public sector. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has been a pioneer in fighting for the interest of the workers and the public sector. I respect the work she has done in the field. I am not a trade union leader of her standing. But we have also been fighting for the rights of workers in the public sector and in the sick units. I totally agree with her that the Government needs to come with a package and a long term policy and not be victim to international companies and multinationals in the name of opening up, liberalisation and working with the world, and so on. Ultimately, we are respected only when we are economically self-reliant and strong enough to meet the challenge from outside. That means reviving our companies and allowing them to function.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I won't take much of your time. We are discussing here why Public undertakings suffer losses. I would like to thank senior member, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee that she raises this matter time and again. In this connection I would like to give some suggestions.

If ancillary units suffer loss, enquiry must be conducting about it. The corrupt officials escape scot free that must be investigated and thereafter it must be got investigated by the CBI. In my constituency there are maximum number of Textile mills. When the proposal for modernization was brought up at that time the reasons were given that mismanagement is going on there and corruption is prevailing. Former Minister of Textiles Shri Venkataswami had said here that due to corruption NTC mills were suffering a loss. When I enquired about textile mills in my constituency, I found that cloth of rupees ten per metre was sold at the rate of rupees seven per metre in the name of second grade cloth. Similarly spare parts of second grade quality are fitted in machines due to which machines do not function properly and often go out of order. The textile mills are in such a condition that they don't have raw material like cotton and even they do not have working capital. Present Union Minister was also the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. All this was in his knowledge and at that time he took interest in it.

The hon'ble Member from Tamil Nadu Saroja ji and Margaret Alva ji have raised this issue just now and said what happened to proposal of Government of rupees 2005 crore for modernization. The mill workers are sitting idle. They want to do work but the Government is not providing cotton. My humble submission is that they must be provided raw-material and working capital as soon as possible.

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

In my constituency there is a Mill called Richardson and Kundan, I have a copy of their memorandum. I want to mention one or two things from it. It has one branch in Muland also. The workers of that branch have not got the salary for the month of September, October and November, leave aside and bonus. We have given this memorandum to hon'ble Minister also. In this it has been said that due to two officers this company is suffering a loss, this must be investigated. We have also doubt about two persons hence this matter must be investigated by the CBI. Most of the units are suffering loss due to officers. Former Minister of textiles Shri Venkataswami had said that officers involve in corruption and earn crore of rupees but no action is taken against them. Therefore, we demand that this matter be investigated. I would like to request Union Minister that all the material clothes manufactured by the NTC should be taken in Government departments.

All the clothes manufactured by these units can be taken by railways and other departments. In spite of all this mills are suffering a loss. Similarly the matter related to Chairman of Hindustan Organic Chemicals Company must be got investigated, he has spent lakhs and crores of rupees on foreign trips.

In this connection also I have a copy of memorandum in which many charges have been levelled. This unit is also suffering loss. I will hand over all these papers to the hon'ble Minister and will request him to get it investigated. There is a company, Scindia workshop, the employees of this company are not getting pay for the last six months. I have raised this matter in the House several times. Shrimati Margaret Alva has talked about BIFR. It is true that many cases are pending with BIFR. These cases must be disposed off expeditiously. The ancillary units can give material to the Public sector units at cheaper rates. In a country like Korea, ancillary units have progressed a lot. Loan is given to these units by the Banks at lower rates, if this facility is made available here also, we can also supply material at cheaper rates.

With these words, while concluding my speech I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. I also want to raise other matters but I do not want to take much time of the House and I would like to request Shri Manohar Joshi, Hon'ble Union Minister to get investigated the mismanagement of these companies.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mohan Rawale, kindly hand it over to the hon. Minister.

*SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Respected Chairman Sir, I rise to support the resolution

moved by respected Smt. Geeta Mukherjee. The emotions which prompted such a resolution is, no doubt, the importance we attribute to our public sector and the concern for the workers and their families.

Our country has a culture of its own and our traditions encourage a mixed economy. But the policies of liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation followed by the Government have accelerated the sickening of the public sector undertakings. We see the fall out of such policies in the form of ever increasing sick, unviable units. Though factors like lack of modernisation and technological upgradation do contribute much to this plight, as pointed out by other speakers, the new economic policy is, according to me, the real cause. These policies give undue boost to the private sector at the cost of public sector. This trend will prove disastrous to our country and will go against the interests of a mixed economy. In order to uphold our tradition and to enliven our sick units, I request the Government to have a more lenient and considerate approach to the public sector undertakings. I once again thank my esteemed colleague Geeta ji, who is very dear to the Indian working class, for voicing her concern for the poor workers and their families and extend my full support to the resolution.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am indeed thankful to the hon. Member, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, for moving an important Resolution in this august House. This Resolution is mainly concerning the public enterprises. It is also concerning mainly the problems of workers working in these public enterprises.

I must say that I am also thankful to all the Members who have participated in the debate. I am sure that their participation in the debate will be very much useful to me while taking decisions in my day-to-day working.

It is true that when these public enterprises were started by the late Prime Minister of our country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, had the best of intentions. His own intention was to make our country economically strong and sound. His intention were very honest. It is also true that, to a certain extent, some public enterprises have really worked in the spirit in which Pandit Nehru wanted us to work. They have been working successfully.

As admitted by some of the Members, it may not be right to say that all the public enterprises are bad. Therefore, I was very happy that one of Members, while expressing his thoughts in this House, mentioned about the categories of public enterprises. He did mention that

some of the public enterprises are in the category of 'hexagon' - 'Navratnas'. I must say that some of the public enterprises are also better than the private enterprises. There are some enterprises which are running in losses. I have also with me the figures about investments and other necessary information.

There were about 240 central PSUs on 31st March 1998 and the total investment was about Rs. 2,40,054 crore. Out of these 240 central PSUs, 236 were in operation and four were under construction. During the year 1997-98, 136 PSUs earned a profit of Rs. 20,267 crore. One hundred PSUs incurred a net loss of Rs. 6,542 crore and two enterprises neither earned any profit nor incurred any loss. Thus the PSUs as a whole earned a net profit of Rs. 13,725 crore during the year 1997-98.

This shows that the general impression which is being created that the public enterprise means a loss is also not absolutely correct. I do not deny that this is our responsibility that whatever public enterprises are running at a loss, they are also to be brought in on the profit making PSUs. But it is the responsibility of all of us to improve upon the image of our own public enterprises.

Sir, I have seen that some times we ourselves may be also responsible for damaging the image of our own public enterprises. Therefore, I really read the Resolution of by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee again and again. She has certain points which she had made in her Resolution. The first point that she made was that she expressed here concern over the increasing number of public sector undertakings falling sick and the Government's decision to close down 12 such undertakings, resulting in a loss of employment to thousands of workers and non-payment of their wages. She also expressed her concern about the disinvestment of public sector undertakings including even the profit making undertakings. Therefore, she has urged the Government to take certain steps.

