

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. III contains Nos. 11 to 19)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 17, 1999/Agrahayana 26, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our esteemed former colleagues Shri Krishan Lal Sharma.

Shri Krishan Lal Sharma was a Member of Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabha from 1996 to April 1999 representing Outer Delhi Parliamentary Constituency of National Capital Territory of Delhi. Earlier, he was a Member of Rajya Sabha from 1990 to 1996.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Sharma was member of various Parliamentary Committees during his tenure of Membership of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. He was the Chairman of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation from 1996 to 1999. He took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contributions thereto.

An active social worker, Shri Sharma was deeply involved in the social upliftment programmes for the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society. He kept special interest in the poverty alleviation programmes in helping the harassed and helpless persons.

A widely travelled person, Shri Sharma was a member of Indian Delegation to Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference to Mauritius.

As a veteran freedom fighter, Shri Sharma actively participated in the Freedom Movement and helped in the relief and rehabilitation work of refugees from Pakistan. He had also been involved in the Kashmir Movement in 1953 and Bangladesh Liberation Movement during 1970-71. A renowned social worker, Shri Sharma made valuable contributions during the crises of terrorism in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.

Shri Krishan Lal Sharma passed away in the early hours today in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi at the age of 74.

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 memory of the departed soul.

11.04 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Border Trade

*282. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether a decision has been taken to encourage Border Trade between North Eastern States and the adjoining countries;

(b) the positive steps taken in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to monitor the implementation of this decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Government are taking various steps to encourage border trade between the North Eastern States and the adjoining countries.

(b) to (d) Steps taken by the Government for promotion of exports (including Border Trade) from various States in the North Eastern region include, *inter alia*, sanction of projects for development of infrastructure under the Critical Infrastructure Balance scheme, setting up of Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EDIP), identification of Land Customs Stations for infrastructure development and opening of offices of Commodity Boards.

Four Export Promotion Industrial Parks have been sanctioned in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland. Other State Governments in the NE region have been requested to furnish proposals for Export Promotion Industrial Park.

15 Land Customs Stations are functional in the NE region for trade with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan.

Under Exim Policy 1996-2002, Export Houses, Star Trading Houses of the NE region are eligible for additional Special Import Licences at 1% of the total turn-over, if they source at least 10% of the total export turn-over from NE Region.

There is a provision to recognise one State Corporation in each State as Export House in relaxation of the established criteria.

There is provision for enhanced air-subsidy for exports of pineapple exported from the airports located in the North East i.e., Agartala, Silchar, Guwahati, Imphal.

Commodity Boards and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) are actively engaged in promoting agriculture/horticulture/plantation related production and export activities.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the hon. Minister let the House know what trades have been taking place between Tripura and Bangladesh States. Meanwhile, the information that I have is that some traders of Bangladesh visited Tripura, and some traders from Tripura also visited Bangladesh. The State Government and the Bangladesh Government had some discussions also. What is the result? What steps are being taken by the centre to make easy and smooth, the trade between both Bangladesh and Tripura?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, we are taking all the steps necessary to increase both the border and regular trades. Thirty-seven Land Customs Stations on the international borders of India in the North-East have been identified. For example, with regard to Bangladesh, there are 13 in Assam, 10 in Meghalaya, 7 in Tripura; with regard to Myanmar, there is one in Manipur, one in Mizoram and one in Arunachal Pradesh; and with regard to Bhutan, there are three in Assam.

Sir, trade in Bangladesh border, however, does not take place. Both the sides, India and Bangladesh, have agreed in the recent trade review talks concluded in Dhaka in December, 1998 that the Joint Working Group shall examine various aspects of border trade and furnish its recommendations appropriately. This is the situation. Infrastructure for starting trade through another point in Champhal rail sector with regard to Indo-Myanmar in Mizoram is being created. The agreement with Myanmar provides for opening of trade through any other point as mutually decided.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Do the hon. Minister know that Tripura State is completely landlocked and communication is mostly absent? The goods and other commodities which are being produced in Tripura are mainly horticultural products. These are also not included in the trading between Bangladesh and Tripura under the present arrangements. Is it a fact that no arrangement has been done by the Central Government?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. Not only Tripura but the entire North-Eastern States are in a very critical condition in the sense 98 per cent of their borders are with countries like Bhutan, China, Myanmar

and Bangladesh. We have got the famous Chicken Neck contact of only 22 kilometres. So, they are suffering from this geographical wedge.

They have got a lot of natural resources. In fact, we are trying to plant rubber, coffee and tea in those States. Spices are also being encouraged to be planted. Horticulture and floriculture can flourish. If rubber is developed, I am told, Tripura will become another capital of rubber like Kottayam. So, we are making all our efforts to increase our trade relations with neighbouring countries. The critical point is how to cross the geographical border. That is being looked into.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Sir, I would like to ask another supplementary. I have only one more supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : No, hon. Member, please take your seat. This is not the way. Please take your seat.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, development and promotion of trade, across the border is not only an addition but also an alternative to industrialization which cannot be effectively carried out in a few hill States of the North-East.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government would propose to Bangladesh to open a route to a landlocked State like Mizoram so that both Bangladesh and Mizoram can promote trade interests mutually? May I also know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would contemplate reconstructing the Steelwell road built in the Second World War so that Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland can promote their trade interests with Myanmar and its neighbouring countries?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : The Government of Mizoram has proposed that the Government of India should allow opening of the river trade route with Bangladesh from Tiabung/Demagiri in Mizoram to Chittagong in Bangladesh over Karnaphuli river. It has been pointed out by them that this river route was the traditional trade route for the people living in this area before partition. The Mizoram Government has pointed that ginger produced in there can not be exported to Bangladesh in the absence of a formal Customs point at Demagiri and non-inclusion of Karnaphuli river in the list of authorised waterways for trade and transit. At the moment, there are only eight river routes authorised under the Protocol signed with Bangladesh under the Inland Waterways Agreement.

We understand the difficulties of that State. We are negotiating with the Bangladesh Government.

Regarding the road-route, it is the concern of the Ministry of Surface Transport.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : What about Steelwell road?
...(Interruptions).

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, although

the question pertains to the North-East, yet there is a very important area where tremendous potential exists for trade with Tibet. The route from Niti and Mana in Uttaranchal Pradesh has been a traditional route with Tibet. But, unfortunately, this has been closed for various reasons, particularly after the 1962 conflict.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider examining opening up of this route which is through Niti and Mana trade route to Tibet for which request from the locals as well as from me have been sent to the Ministry as well as to the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : It has not come to our notice. We will definitely have a look into it.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Sir, through you, I would like to ask from the hon. Minister whether his attention was drawn to a Planning Commission study made in the year 1992 which recommended the use of coastal shipping for transporting bulk commodities from Haldia to Chittagong, and from Chittagong to Akhawa by the Bangladesh Railways. Akhawa is only next door to Agartala. They would reduce the cost by one-third. That was a very important move ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I have a second question. I would like to draw the attention...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are entitled only to one question, not second question, if you have any.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Sir, it is a Part-b only. I would like to ask whether his attention is drawn to the fact that through the traditional practice prevailing, the people from Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh are able to go into Myanmar up to ten kilometres and stay there for about 48 hours or 72 hours, and the same reciprocity to the Myanmar people is there. A lot of informal trading is not accounted for in the national statistics.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : The hon. Member is very right. Inland water transport was the principal mode of carriage in the North-East prior to independence. Now, it is not possible. So, fresh initiatives are taken with Bangladesh Government for opening trade through Chittagong port. We are doing our best and we are talking to them. I think, discussions will very soon be resumed.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I think the hon. Minister knows, the trade between Assam and other States, with the foreign countries are more unofficial and unethical than official. The reason is that the Government of India has not opened the border trade policy until and unless the UDF Government came. Shri Chidambaram started opening these offices. Now the Minister has said that fifteen offices have been opened. I would request that there should be an

in-depth study about the areas where more offices should be opened and the system should be more speedier. If I want to supply something to Bangladesh and if I have to apply and wait for fifteen days, there is no point in doing that. In five days I can arrange with Customs and send the goods and earn money. That is what is happening. We know this because we are the elected representatives from that area. When we send people to the Customs, they ask for this formality, that formality, this certificate, that certificate. So, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will make the process more easier with the idea of stopping these sort of malpractices so that the Government can earn more income and more trade is encouraged. Suppose our cigarette or our soap goes to Bangladesh and there it is sold at 200 per cent higher price. But you will see from the records that nothing goes there. Tripura *bids* go to Bangladesh. If you go to the Customs office, it takes a long time for clearance. So, my question is very pointed. I want that there should be an easier method for clearance of this trade and more offices should be opened. I want to know when he is going to do it.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. He belongs to that area, so he knows much about the conditions prevailing there. A lot of illegal practices are taking place. There is no doubt about it. So, we have to prevent them. For that, we require speedy disposal. I agree with the hon. Member, but Customs comes under the Ministry of Finance. Naturally, I shall take it up with the Ministry of Finance and I shall put as many officers as possible, and very soon I shall report to him directly.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he has made a fresh study about the immediately exportable items from the North-East. When I was handling this Ministry for five years during the late Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister, I was deputed there to identify the basic items which are in big demand in the international market, and we found that the Naga colourful shawls made by various tribes are in big demand in France, Canada and the United States and at a better price. But because of not having enough facilities, both of the horticulture items as well as of the Naga shawls, these could not be marketed at that time. Will the Minister take up the issue once again and find out whether this could be tried again? The horticulture items cannot go because of lack of infrastructure facilities at the Guwahati airport and because of our not having the required cargo there. Afterwards, the shawls also were not marketed at all. I tell the hon. Minister for his benefit that at time we took ten shawls to France, the United States and Canada and we found in an exhibition that there were more than 2,000 buyers on one day! So, this much was the demand. I would like to know from the Minister whether he will exploit this opportunity with all the endeavour from the Ministry of Commerce.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I congratulate the hon.

Member and the former Minister for his suggestion. Only yesterday, we have approved a Bill, namely, the Geographic Indications Bill. In the Rajya Sabha it will be coming very soon. If we pass this Bill, we can safeguard our geographic indication and put a stamp on it as 'Naga shawls'. However, I shall look into this aspect and find out how best we can promote the export of that kind of variety. Not only that, much action is taking place in the North-East. Recently the FIPB has cleared foreign exchange to the extent of \$ 25 million for a French company called La Farge. They are going to create a cement plant in Bangladesh, for which they will be getting limestone from Meghalaya and that too by conveyor belt. The length of the conveyor belt will be only 15 kilometres whereas if they take it by road, they may have to travel 1,500 kilometres. The FIPB has given the clearance and the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs are perusing some of the formalities with regard to the cross-border movement. Very soon it will come through. So, I think the future of the North-East is very bright.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sangtam, please put a very brief supplementary.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Sir, I would like to put one question to the hon. Minister. Four trade centres in Nagaland have already been identified. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the trade routes have been suggested from Indian side to Myanmar side because so far, there is no road connected to these centres. It is more than four years now that the identification has been made. Indian side has also not got the border road to these centres. Therefore, I want to know whether any communication has been taken up with the Myanmar Government in this regard.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, roads are not under my Ministry but I will take it up with the Ministry of Surface Transport.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me one chance to raise one supplementary before the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry. I am coming from Bodoland. Bodo women and girls are experts in preparing or making or producing this sort of Bodo dress which I am wearing just now and it is very precious. I would like to request the hon. Minister to consider export of Bodo clothes, textiles, handicrafts etc. particularly the *Indi cloth (Iri kapara)* to foreign countries. I want to know whether any policy matter will be taken up by the Government or not in this regard...*(Interruptions)* Why only Naga shawls and why not Bodo shawls?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bwiswmuthiary, please take your seat.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : It will give employment to several lakhs of Bodo women and girls.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, that clothe is very elegant.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, as the hon. Member

has pointed out, that Bodo shawl which the hon. Member is wearing is very elegant. If at all the Government has to create any Board for promotion of Bodo products, we will make him the Chairman of it.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Thank you.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : You can supply one shawl to each Member also....*(Interruptions)*

Loans to Agricultural Sector

+
*283. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for providing loans to small and marginal farmers through various banks during the last three years alongwith the target achieved;

(b) whether the RBI has issued directions to the banks in regard to granting of loans to agricultural sector, out of the total loan sanctioned by them;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of such banks which have not followed the directions;

(e) the action taken by the Government against those banks;

(f) whether despite the availability of loan on the basis of said directions, the capital required for the development of agricultural sector could not be mobilized ; and

(g) If so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the loan to farmers, particularly to small and marginal farmers?

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

Statement

(a) Though no specific targets have been fixed for providing loans to small and marginal farmers, they are included under the targets fixed for agriculture and weaker sections. The direct advances of all scheduled commercial banks to small and marginal farmers viz., land holdings upto 5 acres during the last 3 years are given below:

(Rs. crores)		
Year	Amount disbursed	Amount Outstanding
1995-96	3954	8620
1996-97	4468	9927
1997-98	4701	10499

(b) and (c) As per extant policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), domestic scheduled commercial banks are required to lend 18 per cent of their net bank credit for agriculture under the priority sector.

(d) The names of public sector and private sector banks which have not achieved the target of 18 per cent, as reported by RBI, as on the last Friday of March 1999 are given in Annexure I and II respectively.

(e) All scheduled commercial banks have been advised from time to time to make every effort to achieve the stipulated target and sub-target for lending to priority sector as well as agriculture. Those banks which do not achieve the agricultural lending sub-target of 18 per cent of net bank credit are required to make contribution to the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) maintained by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) equivalent to their shortfall in achieving the sub-target for agriculture subject to a maximum of 1.5% of Net Bank Credit. Accordingly, defaulting banks have been contributing to RIDF since the time of inception of this Fund.