Firstly, she has asked to stop closure of sick public sector undertakings; secondly she was asked to take steps to revive the viable sick public sector undertakings and to formulate a comprehensive policy to improve the functioning; thirdly, to review the disincentive policy; fourthly, to make immediate payment of dues to employees; and lastly, she has asked to frame a policy to rehabilitate the ousted workforce due to closure.

At the outset, I must make a clear statement in the House that no closure as such has been made in public sector undertakings. It is true that a number of cases are found to be sick, and they have been sent to the BIFR. But when the matter goes to the BIFR, in case of a public sector, it has the desire to revive and not to close down.

I am sure that the hon. Member is also aware that last time when such desire was expressed by the BIFR to close down the public sector undertakings, which were

ten in number, a Review Committee was appointed by this Government because the Government's intention is quite clear that as far as possible, we would not like to close the public sector undertakings.

But at the same time, the Government also desires that a certain definite policy will have to be found out with regard to disinvestment. As regards disinvestment, the policy has been declared by the Government and which we are following now.

The first question which was mentioned here about the closure of the public undertakings. It is not that the public undertakings are going to be closed without making best of its efforts to keep them working. The intention here seems that we must take care of the workers. The rehabilitation of the workers should be given maximum importance which is also being done.

What is required according to me is the crystal clear approach to the problem.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two hours were allotted for this Resolution which was increased for one more hour. The allotted time is about to end. If the House agrees, the time may be extended so that the Hon. Minister and Shrimati Geeta Kukherjee can give their replies.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: The time may be extended.

[English]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Therefore, a very clear approach of the Government can be made on this issue only because of this Resolution and, therefore, I am indeed thankful to her once again for raising this issue in this august House.

Sir, the policy of the Government is quite clear. The Government's concern is to ensure that the PSUs are strengthened. We do not want to be condemned because they get slowly closed, that is not the intention of the Government. Secondly, the action is expedited to revive loss making and sick PSUs with minimal hardship to employees. I know there may be some hardship to the employees, but we feel that, as far as possible, there should be no hardship to the employees and the revival has to be done. Thirdly, the dues of employees are not withheld. Fourthly, when structural changes becomes necessary, the transition is not painful. Lastly, disinvestment is accompanied by reinvestment or redesigning the economy.

Sir, I made these points only because I always felt that the Government must be clear in its own mind as to what the Government desires to do. This clearly indicates

[Shri Manohar Joshi]

that the Government is not puzzled. The Government has no two thoughts. The Government has decisively decided to strengthen these PSUs. At the same time, I think that the question raised by a number of hon. Members here is as to why these PSUs are becoming sick; what are the reasons for these PSUs becoming sick.

I found ten reasons as to why these PSUs have become sick. There may be some reasons or I may have to add some more reasons after I have heard the hon. Members in this House.

I must also say that it is not something that the public sector industries become sick. We all know and particularly those who are in the business or industry know that even private industries become sick. Not that only the Government industries are becoming sick or only the Public Sector Undertakings are becoming sick, but the private industry are also on the way of closure today. They are also facing problems. When we meet them, they are also telling us the effects of the recession all over the world. Also a number of other reasons might be equal to the weakening of the public enterprises.

Since we are discussing about the PSUs, I would only say about the ten reasons which we have noted.

The first reason is obsolete technology. The technology that is available in our country today has become probably the old technology and the new technology is taking shape every minute outside our country. It may be easy to say, why do you not bring in that new technology to our country. But, Sir, it may not be possible in practice to bring technology every day in or country. It has not become possible even for the private enterprise to bring technology with the speed with which they want to bring it to our country.

I myself visited the HMT, about which a reference was made here. I went to Bangalore and tried to see the HMT factory. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said: 'HMT is the jewel of our country'. I must say that it is really the jewel of our country. But HMT is also suffering from losses. The loss is about Rs. 300 crore. If someone goes and sees the Head Office of the HMT or other units, we certainly say that we are proud of the company like HMT even today. I am talking about the watch manufacturing unit of HMT. The world is going so fast with new technology; the way in which they manufacture watches and the speed with which we manufacture watches, it makes a difference. None should feel that we are incompetent or our workers are incompetent to manufacture the best possible watches in our country. Even in our country, there is another company, I do not like to take the name here, which is also manufacturing very good watches. So, it is true that the technology, which is at present in the PSUs, has to be replaced. But, as

rightly said, if they were not in a position to give wages or salary to the workers in some cases, how can we infuse more money for bringing new technology in these companies. Sir, the only way out was disinvestment, which was adopted to find out a new technology, to bring in the new technology and with the help of the new technology we will be able to compete in the world market.

The other reasons are lack of economy of scale in manufacture; prolonged insulation from competition; availability of cheaper and better products from imports; and lack of orders.

Since when the public enterprises were started, it is true that in some cases, there was the guarantee of orders. For instance, the railway wagons. There were public enterprises which were manufacturing only wagons. But now, the wagon-manufacturing will always depend on the requirement of Railway Department and if their demand comes down, then they will not ask for wagons, the wagons will not be manufactured and the particular Public Enterprises Department comes into a great difficulty. I have given only one illustration but a number of illustrations of this nature can be given.

Regarding low productivity and surplus manpower, Sir, it is true that I would urge upon the entire House to understand that the very designs of the public enterprises and the private enterprises are different. The public enterprises have a social angle behind the work. Public enterprises do not work only for profit purposes. They also want to consider the aspect of employment in the country. When it was a monopoly business, they could do it and they could prosper. The decision on the excess manpower was also taken, maybe, at the request of the representatives of the people from different parts of the country. Maybe, it is because the people at that time thought that the company may prosper in future and, therefore, the excess manpower was inevitable, because that decision was taken from the angle of social aspect also.

Now, to go ahead with this particular manpower has become a difficult task and, there, the role of the Unions is also important. I have always been saying that if we, all of us, really desire to improve upon this public enterprises' business, it is not impossible to do that. But, then the cooperation from all sections will be necessary including the Unions and their leaders. The surplus manpower has also created a lot of problems.

Even in case of disinvestment, the people always ask, how many people are working. In some cases, they say this work does not require even the one-third force of what is employed today. When the question comes up for reducing the people over there, it becomes really a difficult problem, and, therefore, the disinvestment work is also not going ahead with the speed with which we really wanted it to go ahead.

I would not like to go into the social overheads and commitments but there are social overheads and commitments in these companies. When some of my friends were talking of corruption in public enterprises, they have just forgotten that corruption is not only in public enterprises but it has also gone into all the spheres of life. I am not defending corruption in public enterprises. If anybody gives the concrete example, I will see to it that to that extent it is stopped. But at the same time, it is everywhere. Therefore, it has become really a very difficult task.