(f) The total flow of credit to agriculture has been growing substantially. The ground level flow of credit to agriculture by all agencies, viz. co-operatives, regional rural banks and commercial banks for the last three years is as under:

(Rs. crores)

Year	Amount	Growth Rate (%)
1996-97	26411	20
1997-98	31698	20
1998-99	38054	20

(g) With a view to further strengthen the flow of credit to small and marginal farmers certain relaxations in regard to margin money requirements, security, norms etc. have been extended to such borrowers by RBI. The relaxations include:

- (1) Banks not to insist on margin money for crop loans/term loans granted to small and marginal farmers upto Rs. 10,000/-.
- (2) Banks not to insist upon collateral security/ third party guarantee for crop loans upto Rs. 10,000/- Hypothecation of crops can be taken as security.
- (3) As regard loans above Rs. 10,000/- banks have discretion in the matters relating to margin/security.
- (4) Payment of interest to be insisted upon only at the time of repayment of loan instalments fixed.

(5) Banks not to compound interest on current dues in respect of long duration crop loans and instalments not falling due in respect of terms loans.

(6) Total interest debited to the accounts of small and marginal farmers not to exceed the principal amount in respect of short term advances.

Annexure-I

Names of Public Sector Banks which have not achieved the target of agricultural lending of 18% of their net bank credit as on March, 1999

1. State Bank of India
2. State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur
3. State Bank of Hyderabad
4. State Bank of Saurashtra
5. Allahabad Bank
6. Bank of Maharashtra
7. Central Bank of India
8. Corporation Bank
9. Dena Bank
10. Oriental Bank of Commerce
11. Punjab National Bank
12. Punjab & Sind Bank
13. Syndicate Bank
14. Union Bank of India
15. United Bank of India
16. UCO Bank
17. Vijaya Bank

Annexure-II

Names of Private Sector Banks which have not achieved the target of agricultural lending of 18% of their net bank credit as on March, 1999

1. Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
2. Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.
3. Karnataka Bank Ltd.
4. Vysya Bank Ltd.

5. Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.
6. Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.
7. Federal Bank Ltd.
8. Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.
9. Nedungadi Bank Ltd.
10. South Indian Bank Ltd.
11. Ratnakar Bank Ltd.
12. Sangli Bank Ltd.
13. United Western Bank Ltd.
14. Bank of Madura Ltd.
15. Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.
16. Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
17. Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.
18. City Union Bank Ltd.
19. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.
20. Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd.
21. Benaras State Bank Ltd.
22. Nainital Bank Ltd.
23. Sikkim Bank Ltd.
24. SBI Commercial & International Bank Ltd.
25. UTI Bank Ltd.
26. Indusind Bank Ltd.
27. ICICI Banking Corporation Ltd.
28. Global Trust Bank Ltd.
29. Centurion Bank Ltd.
30. Bank of Punjab Ltd.
31. Times Bank Ltd.
32. Development Credit Bank Ltd.
33. IDBI Bank Ltd.

SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for providing certain relaxations regarding margin money requirements and security norms which would help the farmers.

My question is this : In the disbursement of agricultural

loan, the Punjab and Sind Bank adopted a new approach, namely, the farmer is required to mortgage the whole or part of his land, according to required to mortgage the whole or part of his land, according to requirements, for 12 years, and then the overall eligibility for borrowing limits for credit is defined. In other words, the farmer is treated like loan being given to an urban industry where collateral security is taken. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Finance whether he would consider the Punjab and Sind Bank approach in respect of loan disbursement to rural sector to be adopted by all other banks.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, as far as small and marginal farmers are concerned, there is no need of any kind of security or collateral security. It depends on the size of the loan. If the size is bigger, then some mortgage and collateral security are required. But if there is any harassment from the Punjab and Sind Bank or if there are any obstacles from the banker's side, I will definitely look into it.

SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Sir, the Reserve Bank of India constituted R.V. Gupta Committee to go into the question of streamlining credit to the agricultural sector. The implementation of the recommendations of the Gupta Committee would substantially improve the delivery system and smoothen the flow of credit. At present the agricultural credit is disbursed through multi-agency network consisting of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would see that an integrated approach is adopted so that there would be more coordination between various agencies which would pave way for substantial increase in the flow of rural credit.

Also, regarding answer to part (e) of my question. I would also like to know to what is the amount that came to RIDF in the form of contributions from defaulting banks.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker Sir, the targets are fixed at 18 per cent for agriculture sector loans. Some banks do default. So, as a penalty, we do credit the remaining amount to the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund. So, up till now, they had to contribute Rs. 13,500 crore for the infrastructure development. Under it, loan is given to the States as well as to the village panchayats, for the development of infrastructure and rest of the amount, as per the guidelines naturally will be distributed.

Now, uptill now, 16.5 per cent is the distribution by the commercial banks, but the question relates to weaker sections. We do give 10 per cent out of the total loan to the weaker sections. The first part of the question is that the Gupta Committee had recommended for some simplifications in the distribution of agricultural credit. Now, the instructions are given to the banks, but the main point is how can single-window concept be introduced so that

the farmers should not have to go from one bank to another bank. So far as long-term loan is concerned, we have a system of Land Development Fund and so far as medium-term and short-term loans are concerned, somebody is going to the commercial bank and somebody is going to the cooperative bank. So, it also depends upon the choice of the farmer.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, apart from the requirement for the agricultural operation loan, the small and marginal farmers need money for their miscellaneous expenses like medical treatment, their children's education, and family functions like marriage. For all these purpose, the small and marginal farmers have to go to village money-lenders to get loan at a heavy interest. For avoiding such situations, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government provides any special schemes to sanction miscellaneous loans to the small and marginal farmers.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker Sir, there is a scheme of consumptive finance up to Rs. 500 for a family. I do agree that the total requirement cannot be met under one scheme, but we do give some consumptive finance to the small and marginal farmers so that their urgent needs can be met.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the R.B.I. has issued specific guidelines for sanctioning loans to any sector. The hon'ble Minister has also made a mention of 15%. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the names of the States where guidelines in respect of rural areas are not being followed? If they are being followed in some areas, then what is their proportion?

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker Sir, the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India cannot be applied universally to all the States. The thing is that the commercial banks do act as per the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India and cooperative banks are covered under the respective State's Cooperative Societies Act. So, sometimes they do give loans. Since the scale of finance is the main issue in this area, I would like to inform that the scale of finance is decided by the State Government so far as cooperative banks are concerned and the scale of finance in commercial banks is decided by the bank concerned as per the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : What is its proportion in different States.