Regarding gross neglect by erstwhile private-owners of those Units which the Government was compelled to take over in public interest, Sir, if you go into the details, you will find that at least 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the public enterprises were taken under coercion. That coercion was in public interest. Somebody did not want to keep them. Therefore, we have taken them. We did not go into the details whether in future we will run this in profit or whether this will create problems for us. Whether it is necessary to take such type of decision, I must say that no private persons would have taken these type of industries which are risky to take, which are from the point of view of business, are not advisable to take, but they were taken. The Government decision, at that time, was not bad. Therefore, it is also not good now to criticize the Government because we have taken that responsibility at that time. At that time, we all appreciated.

Now, only the people who are in the textile units—Shri Mohan Rawale will understand - came and asked us that the NTC must be taken over and all the sick mills should be taken over.

If you ask the Government to take such measures in the interest of protection of workers and thereafter if we are unable to run the mills, how can the Government be held responsible for such activities? It is beyond the control of the Government to run such type of mills and so is the case with the enterprises also... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to request the Hon. Minister to fulfil the commitment of the Government which was given in the package deal of Textile Ministry. All the mills can function if it is implemented. You should implement it at a fast pace.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: I would implement it at a fast pace but that pace would not be maintained for answering your question. I would answer your question when I come to that point.

[*English*]

I am just talking about the general points; individual cases I shall take up later on.

Sir, these were some of the reasons why the companies are becoming sick. I am also in agreement that sometimes the managements are not good. As the Members have already said, sometimes there is political interference or sometimes there is a dual machinery which is working. So, that also creates problems. But by saying that and by blaming the CMDs of the public enterprises, we may sometimes be doing a great injustice to them also. I see some of them really working hard. They are trying sometimes to bring the company out of difficulty... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, there is an inordinate delay in the appointment of Chairmen and Managing Directors of the existing PSUs because of the formalities. Will the Government contemplate to simplify the formalities so that the Chairmen and the Managing Directors can be appointed easily, without much delay?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : I have noted your point and I agree to that also. It is absolutely true that the delay takes place because there is a lot of procedure. And when someone wants to be transferred, there is a lot of more procedure. It is not a defect in public enterprises, it is a defect of democracy that when you want the things to be clear to everyone—to the Parliament, to the public and to the Press also—then naturally the matters are a little difficult. That is the only reason. But still we shall try to shorten it.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, is it necessary that all cases of appointments, transfers, etc. should go to Prime Minister for approval? Why can the Minister himself not approve?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: I understand that and in some cases the Minister are allowed also.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : I would like to appreciate the sense of devotion with which the hon. Minister is trying to rejuvenate H.M.T. But, I have to make another request. The employees, who retired under V.R.S. schemes have not got all the benefits promised under that scheme. They were given only part of that benefit and now they are running from pillar to post for getting the remaining benefits. You should try to solve their problem so that they may not suffer.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am having discussions on the specific issue raised by you because I know that a commitment was made to them and they are willing to retire if the Government gives them the promised money

[Shri Manohar Joshi]

[English]

I do not remember the right figure, but a number of workers have shown willingness that they are prepared to accept VRS. Fortunately, in HMT, the Union the other people are very cooperative and, therefore, I am confident that the matter will be settled as soon as possible.

Sir, the question is not only about the officers, but there should always be a level playing field also. Some hon. Member also mentioned about it here. I have not been a student of economics but I do understand that. It seems that there is no level playing field. This complaint was made to me by the Private Sector Heavy Industries Association also in the CII meeting. A number of closures are taking place in private sector also only because of the fear of the zero duty formula which has been taken into consideration.

On the one side, we are charging the minimum duty or zero duty on the imported goods and therefore, they become cheaper, on the other side, there are a number of taxes being charged on the products which are being manufactured in our own country and therefore, the final products become so much expensive that nobody would be desirous of buying them. This has also created a problem and I assure the representatives of different unions, different companies that I will discuss this problem with the hon. Prime Minister and bring to his notice that if there is no level-playing field, it will be difficult for these industries to survive because I have noticed that there are complicated problems. But we have also to tackle this issue. These are some of the reasons I have noted and of course, I know that there may be some more reasons which I would like to go into.

Sir, is it not possible to improve upon this? Is it not possible to find the ways and means to see that we overcome the fear in our minds by finding out measures so that sick industries need not be closed? The basic objective of the Government as regards revival has been made clear.

Somebody raised the issue about BIFR. I collected the information that BIFR working is also taking a long time. Sir, this also needs application of mind. When I was in the other House, there also, it was raised by one of the hon. Members that the Government is not furnishing the information required by BIFR to it. I would only like to say that this requires more attention. As regards number of members, I would say that it was set up in 1987 and there are six members and one Chairman who are at present with the BIFR.

The Sick Industrial Companies Act, SICA makes it obligatory to refer units which have lost their net worth to BIFR. The BIFR is an arrangement to revive sick units where it is possible. It appoints an operating agency, it formulates rehabilitation package in consultation with

financial institutions, the Government, the management, the employees and other agencies. This is a quasi-judicial body. If this work is given to some other authority, I am afraid that there may arise doubts or suspicions in the minds of people about whether those bodies may work properly. What is necessary is to put up a time-limit for the Government, for the financial institutions and also, to a certain extent, for the BIFR to settle the problems within certain prescribed time. If that can be done, it will be fine. The rehabilitation package includes writing off of past losses, conversion of past loans into equity, infusion of fresh equity, relief from past liabilities and provision of guarantees for fresh borrowings. Reconstruction of enterprises is also, thus, attempted. Therefore, I personally feel that this should not be done away with and it should be continued with.

I would like to tell only two figures to the House instead of taking more time of the House. In 1991-92, the profit-making Public Sector Enterprises earned a profit of Rs. 6,079 crore. Now, this has increased by 233 per cent to Rs. 20,267 crore in 1997-98. That means the percentage of profit has increased to a very large extent in these Public Sector enterprises also.

Sir, this shows that the PSUs have also been successful to a large extent.

Lastly, I would speak about disinvestment. It has become a must because these units were expected to be independent, but they have not become independent. If disinvestment is not done, then no money will come. When the debate was going on, a suggestion was made that a part of the amount which we get from the disinvestment should be given to those companies which are running heavy losses. That was my suggestion also, and I said this in one of my speeches. The per cent of the amount has been earmarked as a fund, and the money can be given from that. We have to push this matter further, and despite all the difficulties, we have to go ahead with the procedure of disinvestment.

Sir, I would not be able to reply to all the questions which the Members have raised. While making her point, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee had raised a question about the GAIL shares, and according to her, those shares were sold at a cheaper price. I think, the reply to that question was given by the hon. Finance Minister in the House earlier that the price of the share depends upon the time when the shares are sold. There was a controversy in the newspapers on this, and a detailed reply was given to it. So, I do not want to take the time of the House by going into it against. She also said that the BIFR has been a failure. I have already replied to that. She said that some hard decisions are yet to be taken in regard to the workers' problems, and I am in agreement with her. Some other hon. Member also has given the same suggestion.

He said, in regard to PSUs.

[Translation]

that those factories should be closed down immediately which are about to be closed. For this, if it is necessary to take drastic actions, it must be taken, otherwise there will be a situation of 'Tum bhi rani, mai bhi rani, Kaun bharega pani'. I member that I was present in the House at that time.

[English]

Hon. Rawatji has raised the same issue.

[Translation]

I know that we have to formulate a policy regarding it.

[English]

I am seriously thinking that on these PSU matters, a white paper will have to be issued. That white paper will be really a guideline for the Government to work, and for the PSUs, to improve upto. I am considering whether such a white paper should be issued, and this white paper will be exhaustive in nature. At the time of issuing such a paper, this type of discussion will be very much useful.

The Members have raised a number of questions and I have noted all their questions. But since you have indicated to me that my time limit is over, I may not be able to go into the details of all the questions. There was a suggestion that there should be a monitoring body, and it is a very good suggestion. I am inclined to accept this suggestion go having a monitoring body in respect of PSUs, and also a review has to be done from time to time in regard to its progress.

Sir, for want of time, I am not in a position to reply to all the queries which were raised. But I can assure the Hon. Members that all the important questions which were raised would be replied in writing.

Before I complete my speech, I will reply to the last question which Shri Rawale has asked me in the House. I would only tell the hon. Member, Shri Mohan Rawale, that the question of textile mills not only relates to Maharashtra, but it has become a serious question all over India. Therefore, what has become necessary is diversification from time to time, as it is done in other business enterprises. We cannot always say that we will go ahead with the same business, though the same business has no demand.

You cannot go on with the same machinery; you cannot go on with the same business.

Some hon. Member here raised a point about the rate of interest. In foreign countries, the rate of interest is only two per cent to three per cent. But in our country, the

industrialists are expected to go ahead with their business with interest rates, as high as twenty per cent. It really becomes difficult for them to go ahead with their business with such high interest rates.

Sir, the intention of the Government—I must say, and Smt. Mukherjee would understand - is quite clear. We are serious about the issue. We want to rehabilitate the workers very nicely. We have started not only the VRS but also the VSS. Otherwise, the workers would not have got the money which they are now getting. Therefore, the Government is interested in running the industry; we are interested in good rehabilitation of the workers and we are also interested in cooperation from all sections of this House. We are also considering the issuance of White Paper on this subject.

Sir, therefore, I would like to request Smt. Geeta Mukherjee to withdraw the Resolution that she has moved. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the number of PSUs that have been closed, as was mentioned by me, is not twelve. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that this figure was quoted by me from an official reply to a question asked by some hon. Members of this House. If the official answers are like this, then it is up to the Government.

Sir, this morning a Starred Question relating to coal was being discussed in this House. The Minister was saying that they were having a good profit from CIL as a whole. I then asked him, then in that case, why can they not finance those units which are running at loss from the units which are running at a profit? In reply to that he told me clearly that it is because of the World Bank. The cat was out of the bag. Why are all these things happening? You say that it is the World Bank and the IMF before whom the Government has to come down. This is creating a majority of the problems.

Sir, secondly, I would like to make a point on BIFR. I understand, that there was debate on this issue in the Rajya Sabha and Shri Nilotpal Basu was accusing the Minister about the functioning of the BIFR. The proceedings of the BIFR is very slow. Now, whatever information is asked by the BIFR from the Government, the Government provides the information. But Government has failed to give answers and have sought time to provide the answers.

Sir, I would like to say that the BIFR needs to be activated properly and the delay on the part of the Government is also causing a lot of problems, which I think, could be avoided if there is monitoring with a proper policy in place.

[Smt. Geeta Mukherjee]

Sir, It has been stated that rehabilitation of the workers is being tried out. As far as I know, at least in West Bengal I have not seen any rehabilitation of the workers taking place. I do not know if rehabilitation of workers is taking place somewhere else. I shall be happy to know about that. I would also hope that rehabilitation would take place universally and not done selectively.

Sir, now I would also like to make a point in regard to the private industries. The private industries also are getting sick. The hon. Minister himself has stated that they are not able to face competition. Why is it so? It is because you have given so much advantage to the foreign companies that our domestic industries - whether public or private - are in a difficult situation. It is clear that unless the Government changes the economic policy, all these problems cannot be solved. Even then, I am happy to learn that the Government would try and I hope, that they would try to do it.

As I mentioned, payment that is due to workers has been held up for months together and it is really causing tremendous hardship to them. I particularly request the Minister to go into it and see that such things are avoided. Everybody knows that a parallel economy runs in our country. If only the Government had succeeded to bring the black money into the mainstream, half of these problems could have been solved and our budget would not have been what it is today.

Sir, though I am not very happy with the Minister's reply, since he has stated that he will try and bring out a white paper and requested me to withdraw my Resolution, I withdraw it with the resolve that we shall make the whole country fight this policy which is taking India to ruin and undermining our economic sovereignty. I hope that this will be remembered by all the people of our country.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a query. May I make the query with your kind permission?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may discuss it afterwards with the Minister in his Chamber.

[English]

I am not allowing you.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the resolution moved by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee be withdrawn?

The Resolution was by leave withdrawn.

1703 hrs.

(II) Board for Development of Hilly Regions

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up the Resolution on development of hilly regions by Shri Maheshwar Singh. Before we take up the Resolution for discussion, we have to allot time for it. Shall we allot two hours time for the Resolution?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, two hours time is allotted for this Resolution. Shri Maheshwar Singh may move his Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to move my Resolution in the following words:

"This House is of the view that the Central Government should constitute a Board for the overall development of the hilly states and hilly regions, especially of the Himalayan region of the country so that they can be brought at par with the developed plains of the country."

52 years have passed since the country became independent, but it is a matter of regret that the people residing in these hilly regions are striving for the development of their region. Whenever tourist and V.I.Ps. of our country visit beautiful tourist spots in the Himalayan region, they react by saying that there is a lot of development in the hilly regions. But truth is quite different. One has to go to the interior parts of this area to know the truth. The people living in those areas are far behind others as far as development is concerned. It is a fact that State Governments are trying their best to develop these regions, even while they have limited resources. For example, the Government of Himachal Pradesh has been trying its best to develop these hilly regions with its meagre resources, and the present Government is also doing the same. There is no doubt that the members of Parliament elected from hilly districts have been raising problems regarding the development of hilly region from time to time in this august House. But our voice is not heard because our strength is less in this House. If I am not wrong, excluding western Ghat and Taluqa presently the number of members of Parliament from hilly districts is around 29.