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : We will supply the information because it is not available at present.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you can supply the information to the hon. Member.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Mr. Speaker Sir, as far as the flow of bank loans to the agriculture sector, particularly the small and marginal farmers is concerned, the picture is not as rosy as the hon. Minister is presenting. Out of the 40 per cent that has been earmarked, as per the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, for the priority sector, 18 per cent should go to the agriculture sector. Even in the agriculture sector, most of the corporate farming is grabbing these loans and not the small and marginal farmers. That is why, there is a real meaning in the question that small and marginal farmers should be provided credit, otherwise these people cannot go in for farming.

The second aspect that the hon. Minister should look into is that all the gold loans that are being obtained in the commercial banks are also classified as agriculture loans. It is not so. Most of these gold loans are not being incorporated in the agriculture sector. That is why, I would like to know from the hon. Minister which are the banks which could not come up to the 18 per cent flow of lending to agriculture sector all these years. There are several banks which are still touching 13 per cent to 14 per cent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will look into it. And, if there is a violation of the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, what action does the Government or the Reserve Bank of India propose to take? Secondly....

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that you can ask only one supplementary and not two. What is this? In half-an-hour, we have covered only two questions.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, it relates to part (b) of my question, that is, whether the gold loans will be deleted from the consideration of agricultural loans.

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask only one question.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : As far as the small and marginal farmers are concerned, in the written statement, we have given the details of the disbursed amount and the outstanding amount. In 1997-98, the amount disbursed was Rs. 4,701 crore, and the outstanding amount was Rs. 10,499 crore. So, we do insist the banks from time to time, and RBI and NABARD in particular are monitoring it to see how the small and marginal farmers can be benefited. At the same time, if you see the written statement in part (g) (6), for the benefit of the small and marginal farmers, we have given them the relaxation that the total interest debited to the accounts of small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount in respect of short term advances. Naturally, this covers it. If somebody pays a higher amount, then we can look into it.

As far as the gold loan is concerned, you are definitely right. Some cases are going that way and we will inquire into it. The list of the banks which are not following this 18 per cent norm is a long one; I will supply the list to you. From time to time, we are monitoring it. They should comply with the norm of 18 per cent and if they are not disbursing the amount, as I have already said, we are drawing from them and giving it for rural infrastructure development so that the agricultural credit will expand, and the recovery will be better.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, I seek your protection. If the undischursed amount is drawn to infrastructure, then what is the benefit that the farmer is getting?

MR. SPEAKER : You can send the information to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has told in his reply that no specific targets have been fixed for providing loans to small and marginal farmers. They take it that the small and marginal farmers are included under the targets fixed for agriculture and weaker sections. The banks are required to lend 18 per cent of their net bank credit for agriculture, but many banks have not achieved this target. The banks admit this fact in their statements. Further he has said that they have given certain relaxations to accelerate the flow of credit to small and marginal farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvanshji, it has been already asked.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I would like to know from the Government whether they are going to decide specific targets for providing loans to small and marginal farmers separately? And what action they propose to take against the banks who do not comply with the norm of providing 18 per cent loans? Even after the sanctioning of loan, the farmers have to give commission and face great difficulty to get their payment of loan released. We would like to know from the Government what stringent measures it is going to take so that small and marginal farmers could get loan easily and may not face difficulty?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The problems faced by small and marginal farmers in getting loans was brought to my notice. I will look into it and find out as to what are these problems. An effort will be made to provide solution to the problems. But recently we have issued Kisan Credit Cards to the farmers, the 'Kisan' credit card will prove beneficial for small and marginal farmers. They are not required to pay frequent visits to bank to get loan. They can repay loan any time within a year and they can also take loan at any time. That is why, 'Kisan Credit Card' has been

issued. You may be aware that under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, the facility to repay the loans through insurance policy has been provided to the farmers. They can repay the loans through insurance. The small and marginal farmers are getting the maximum benefit of this scheme and it will continue in future as well.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know that banks were nationalised to help the poor. Reserve Bank is a bank of banks. According to the answer given by the hon. Minister, 17 public sector banks have not implemented or fulfilled the target fixed for them. Now, the Finance Ministry is one of the most powerful Ministries having control over Customs, Central Excise, Narcotics, Income-Tax and Banks.

Sir, targets are fixed for individual officers and if they do not fulfil the targets, adverse entries are made in their CRs and action also is taken against them.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether actions are taken against the top bosses of these banks who have not followed the directions given by the Reserve Bank of India. If yes, the details thereof; and if no, why no action has been taken against the top bosses of these banks?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, we do fix the targets and the Reserve Bank of India monitors them at their level. From time to time they do a review to see if there is any shortfall. I have already answered this.

So far as the question of taking action is concerned, I would like to submit that taking action is not the only solution but reaching the loan to the farmers is the only solution. We are monitoring this very strictly from the block to the top level...*(Interruptions)* Please hear me.

Sir, so far as the question of taking action is concerned again I would like to say that we have supplied information about 17 banks and I agree that these 17 banks could not fulfil their targets. We would see as to how the targets could be fulfilled. If there is any lacuna on the part of the bank, or if the bank does not cooperate with us, then we would definitely go for action....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has already replied that if anybody fails to do their duty, then he would take action.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is giving the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, I have already said that if there is ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? You have asked a supplementary, the hon. Minister is replying to that and you are not allowing the Minister to give his reply. What is this procedure you are following here?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, the hon. Member has asked about taking action. We can consider this for the future...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the question is whether you are going to take any action if anybody fails to duty his duty.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, presently there is no system for taking action. But definitely we would look into it and we would take penal action against those who are at fault...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I am certainly not happy with the jugged answer given by the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been very clearly stated in the reply that 17 nationalised banks, which include State Bank, Allahabad Bank, Central Bank etc. have not achieved the target of agricultural lending of 18% of their net bank credit to small and marginal farmers. The hon'ble Minister has said that those banks which do not achieve the agricultural lending target of 18 per cent of net bank credit are required to make contribution to the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund through NABARD. We shall keep this provision that those banks which fail to make loans available to the farmers in agriculture and rural sector, will be required to make contribution to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund through NABARD.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rudy, please ask your supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : The State like Bihar, which has lowest C.D. ratio cannot achieve the target of prescribed percentage. In his reply the hon. Minister has suggested some measures to strengthen it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary. You cannot read like that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : My question is that five relaxations have been mentioned in regard to small and marginal farmers.

[English]

"...banks not to insist on margin money for crop loans/ term loans granted to small and marginal farmers upto Rs. 10,000/-..." All these things are mentioned here. But does the common man, or does even the bankers know that they have to follow these guidelines.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the hon'ble Minister may reply. Shri Rudy please take your seat.

[Translation]

Will the hon'ble Minister inform the farmers throughout the country that these rules are applicable to the banks also?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : As far as providing information to the farmers is concerned, some books and brochures have been published for that purpose but information can also be disseminated through electronics media so that it may reach the common man. This is a fact that the banks are unaware as to what facilities are available for the farmers in the banks.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Hon'ble Minister is Minister is admitting that even the banks are unaware.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : This is my experience but we have also made available the information through notice boards of all the centres.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb him.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The concessions being given to small and marginal farmers are displayed on the Notice Boards.