It is also a fact that the Government of India have formulated many schemes from time to time such as Hill area development programme, Western Ghat development programme, North-East Council, Border area development programme, Desert development programme and drought area development programme. In the year 1983 or 84, this matter was discussed in National Development Council, that a National Himalayan development policy be formulated. A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Z. Kasim, the then member of Planning Board. That Committee recommended that a North Western Himalayan Council be constituted. But till date no action has been taken in this regard. I am of the opinion that unless and until National Himalayan development Board is constituted our problems will not be solved. Even if number of Boards or developmental committees are constituted at lower levels but it is essential that they are to be reviewed at Central level.

It is a matter of pride for us that the present Prime Minister honourable Atal Bihari Vajpayee has got special affection for Himalaya, as a result of which a ray of hope has kindled in the hearts of the people residing in these hilly regions that their problems will surely be solved.

The hilly region of the country has been divided into two categories. One, which are hilly states. Under which Jammu-Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram come 21 members are elected from this region for Lok Sabha. These States are called as special category States. These States are given 90 percent of amount as central assistance and the balance 10 percent of the amount is given as loan where as other States are given 30 percent of the amount as financial assistance grant and remaining 70 percent of the amount is provided as loan. Few years back non-planned expenditure incurred by these States was borne by the Central Government and it was written off subsequently. But after the constitution of Ninth Finance Commission the facilities of these hilly States were withdrawn. As a result of which these States are facing financial crisis because their sources of income are very limited. What ever is their income is spent over the salaries of the State Government employees and nothing is left over for the developmental work.

The hilly areas which are covered under Hill area development programme, come under the second category. Under which nine districts of Uttar Pradesh come and from there nine Member are elected. Two districts of Assam, come there under and two members are elected from these districts. The Darjiling district of West Bengal and Neelgiri district of Tamilnadu from where a single member from each district is elected, also comes under this category. Besides, if I am not wrong, there are 159 Taluques of Western Ghat which also come under this category.

So far as hilly areas are concerned, besides Nature, there are same problems which these regions have inherited and resulting these causes we are lagging behind as compare to plain region in the matter of development. There are seven reasons for this backwardness. Besides other reasons sometimes unbalanced development leads to terrorism. Generally the people residing in hilly regions are peace loving, but it has been observed that the regions where the situation of terrorism has developed, where agitation has been demonstrated by the people packages have been provided to these States from time to time. It is my humble submission to this House to raise above the party politics and think about these Hilly districts. I would like to draw the attention of this House about the seven points which are related to these Hilly regions.

The first point that our geographical and climatic conditions are adverse. There are dup rivulets. In some places whether it is hilly area and rocky. It is not easy to carry out developmental activities in these areas. For example if we want to construct a Kachcha road, it involves minimum amount of rupees 3 lakhs per kilometre where as in plains we can construct 5-6 kilometre of Road in Rupees 3 lakhs. So far as climactic conditions are concerned there are number of places which are cut off from other places during winter season. There are no means of transportation. For example Lahole and Spiti region in Himachal Pradesh falls under my parliamentary constituency, this region remains cut off for six to seven months due to snow fall or avalanche. Under such conditions the State Government has to operate helicopter service so as to provide facilities to the people of this area.

So far as the approach roads are concerned, roads have been constructed but there is the problems of metalling those roads. We have limited financial sources. It is a fact that the people of this region go to work after taking bath in the morning and when they return back to their homes in the evening they are so much soiled that unless and until they wash their faces their wives find difficulty in recognizing them. It is, therefore my humble submission that if the funds for construction of roads is released on the basis of the population in that area and no consideration is given to the geographical conditions of that area, hilly districts will remain backward.

The second point is relating to vast area and less population in hilly regions. The total area of Hilly States is 4061.74 square kilometres and the population is less than 2 crores. There are a Hilly districts in Uttar Pradesh and if I am not wrong, their area is around 52 thousand square K.M. and its population is just 60 lakhs. The density of population in some areas is 40-50-60 per square K.M.

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

The total tribal area of Himachal Pradesh is 23,655 sq. K.M. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House, through you is that the density of population of this area is 20-25 person per square kilometre. The total area of Himachal Pradesh is 55000 square kilometre. I would like to give some information about this region. I represent 32000 square kilometre of this region. Out of 32000 sq. K.M. 23655 sq. K.M. belong to 3 tribal areas. Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur and Bharmour come under this region. The density of population in these areas is not more than 15 to 30 person per square kilometre.

Sir, my third point is that we have limited sources of income. It is a matter of glad that Shri Shanta Kumar, who is Food and Supply Minister and has been Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh for a long time, is present in the House. So far as Hilly States are concerned I would particularly talk about Himachal Pradesh. The Nature has given every thing generously to us. I remember that Shanta Kumar used to tell that we have such a kind of water by which electricity can be generated. There is such a kind so stones in our State with which we can make cement. Here nature is gifted with such a beautiful sights that not only tourists from our country but also from foreign countries come to enjoy these sights. But due to limited sources of income this State is rich in respect of nature but the people are poor. If we get assistance liberally from centre the hilly States particularly Himachal Pradesh can become a self reliant State.

Sir, so far as the production of electricity is concerned, today Himachal Pradesh has the capacity to generate 22200 Mega Watt of electricity but due to limited sources only 800 Mega Watts is being generated. We can produce 2200 Mega Watts of electricity by ongoing projects but for the production of remaining 19,200 Mega Watts of electricity, we need funds. I would like to congratulate the present Government which is running under the stewardship of Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal. Himachal Pradesh is having a very ambitious Hydro electricity project. Namely Parvati Hydro electricity project, which is being constructed by N.H.C. and this project has the capacity to produce 2051 Mega Watts of electricity. I would like to thank the Prime Minister who is going to lay the foundation of the said project on 12th of December. So far as the quality of stone is concerned, I have already mentioned that we can produce cement from this stones. But when we talk of cement factory, the question of environment arises. I would like to tell some thing about this. It is a fact that if deforestation is done here, not only hilly States but the plain areas also have to suffer losses. So far as these forests are concerned it is our responsibility to save them but simultaneously it is also the responsibility of centre to safe guard the interest of these States. They should be given more and more financial assistance. Forest were a source of income for

us but when the Forest land conservation Act was brought in 1988 it has cropped up many problems before as, whether it is Himachal Pradesh or Eastern States or any other hilly states. There are three kinds of forests.