The first part of the question relates to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund. This is a contribution from commercial banks to the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund. It is not a loan. They only contribute to NABARD as per the requirement, and NABARD gives loans to States so that economic development can take place in rural areas.

Secondly, the hon. Member is very particular about the 18 per cent. I already answered that question..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : CD ratio.

MR. SPEAKER : You are not supposed to assist the Minister, Shri Rudy.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I will supply to the Member details of CD ratios for all banks.

Interest Rates on Savings Bank Account

*284. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow banks to fix interest rate on Savings Bank account depending on market trends to capitalize on this prime source of low cost fund;

(b) If so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which will it be helpful to the country's economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Interest rate on Savings bank deposits of Scheduled Commercial Banks currently at 4.5 per cent annum is regulated and reviewed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time. At present RBI do not propose to deregulate interest rate on savings bank accounts.

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

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Sir, banks should be permitted to fix the interest rates on savings bank accounts which are mostly held by very small investors. The small investors save their hard-earned money in the savings bank accounts. If banks offer a higher rate of interest on these accounts, the savings pattern of small investors can be influenced and the banks can also collect additional funds. It regulates the country's economy also. To part (c) of my question, the hon. Minister stated categorically, 'the question does not arise'. However, I would like to say that it does help the country's economy by inducing the small depositors to save more. I, therefore, once again request the Government to prevail upon the Reserve Bank of India to allow the banks to fix a higher rate of interest on small deposits.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot interfere in the day to day affairs of the RBI. It is an autonomous body. From time to time they review the rates of interest. We cannot give any guidelines to the RBI in this regard and it is the RBI which gives the guidelines. We cannot reverse this process. The RBI prescribes the rates of interest from time to time in the interest of the customer. As far as bigger banks are concerned, they deregulate the interest. For deposits beyond fifteen days, the interest rate of 4.5 per cent grows gradually up to one year. The rate of interest is a fixed one.

As far as time deposits are concerned, I have a table of the rates of interest with me. If the Member is interested in having it, I can supply it to him.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : He is not talking about time deposits; he is talking about savings bank accounts.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I have already answered that the rate of interest is 4.5 per cent for savings bank accounts.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bansal, it seems you are talking on behalf of Shri Vivekananda Reddy.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I am sitting next to him, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vivekananda Reddy, please ask your second Supplementary.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : I have no second Supplementary to ask, Sir.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure the hon. Minister knows that banks like the ICICI have started giving up to 10.5 per cent interest on savings bank accounts along with facility to withdraw whenever the account-holder wishes to. If the amount remains with the bank for, say, a period of over 16 days, then a higher rate of interest is given. If those banks can do it, why cannot the scheduled banks?

Since we talk of competition in the field, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what we are really doing to ensure that people who have their savings bank accounts with the scheduled banks also get a fair and good deal.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : As far as the information that I have collected goes, I do not have the ICICI information. I will collect and try to see that. But the point is, the RBI is regulating the interest rates as far as small savings are concerned. So, we do not have any business to regulate as far as interest on savings is concerned. We cannot go beyond that.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the R.B.I. and various trade and business organisations have made any submission before the Government to cut down on the interest rates on borrowings? Besides, may I know whether the Government propose to cut down the interest rates on small savings and national saving certificate?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : R.B.I. is not obliged to request the Government in this regard. R.B.I. is an autonomous body. It takes its own decisions and it guides the people about what is to be done and what not to be done. As far as second question is concerned, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to cut down the interest rates on small savings.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The interest rate is only 4.5 per cent. Most of the workers who are employed as well as the Government employees on the verge of superannuation deposit their small savings in these scheduled banks. They do not go to the commercial banks.

The interest rate is too low there. This has adversely affected the interest of people who retire from service. Moreover, there are agents for raising small savings certificates also. They are also not coming forward because of the low rate of interest fixed by the RBI. There is a general complaint throughout in my State that the rate fixed is too small and it is not in any way connected with the market conditions. So, I would request the hon. Minister to enhance the rate of interest and give a directions to Reserve Bank to enhance it. Why are you so stringent in the matter of small savings when you are following a policy of liberalisation, market economy and all that? At the same time, you do not allow the small people to get marketable interest on their earnings after retirement. Why not the Government consider this proposal?

MR. SPEAKER : This is only a request, not a supplementary.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I will consider it. But as far as the time deposit is concerned, it is 11.5 per cent. The interest on small savings of current account is only 4.5 per cent.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government have appointed women head agents for opening recurring deposit accounts to promote the small savings? Has any change been made in its rules on 4.11.99?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The rules regarding opening of accounts of women have already been made clear. However, no changes have been made therein because the rules are uniform. If the hon'ble Member wants further information in this regard, I will send the details on him. There are no changes in it.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no initiatives have been taken by banks to attract the small and medium investors. Hence the people invested their money in shares and property due to which security scam linked with Harshad Mehta took place. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is any proposals under consideration to increase the interest rates for small and medium investors or not? The interest rate for savings account is 15 per cent in Urban Co-operative banks which are making strides in this field while the people have been losing faith in Nationalised banks. People do not get loans from these banks and the investors too do not want to invest their money in them. Are you going to bring about some radical change to dispel this perception from the minds of public?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rate of interest on savings is not 15 per cent.

[English]

The rate of interest on savings bank accounts is uniform throughout the country for all the banks.

[Translation]

The fix deposit about which you are talking, is term deposit, time deposit. Each bank has its own set of rules. Some fix it as 15 per cent. Some at 14 per cent.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Urban Co-operative bank Co-operative bank is ready to pay 15 per cent interest per annum.

[English]

Kindly differentiate between term deposits and savings bank accounts. Term deposits and savings bank accounts are two different things. Kindly do not mix up both the issues together. So far as term deposits are concerned, the rate of interest provided by banks are deregulated. So, they can provide interest to the depositors as per their requirements.

Textiles Export Quota Policy

[Translation]

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

(a) whether the Government have declared quota policy in regard to export of textiles;

(b) If so, the main features alongwith objectives thereof;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the concerned exporters and other agencies in this regard prior to finalisation of this policy;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor and amendments proposed to be made in the said policy by the Government in view of the complaints made by the exporters in this regard?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has notified two Policy Notifications namely Garments and Knitwears Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy 2000-2004 and Yarn, Fabrics and Made-ups Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy 2000-2004. The salient features of these Policy Notifications are :-

(i) The system of allotment in case of Gar-

ments and Knitware Exports for the year 2000-2004 will be as follows :-

System of Allotment	%age of Annual Level (2000-2004)
Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) System	70%*
New Investors Entitlement (NIE) System	15%
Non Quota Entitlement (NQE) System	5%
First Come First Served (FCFS) Entitlement System	10%

*5% reservation for High Value Entitlement within this system has since been deleted.

(ii) The system of allotment in case of Yarns, Fabrics and Made-ups will be as follows:-

System of allotment	Percentage of annual level
1	2
I. Yarn :	
(i) Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) system	55%
(ii) Manufacturer Exporters Entitlement (MEE) system	15%
(iii) Ready Goods Entitlement (RGE) system	30%
II. Fabrics (other than for categories 3, 3a/EU, 31a and 32a/Canada) :	
(i) Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) system	55%
(ii) Manufacturer Exporters Entitlement (MEE) system	15%
(iii) Powerloom Exporters' Entitlement (PPE) system	15%
(iv) Ready Goods Entitlement (RGE) system	15%
III. Fabrics (for EU/category 3, 3a; Canada category 31a and 32/a) :	
(i) Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) system	55%
(ii) Manufacturer Exporters Entitlement (MEE) system	15%
(iii) Ready Goods Entitlement (RGE) system	30%

1	2
IV. Made-Ups (Handlooms) (under quantitative restraint in USA) :	
(i) Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) System	55%
(ii) Ready Goods Entitlement (RGE) system	45%
V. Made-Ups (Mill-made/powerlooms) :	
(i) Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) System	55%
(ii) Manufacturer Exporters Entitlement (MEE) system	15%
(iii) Powerloom Exporters' Entitlement (PEE) system	15%
(iv) Ready Goods Entitlement (RGE) System	15%

(iii) Some of the other important features of the new policy include, phased utilisation of quota; linking of quota for new investment with investment made in such new plant and machinery which meet the eligibility criterion of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and making new investment quota entitlements non-transferable.

(c) to (e) The Government had setup a Task Force to make recommendations on the long term quota (export entitlement) distribution policies for a period of five years with effect from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2004. The Task Force invited responses from Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), leading trade associations and federations on various aspects of the quota policies. The Task Force also conducted two Open House Sessions to interact with various exporters and the associations concerned at New Delhi and Mumbai. Thus it may be seen that the Task Force considered the inputs from a wide range of sources before submitting the report. This report was taken into account while framing the New Quota Policy.

Suggestion received from various associations of textile/garments exporters from time to time are duly considered and appropriate changes are made, whenever deemed necessary, to facilitate the smooth operation of the Quota System.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given is not satisfactory. A notification was issued by the Government after deciding to formulate a quota policy in regard to export of textiles. Prior to finalisation of this policy, a task force was set up to make recommendations. This task force had consulted various textile exporters or their representatives. I would specifically like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to who were the people invited in the process of interaction. What were the main issues of discussion and the recommendations made by the exporters which have been included in this policy alongwith the recommendations which have been left out? A detailed information in this regard may please be furnished to the House.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had set up a task force to formulate the new policy. That Committee had publicly announced that the interested persons can put forth their views in this regard. Many concerned associations have made their submissions before the task committee. If the hon'ble Members want to know about the list E.P.C., T.E.X. P.R.O. C.I.L. and P.D.E.X.C.I.S....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH : I have asked about the names of the members of the task force. What were their recommendations?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : As recommendations are very lengthy, it will take a long time to explain them in detail. I will lay them on the Table of the House.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : First tell the names.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary. Some officials of our Ministry were among its Members.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my view, textile export industry is very important for our economy. A major share of foreign exchequer is earned by this industry. Indian cloths have a big demand in other countries. In such a situation; what type of results the Government want to achieve by fixing the limit on exporters? What are the details of suggestions received from the exporters after the announcement of this policy and how did the Government react to it and what is its decision in that regard? Please furnish full details in this regard as the policy is being fiercely opposed.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have formulated the new quota policy as our Multi Fiber Agreement was going to be phased out in 2004. The entire world's textile market will become free w.e.f. January, 2005. With a view to bringing our textile sector in competition in the world market, the new quota policy has been formulated which will be effective from 1.1.2000. Our share in the world textile market is 3% whereas China's share is 23%. 5% increase has been given to the Powerloom manufactures under this new quota policy. Besides, we are trying to link up the New Technology upgradation Fund scheme worth more than Rs. 25 thousand crore with the new quota policy. This policy has been formulated with a view to enhance the textile sector and its exports.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister had set up a textile Committee.

[English]

"Report on the survey conducted for evaluation of allotment of quota under power-loom exporters entitlement, PEE system for the years 1997 and 1998 and its utilisation".

[Translation]

The recommendations of this committee are :-

[English]

"PEE quota are being sold under the guise of the clubbing. It was reported by some units that blank application forms for clubbing were signed and handed over to the agents."

[Translation]

and the other report is submitted by Satyam Committee.

[English]

"If rampant misuse is detected, the Committee would in fact favour a suitable reduction in the quota commensurate with genuine direct export potential together with adequate steps to stop the misuse."

[Translation]

Have you considered the report submitted by the Task Force Committee? The quota for powerloom sector has been increased from 10% to 15%. But what steps are being taken to ensure its proper use?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Rawale. Please put your question. Time is very short.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what steps will be taken by the Government to check the misutilisation of quota.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Task Force Committee and Satyam Committee are two different Committees. The recommendations given by both these Committees are under consideration of the Government. No final decision has been taken so far. We would like to present a new textile policy before the House before the commencement of the next Session. It has been stated in the recommendations given by the task force committee and the representation submitted by PDDXIL to increase the percentage of quota. They are getting the benefit of clubbing it. So far as 10 to 25% increase in quota is concerned, it will result in losses to our garment manufacturers. I would like to inform the hon'ble Members of the House that all associations have thanked the Government for increasing quota. They have stated that it has happened for the first time that the quota has been increased from 10 to 15%. Therefore, I would say that they are getting benefit of clubbing.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : But it is being misused.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the exporters who misuse the benefits are blacklisted. Even small manufacturers are also getting benefit from the clubbing system. That is why we have adopted this system.

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : The items under export policy related to textile commodities have come down considerably. May I know what exactly is the percentage of export that is coming down during the last five years when there is competitive garments market in other countries, particularly the European countries? What exactly is the percentage that has come down in the matter of export of garment or yarn, etc.? What steps the Government has taken to rectify this and bring it back to normalcy?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : I confidently say that our export has not come down. I will give some details. In 1996-97, our export was to the tune of Rs. 41,828.20 crore; in 1997-98, it was Rs. 46,092.50 crore; in 1998-99, it was Rs. 52,720.80 crore which means that there is a 14.4 per cent increase in export.