There is one demarcated forest, second is reserve forest and third is third class forest. But in British era when forest settlement took place, they created one more category which is termed as third category forest. It means that there is no forest but that can be utilized for forestry. It created the biggest problem. If building for the school is to be constructed, or any small developmental works are to be done, there is no land available for that. The reason behind it is that the land lying idle in the forest is kept in third category land, though there may not be even a single tree. Whenever we send any case for transfer. There is only one objection, how many trees are planted there. When they are told that there is not even a single tree then it is stated that if there is forest land then trees must be there. Through you I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to re-identify such land.

There are few villages which are surrounded by forests. If these villages are surrounded by forests its credit also goes to the people residing there. No forest can be developed without the co-operation of people. When the villagers do not get basic facilities they start cursing themselves. Due to this even we do not get basic facilities. Therefore, you must construct roads for the people residing near forests. If P.W.D. cannot construct such road then the Union Government should frame rules for such areas so that at least link roads may be constructed through forest department.

Today the increasing number of wild animals have become a problem for the families residing in hilly areas. It is the problem of the entire country but in hilly areas it is more serious problem. Therefore, there is need to attract the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two hours time has been fixed for it and you have already taken more than 20 minutes. I am not preventing you but you should conclude immediately so that all the hon'ble Members can participate in it. We have to take another business in 5.30 p.m.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on third point. I will include within four to five minutes. Third thing I would like to say is about the tourists. Generally surface transport is the mode of transport here. Railway is only a lesser part of it. It is also true that whatever rail facilities we have, these are from British times. Whether it is Kalka-Shimla line or Pathankot-Joginder Nagar rail line. In 1924 a survey was conducted to extend Joginder Nagar line upto Kullu, by constructing a tunnel below Jhubupas. Today the condition of Top Train running in Darjeeling is such that the number of wagons

is decreasing due to their bad condition. The trend of detaching the faulty wagons continues. Earlier the train in Sikkim went upto Gel Khola. Now it is upto Siliguri only. No new wagons are being manufactured and 46 k.m. of railway track has been scrapped.

We have raised several times the issue of gauge conversion in Himachal Pradesh and several times hon'ble Minister has promised that gauge conversion will be done. Due to the efforts of hon'ble Shanta Kumar, Kangra Queen has been introduced. Now it is said that there is no income from it so it is not viable. If such trains is only for first class passengers then low income is but natural. Therefore, there is need to think about it also.

As far as Air services are concerned, at present there are three air strips in Himachal Pradesh but the condition for all three is not good. Till the regular flights are not introduced, regular tourists will not come. Besides that services is so much costlier that instead of travelling to Himachal it is cheaper to travel to Nepal. Tourists will not go to these areas until subsidized rates are not introduced. Therefore, the attention is required towards this matter.

So far as fourth point is concerned, due to maximum distance between rural areas and Major Commercial Centres economic activities suffers a lot in deficient areas. Markets are very far from these areas and people face problems in selling their products. Until transport subsidy is not provided, we cannot send our produce to markets properly. There is need to provide cooling arrangements, only then we can take our perishable goods to markets whether it is floriculture or other goods.

Fifth point is backwardness in general infrastructural facilities and limited social development. Whether education or health or other facility, no one is ready to go to far flung areas. The biggest problem is to send employees to these areas. Distances are so much, schools are far away, although it is said that a lot of development has taken place but there is a lot to do. There are places where there is no school. If financial aid is not given liberally, the problem of hilly areas will continue to exist.

Sixth point is about costlier administration and costlier development and more expenditure on security at border areas. We spend more on security due to border area. On one side of the Tribal Areas in Himachal Pradesh, about which I have talked about, is China and on the other side is Pakistan. The shortest route to Kargil from Laddakh is via Lahaul but the Rohtangpass is the big problem there. A tunnel should be provided there. A survey was conducted in the past but till date fund is not being provided for that. It is a matter of country's security.

Rupees 500 crores is not a big amount. If this tunnel is provided in rupees 520 crores then the distance will be lessened by 46 kms. More and more money may be provided under Border Area Development Programme. Under Border Area Development Programme it is said these areas are not covered under that criterion whereas our border is directly connected to these areas.

My last point is about slow progress of development and population as the criterion for the centrally sponsored scheme. About each of the schemes originating from there it is said that population is the basis of that. For example take the J.R.Y. scheme. You will be surprised to know that rupees 1 lakh per panchayat is given to Rajasthan for development works and rupees 10-15 thousand per panchayat is given to Himachal Pradesh. When we ask about the reasons they say that the population is less. As such we think that we have to produce more. What sort of criterion is this? The basis of this should not be population but it should be based on geographical conditions. With these words I move my resolution. I am confident that hon'ble Members will rise above party politics and welcome this resolution, so that the development work in hilly areas and plain areas is done uniformly. I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to speak.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the resolution brought by Shri Maheshwar Singh regarding setting up a Board for the development of Hilly areas. Most of the hilly areas in the country are in the borders. After fifty years of Independence the development works in these areas have not been upto expectations. These areas are backward in comparison to plain areas in the field of education, employment, industrial development and medical facilities. Ample opportunities of tourism development in these hilly areas are there but there are certain problems also. In the recent past illegal exploration work has been done in these hilly areas. Besides felling of trees is also one of the reasons. In the recent past a series of earthquakes occurred in these hilly areas. Due to this the life of the people residing in these areas is upset. Besides our area is adjacent to the border of other countries. Traitors try to disturb peace in these areas by indulging in terrorist activities after entering the country illegally.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Virendra Kumar, you can continue your speech later on because it is 5.30 p.m. now and we will take Half an Hour Discussion.

1730 hrs

HALF AND HOUR DISCUSSION Funds to Combat Naxalism

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up item No. 18.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important subject on which we are going to talk about. This is about the Left Front movements that are taking place in Bihar and the fall out of these activities that are going on for the last many years.

Bihar is in a state of turmoil, as the whole country knows. It is going through a churning process for now quite some years and there seems to be no settlement of any problems whatsoever. The Left wing movement is one of those. Bihar having been in trouble for the last 18 to 20 years in a very acute form, successive Governments have come and gone. They have not paid attention to the basic problems and the basic illness that forsakes state at the moment. As I said earlier, it is a pity that when we talk of Bihar, the only thing that comes to anybody's mind is that of total chaos, of total bedlam, of unemployment and other problems related to non-developmental work that has been there for quite some years.

I think for the last quite some months, while I was in my election campaign and thereafter when I am sitting in this august House, I choose to say one thing very categorically to this very august audience here that we keep on hearing about the word development. That word has become almost like a favourite that everybody comes across. Indeed, one main melody that is threatening us or is causing a lot of anxiety to the common man is the non-developmental programmes that the besetting every State. Every State has different problems in different magnitude. Right now we are discussing about Bihar and I will restrict myself to one basic problem that is the nexalite movement that is taking place in Bihar.

During my campaign just two months ago, I almost escaped. In a very, very prominent area of Gohaspura and Rafiganj which are very important segments of my Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency, the MCC were at work. It is impossible for any common man to secure himself either by day or night, least of all travel like free citizens in a free zone. There is a main reason for the nexalite movement taking place in Bihar or spreading its wings across 32 out of the 54 Parliamentary Constituencies, especially Central Bihar, which means Aurangabad, Jehanabad, Chatra, Nabada and also parts of Palamau where we had a carnage only a month ago.

The reason, of course, was that all these districts have caste problems because successive Governments have come and divided the State into basically two zones. Either you talk about class or caste. The socio-economic disturbances that have been caused over the years have been the result of this particular movement taking a very violent shape. For instance, in Jehanabad, at least 18 carnages took place in the last two years. The MO that we adopt here is to discuss it with the Government and the private citizens and also to see that some solution will come its way. But the solution does come its way and we find ourselves having another carnage, maybe of a wilder nature. For instance, two months ago in Loto, which is in Palamau district, most of the people killed were of minority community.

In Gaya district of Loto which is bordering Palamau, this incident had caused a lot of tremor and a lot of anguish in the minds of the people living in that zone. Therefore, I had asked the hon. Minister two pertinent questions. One was that we have to treat this problem of nexalities on two fronts. One is going to be the political front and the other will be the administration part of it. Now, I know that the Government of India will say that the Government of Bihar has a lot to do with this, for, it is law and order problem pertaining to the Government of Bihar. Here exactly what I want to say is that if Bihar is not able to cope up with the kind of onslaught that the people are facing everyday, the Centre must intervene and see that some amount of action is taken on a war footing by which we can control this particular movement in Central Bihar and other parts of Bihar.

Sir, I had asked the hon. Minister to give me an answer on four different counts. To begin with, I would like to state that the socio-economic disturbances that have been caused in this area is due to non-developmental programmes. We have no means of communication, no road facilities, there is not enough drinking water, electricity is negligible. Bihar is absolutely in doldrums. Therefore, the whole problem has to be seen in totality. We have to see that the developmental work takes a proper shape. The Government of India must tell the Government of Bihar to account for all the cases of atrocities that are piling up over so many months. The guilty have not been punished. No amount of police officers who have laid down their lives, the rifles which have been recovered from the nexalites, have been brought to light, and public is unaware of the actions that the Government is taking in this direction.

We do need development in a very big way. In Aurangabad, which is my Constituency and Jehanabad which is my neighbouring Constituency, MCC movement, the Sangram Samiti, the Ranbir Sena and the People's War Group, are highly active. Therefore, we will need the Government of India to put its best foot forward.

We would also see that ordinary police men on duty are not geared up and are not competent enough to deal with the situation. All that we need is that the policemen who are taking stock of these things must be trained, especially to counter the naxalite movement. A monitoring system must be established. We should, at least, know that on such and such day, this particular problem was averted because of the very active role that the police played.

I can also tell you Sir, Aurangabad, Jehanabad and all these naxalite-affected areas are without proper police stations. They do not have sufficient police officers to take care of this particular problem. When the police people are there, they are not geared up; they are not making their rounds in the villages; and they sit very quietly in their police stations because they are not motivated. They sit and have their lunches and dinners while naxalites are in operations. Sixty people were killed in Laxmanpur Bathe in Jehanabad area where a high-powered committee had also gone. We would like to know the net result. Nothing really happened. The people are still as insecure as they were six months ago. We have heard from the Ministry that such and such a decision had been taken or such and such an action had been taken. I would like to really know how this problem is being dealt with first by the State Government and what the Government of India is doing to monitor the activities of the State Government.

Lastly, the question which I asked was about the fund allocation to the State of Bihar. I was given an answer by the Ministry that certain funds were allotted under the modernisation scheme for police officers. Now this particular fund is given to all the States in the country. It is nothing very particular for Bihar. In case funds are given to Bihar for security-related purposes, I would like to know exactly what is the amount that goes to Bihar for looking after a policeman on duty, for modernisation of police station, and for construction of roads in these naxalite affected areas of Jehanabad and Aurangabad.

Therefore, what is the extent of importance that they give for this kind of a problem ?

One of my questions often asked is how much the Union Government have been provides funds to Bihar exclusively for Naxal activities in Aurangabad and Jehanabad; if so, the total funds allotted during the last three years; whether the State Government has not properly utilised the funds and diverted them for other purposes. I would like to state here that I have seen the reply given by the Home Ministry. I find that the Government of India did give funds to Bihar Government under Modernisation of Police Scheme funds. Presumably the Union Home Ministry would like us to know that Bihar used these funds. But it is not clear if the

Bihar Government really did so and if it did, how much of that was spent in Aurangabad and Jehanabad districts. These are the two most seriously affected districts. That is why I specifically mentioned as to what steps have been taken to combat Naxalism there. I have not received any reply. Also, are the funds for police modernisation the only funds Bihar has used in this regard ? The Government of India has a scheme of reimbursing 50 per cent of the security related expenditure. Therefore, I would like the Ministry to collect the information from the Government of Bihar and give it the topmost priority.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Chairman, Sir, with reference to this question I would like to submit that as it has been once observed by the judges of Bihar High Court that there is jungle raj in Bihar and governance is more or less uncontrolled there and whatever central assistance is provided, whether it is for the modernisation of police, or solving the problem of naxalites, or removing poverty and unemployment, is not utilized for that purpose. Our sister Shrimati Shyama Singh has asked about the same question and I would also like to know about the problems arising out of this question. The Government has stated in his reply that whatever expenditure was incurred or proposed to be incurred by the States to solve the problems of terrorism caused by leftist and naxalites during 1996-2001, of that 50 percent amount is provided by the Central Government. In the figures given in his reply he has shown that the amount of Rs. 333.12 lakhs in 1996-76, Rs. 783.120 lakhs in 1997-98, Rs. 633.120 lakhs in 1998-99 has been provided to them. In this connection, I would like to know whether this amount in additional or it is 50 percent of the amount which is provided by the Centre and Bihar Government has made any contribution in it. Firstly, I would like to know about this. Secondly it was told that the funds have been given for the modernisation of the police. If the funds were given for this purpose then the reasons for spending the amount of rupees around 5 crores out of the amount of Rs. 633.120, that is more than 6 crores provided during 1998-99. Why remaining Rs. 1 crore were not spent ? Despite the modernisation of police innocent people are killed by the naxalites, M.C.C., C.P.I.M.L., Lal Sena, terrorist organisations of other party units of People war group. Thereafter when the news related to is brought out in the front pages of newspapers, we shed crocodile tears. We discuss it here but the problem of naxalites is not solved. Therefore, I would like to know that the Central Government have constituted a Coordination Cell under the Chairmanship of Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Chief Secretary, Bihar Government, Police Director General and the concerned officers of the districts affected by naxalites are its members and the Central Government is monitoring it but what steps have being taken by the Bihar Government to solve the problem of naxalites.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please restrict to the question only.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Whether the amount provided for the modernisation of Bihar police to combat the naxalites, trained in Gorilla war and equipped with sophisticated arms has been fully spent over them ? If not, by when the remaining amount of Rs. 1 crore will be spent and what our Government are doing in regard to the funds to be spent for developmental activities so that exploitation, opprenion and unemployment can be removed ?