So the Ministry is taking many steps for enhancing export to the European Union as well as to the USA.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether due to the increasing popularity of Indian textile in European countries, some people in other countries have tried to impose ban on our textile exports by linking it with labour standards? If so, what steps have been taken by the Government to encourage this industry?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, actually, this question is related with the Industry Ministry and Commerce Ministry. It is a fact that Prime Importing countries of our textiles have tried to affect our industry by raising issues like child labour and dyes etc. However, till now no adverse effect of such things has been noticed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increase in Handicrafts Export

*281. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase registered in the export of handicrafts during the last two years and the target fixed for 1999-2000;

(b) the amount of the foreign exchange earned from the export of handicrafts during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether the benefits of earnings from export is being given to craftsmen;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that benefits of export earning reach the craftsmen and also to ensure adequate supply of inputs artisans in time?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) During 1997-98 and 1998-99 the export of handicrafts have increased by 16.72% and 17.58% respectively over the previous year. A target for export of Rs. 8280.00 crores has been fixed for 1999-2000, thus aiming by about 17%. During April to November 1999, exports are assessed at Rs. 5174.72 crores, achieving 62% of the target.

(b) State-wise export data are not maintained. The total foreign exchange earned from the export of handicrafts during the last two years are as under:

1997-98	Rs. 6014.78 Crores
1998-99	Rs. 7072.34 Crores

(c) to (e) While separate figures for income of artisans working for exports are not available, survey reports given by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) indicate that the per capita income of artisans has gone up from Rs. 3739 in 1991-92 to Rs. 5141 in 1995-96 at constant prices of 1991-92. Such per capita income would include earnings from export product also. Government gives assistance under schemes like Craft Bazaars, Urban Haats, Training for skill development, Training to crafts persons in business enterprises and export management, Crafts Development Centre etc. which interalia directly help artisans in increasing their earnings and in supply of inputs to them.

Capacity of CCI

*286. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about 85% production capacity of the units of Cement Corporation of India in Karnataka and other States has been affected due to power cuts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CCI does not have the matching captive power to run the units in full capacity; and

(d) If so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) has 10 units and of which operations of 6 units including the Kurkunta unit in Karnataka remain suspended at present. Production in units of CCI has been affected due to various reasons including power cuts and disconnection of power supply. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka had imposed cuts ranging from 10% to 55% on demand and 20% to 70% on energy over the period 1992-93 to 1998-99. Madhya Pradesh had imposed cuts ranging from 30% to 40% on demand from 1992-93 till 1997-98 and is continuing to impose peak load restrictions.

(c) and (d) The total power requirement of all the units is 84.25 Mega Wat (MW) against which the captive generating capacity installed is 37.2 MW including two Diesel Generating Sets of 3.8 MW capacity each which were installed at Tandur and Adilabad units during 1999 through a budgetary support of Rs. 29 crores.

[Translation]

Decline in Export Carpets

*287. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an unprecedented decline in the export of carpet during the current year;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons for sharp decline in their export;

(c) the specific steps taken to boost the export of carpets; and

(d) the value of carpets exported from Uttar Pradesh during the current year and the percentage of revenue earned from the export of carpets in the total export earning?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The export of carpets during the period April to Nov. 1999 is provisionally assessed at Rs. 1406.62 Crores, thereby registering a growth of about 6% over the same period last year.

(c) The steps taken to boost the export of carpets include various promotional measures through Carpet Export Promotion Council like participation in International Fairs and sending of sales-cum-study team; providing market feed back to exporters etc.; holding of annual International Carpet Fair in India; setting up of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadohi for human resource development and research and development support to carpet industry; and a design and technology upgradation project with UNDP assistance.

(d) State-wise export figures are not maintained. However, it is estimated that the share of Uttar Pradesh in the total export of carpets from India is approximately 65%.

[English]

Review of Growth Centres

*288. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the overall contribution of Growth Centre Scheme to the development of infrastructural facilities for industries across the country;

(b) the amount allocated and actually spent on growth centres by the Union Government, State Governments and other financial institutions during the last two years and the last six months of the current year, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the status of growth centres, particularly in Gujarat, as on date;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the Growth Centre Scheme;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which these centres are likely to help industrialisation in the States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, 68 Growth Centres have been approved. Distribution of plots has commenced in 23 Growth Centres. In some of the growth centres in the States of Karnataka Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Goa, Kerala, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh industrial activities have started and employment has also been generated. The remaining centres are at various stages of development of infrastructure.

Progress reported by the State Government of Gujarat in the implementation of their three growth centres under this Scheme as on 30.9.99 is as follows:-

Vagra (District Bharuch) :- A total expenditure of Rs. 4940 lakh has been incurred in this project with full central release of Rs. 10 crore and balance from the State. Industrial plot allotment has since commenced in this growth centre.

In regard to Gandhidham (district Kutch) and Palanpur (District Banaskantha) centres, the State Government is in the process of land acquisition. Central and State Governments have together released Rs. 500 lakh for each of these projects.

Release of Central assistance to approved growth centres is made on the basis of the physical and financial

progress reported by the State in implementation of the growth centre. The Central Government budgetary allocations for the growth centres in the financial year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 25 crore, Rs. 20 crore and Rs. 25 crore respectively. The details of central releases and expenditure incurred during the last two financial years and upto 30.9.99 during the current financial year are given in enclosed statement I, II and III respectively.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Implementation of the Scheme has been carried over to the Ninth Plan period i.e. 1997-2002.

(f) The objective of the Growth Centre Scheme is to provide industrial infrastructure so that State agencies are able to attract industries to the industrially backward districts. The role of the Central Government is an enabling role in the creation of infrastructure and not in direct industrialisation. The implementation of the Scheme on ground and the predominant financial contributions rest with the State Governments and their Industrial Development Corporations. The process of bringing about industrialisation viz., marketing of industrial plots, attracting industrial units etc. is the role of the State Governments.

Thus, the extent to which these growth centres are likely to help industrialisation in the States depends largely on the initiative of the State Governments.

Statement-I

Details of Funds Released and Expenditure Incurred on the Development of Growth Centres in various States

(1997-98)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Central release	State release*	Expenditure incurred*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	150	100	1171
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	118	73
3.	Assam	50	5	32
4.	Bihar	50	168	108
5.	Goa	150	Nil	320
6.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Haryana	50	25	1072
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	168

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	50	Nil	395
10.	Karnataka	60	360	6121
11.	Kerala	200	838	1143
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	694	2207
13.	Maharashtra	1300	663	1291
14.	Manipur	50	127	8
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	75	65
16.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Orissa	Nil	182	114
19.	Pondicherry	50	Nil	Nil
20.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	128
21.	Rajasthan	120	Nil	526
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	1000	460
23.	Tripura	Nil	193	Nil
24.	Uttar Pradesh	220	75	242
25.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil

* Figures as reported by the State Government.

Statement-II

Details of Funds Released and Expenditure Incurred on the Development of Growth Centres in various States

(1998-99)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Central release	State release*	Expenditure incurred*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	300	Nil	203
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	48	19	114
3.	Assam	Nil	315	419
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	50	360	375
10.	Karnataka	120	Nil	2632
11.	Kerala	532	905	1304
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	30	703
13.	Maharashtra	250	914	1368
14.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Nagaland	500	317	367
18.	Orissa	100	Nil	1124
19.	Pondicherry	Nil	675	457
20.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	79
21.	Rajasthan	100	Nil	1150
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	2239
23.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
25.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil

* Figures as reported by the State Government.