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Mr. Chairman, I have asked a question that in regard to the developmental works which were to be started in the previous years the Central Government say that they don't have funds for this purpose hence it depends upon the State, that they should make arrangement for funds in this behalf in any way. I would like to know that the Government of India and the Home Minister can atleast ask them why have they not taken up these developmental activities ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I fully agree with the statement or the concern expressed by the hon. Member. I am also acquainted with the gravity of the situation prevailing in Bihar. The naxalite menace is not only in Bihar but it is there in the other parts of the country like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The hon. Member said that she was facing threat during the course of the election campaign. Similarly, I was also facing threat in Andhra Pradesh. You will see that every day one incident or the other is appearing in the newspapers. Most of the police personnel and individuals are targeted. Land mines are planted. Most of the Government buildings are being blasted every day. We are seeing that in the newspapers.

Coming to this question, this emanates from the Unstarred Question No. 116 which was answered on 29.11.99. In this question, it was clearly asked :

- "(a) whether the Union Government have been providing funds to Bihar exclusively for the Naxalite belt areas in Aurangabad and Jehanabad ;
- (b) if so, the total funds allotted during the last three years, year-wise ;
- (c) whether the State Government has not properly utilised the funds and diverted them for other purposes ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ; and

- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to combat Naxalism in Aurangabad and Jehanabad areas of Bihar ?"

The answer was given. I quote :

"The funds allotted to the Government of Bihar during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 under the scheme of modernisation of the State Police Forces and the amount spent by the State Government are as under."

Under three categories, details have been furnished. It is because no input is available at the Central Government's end to suggest that the State Government had diverted the funds given to it to combat naxalism for other purpose. Here, the position is to be clarified a bit more to appreciate all aspects. This amount was only given under the Union Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Force. It is given to all the States. This is not only to contain naxalite menace but also to equip the police with more weapons and all the other things. As far as this amount is concerned, we have received all the expenditure receipts. The Bihar Government has submitted Utilisation Certificates and also all the Reports. There is no complaint from any side to say that these amounts were diverted.

The main question was put specifically for the amounts given to contain the naxalite menace... (Interruptions) In fact, that was not sent... (Interruptions) Let me complete it. I am on my legs. This amount was spent not only for containing the naxalite menace but also to upgrade the police and equip the police with more machinery and all other things.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : A sum of rupees one crore was spent.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO : Rupees one crore is not spent. The details are awaited. We are asking for the detailed report for spending rupees one crore.

The second aspect is about the action taken by the Central Government. Under the leadership of Shri L.K. Advani, for the first time in the country, a meeting was held on 5th September, 1998. A Coordination Centre under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries of the respective States, where there is the problem is there, had been set up. All the Directors-General of Police are its Members. They are monitoring with all the affected States. Moreover, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Advani, was pleased to convene a meeting at Hyderabad where Secretaries, Chief Ministers and Home Ministers from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and other affected areas were also present on that day. They tried to evolve a policy. This Coordination Centre is regularly in contact with the State Intelligence and other inputs. They are also consulting the State Governments to take appropriate steps to curb the Naxalite menace.

Not only this, they have gone to the extent of drawing up an independent scheme for reimbursement of the security-related expenditure. The reports were already asked for. Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have furnished the reports for reimbursement as far as 50 per cent reimbursement of the security-related expenditure is concerned. Andhra Pradesh was paid Rs. 10 crore. Orissa was paid Rs. 3.58 crore and Maharashtra was paid Rs. 1.96 crore. But as far as Bihar is concerned, the report is yet to be prepared. The Government of Bihar came up with proposal claiming that they spent about Rs. 214.72 crore. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rasa Singh, kindly allow him to complete his reply.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO : Let me complete, Madam.... (*Interruptions*) The Government of Bihar was asked to prepare an action plan for efficient administration and to equip the Police with modern weaponry and also purchase some vehicles with the latest technology and telecommunication equipment. The proposal has been sent by the Government as far as security-related expenditure is concerned. It is under examination of the Ministry of Home Affairs. It will be decided. Fifty per cent of the amount actually spent by the Government of Bihar for purchase of weaponry, vehicles and so on, would be examined and reimbursed.

The two places were particularly mentioned by her. The Naxalite menace is more in Patna, Bhojpur, Palamau, Chatra, Garva, Aurangabad, Gaya, Jehanabad and Nalanda. They have identified all these districts as 'disturbed areas' affected by Naxalite menace. They are claiming to have spent this amount.

The Central Government, time and again, are directing the State Government to prepare a plan to combat the Naxalite menace. But that has not been given to the Central Government.

As far as security-related expenditure is concerned - it has recently been transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs - this will be assessed by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The required amount would be reimbursed to the State Government.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : I agree with the anxiety of the Minister of Home Affairs. He has been kind enough to give me the figures. But I am not satisfied with his answer... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only clarification is allowed.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Yes, Sir. I have already said about the security-related matters on which expenditure is being incurred. What is the feedback that you get from our State Government? I would like to know through your letter or communication so that at least we know that there is some work on warfooting which is going on in Jehanabad and Aurangabad because these schemes have been there. I know about his Hyderabad conclave. I know about the Home Minister's party. But I would like to know the outcome of it in the next two or three months.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only clarification and no new question is allowed.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO : This answer is very clear. They have already submitted the scheme for modernization of the State Police. The Government of Bihar has submitted utilisation certificates. There is no complaint against the Government to say that amounts have been diverted for other purposes as far as the scheme is concerned.

The second scheme which is now proposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs is yet to be decided by the Ministry ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing. There is a procedure. You have to give prior notice before 10 o'clock. There is no notice from you.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Is the Government strengthening the Police to stop naxalite movement... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I am not allowing. I am following the procedure. It will not go into the record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House stands adjourned to meet on Monday the 13th December, 1999 at 11 a.m.

1755 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 13, 1999/Agrahayana 22, 1921 (Saka).

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