Statement-III

Details of Funds Released and expenditure incurred on the Development of Growth Centres in various States

[(1999-2000, (upto 30.09.1999)]

(Rs. in lakhs)				
Sl. No.	Name of the State	Central release	State release*	Expenditure incurred*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	100	39
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	250	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Goa	Nil	18	278
6.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	100	117	205
10.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	201
11.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	37	237
13.	Maharashtra	200	245	292
14.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	99
17.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Orissa	Nil	10	21
19.	Pondicherry	250	Nil	3
20.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Rajasthan	250	250	307
22.	Tamil Nadu	50	Nil	825
23.	Tripura	Nil	60	30
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	420	852
25.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil

* Figures as reported by the State Government.

State Bank of India

*289. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase the networth of State Bank of India by simultaneous offer of shares in the domestic and overseas markets;

(b) If so, the amount proposed to be raised through the sale of its shares in the market;

(c) whether the Government's stake in the holding of shares is likely to come down below 50 per cent in the paid up capital as a result of issue of shares;

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government ensure control over SBI; and

(e) the reasons for offering shares of SBI to Public when the SBI's Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is comfortable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) State Bank of India (SBI) have informed that there is no specific proposal presently under its consideration for immediately increasing the capital of the bank by simultaneous offer of shares in the domestic and overseas markets.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Government of India does not hold any equity in the SBI. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) holds 59.73% of the equity in SBI. Under the existing statutory provisions, RBI share-holding in SBI cannot go below 55%. As and when SBI decides to go in for a public issue, it would be in order to ensure that its capital decides to go in for a public issue, it would be in order to ensure that its capital adequacy ratio is at a level not only above the prescribed minimum capital adequacy ratio for Indian banks but is also consistent with SBI's presence overseas, its status in the Indian banking sector and need for expansion of business. Notwithstanding, the level of RBI's share-holding in SBI following such dilution as might occur in the event of any statutory amendment envisaging RBI's share-holding in SBI below 50%, it would still be possible to ensure that the socio-economic objectives are met not only on account of SBI's vast branch net work but also on account of the directions issued from time to time by the RBI in exercise of its statutory powers.

Closure of Coal Mines of ECL

*290. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

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

(a) whether the management of Eastern Coal-fields Limited, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited had adopted a resolution a year back to close down 64 coal mines;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have not yet given its approval to the resolution of ECL;

(c) if so, the latest position of said resolution; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to renovate the production system of these underground mining for increasing much needed quality coal for the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sir, no approval has been given.

(c) and (d) The Coal India Limited engaged Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI), a group of professional consultants, to prepare a revival package for ECL. This package underlines a combination of measures for the revival of ECL which includes increase in productivity and production requiring infusion of capital, reduction of cess levied by Government of West Bengal, downsizing of manpower and closure of highly unproductive mines.

In the meanwhile, on account of negative net worth at the end of the financial year 1998-99, ECL had to refer itself to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

Foreign Ventures

*291. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earlier policy of associating Indian shareholders with all new foreign ventures has been abolished; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Indian share holders are making investments in all areas of the economy. They can have foreign partners in all areas except those where Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted. However, in order to meet investment requirement of certain sectors hundred percent foreign direct investment has also been permitted. These areas include infrastructure projects in Electricity generation, Transmission and Distribution, Construction and Maintenance of Roads, Highways, Vehicular bridges, Toll Roads, Vehicular tunnels, Ports and Harbours, Information Technology etc.

[Translation]

Coal Stocks in Thermal Power Stations

*292. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

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

(a) whether due to shortage of coal and difficulties in its transportation, the coal stocks available in the various thermal power stations of the country are left for only few days;

(b) If so, the present position of the coal stocks in the power stations; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to improve this condition?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The total stocks with power houses in the country as reported by Central Electricity Authority as on 10.12.1999 are 10.48 million tonnes.

(c) Coal companies are fully geared to supply the linked quantity of coal to all power houses in the country and close coordination is maintained to ensure supply of coal. Coal supplies are also reviewed regularly by an interministerial Committee and appropriate action is taken to step up coal supplies, whenever necessary.

Direct Tax Laws

*293. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whenever the Government has been considering simplifying the direct tax laws;

(b) If so, whether any concrete measures have been taken in this regard; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Simplification of direct tax laws is a continuous process. A number of changes in law are brought out in every budget with this end in view. Often departmental committees, sometimes with representation from outside experts, are constituted to study and recommend changes on the subjects assigned to them.

(b) and (c) In 1996, an Expert Group was set up to rationalise and simplify the Income tax Law. The Expert Group submitted its report in February, 1997 and a working draft of the income-tax Bill in July, 1997. A large number of important suggestions contained in the above report and the draft income-tax Bill were brought into the existing Income-tax Act, 1961, through extensive amendments carried out by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998 and the Finance Act, 1999.

Price Rise

*294. SHRI J.S. BRAR :

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in 'The Business Standard' dated 22 November, 1999 captioned 'Food Prices push up inflation rate to 3.01%;

(b) If so, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether the monthly domestic budget of the common man has been upset following the continuous increase in the prices of commodities of daily use, particularly food items;

(d) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to contain the prices of food items of daily use?

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

(b) and (c) Food prices as represented by the group of food articles (with a weight of 17.38% in the wholesale price index) were higher by 1.7% for the 32nd week ended 6.11.99 as compared to a year ago, when the overall annual inflation rate had risen to 3.01%. Except for foodgrains prices of which were higher by 11.8%, prices of all other essential commodity of daily use were either lower than a year ago or had risen very modestly.

A large part of the increase in foodgrain prices, especially wheat and rice, was due to the increase of Minimum Support Prices of wheat by 7.8% and of rice by 6%. Prices of other essential commodities of daily use remained subdued this year. Annual price rise of sugar for the week ending 6.11.99 was 1%, while groundnut oil and rape and mustard oil prices fell by 12.5% and 26.4 respectively over last year.

(d) The latest WPI based inflation rate is 2.46% (provisional) for the 35th week ending 27.11.99. This decline coincides with the decline in prices of fruits, vegetables and other items of daily consumption. Most notably, the annual rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, CPI (IW), which had risen to an unprecedented high level of around 19.7% in November 1998, has continuously declined to a record low of 0.9% in October, 1999, reflecting the general downtrend of retail prices of essential commodities of daily use such as edible oils and pulses.

Annual Rates of Inflation (point to point) based on WPI and CPI (IW)

Year	WPI based (base 81-82) (point to point)	(%) CPI (IW) based (base 1982) (month/month)
1	2	3
1998-99		
November	8.1	19.7
December	6.3	15.3
January	4.7	9.4
February	5.3	8.6

1	2	3
March	5.0	8.9
1999-2000		
April	4.3	8.4
May	3.8	7.7
June	3.1	5.3
July	2.3	3.2
August	2.2	3.1
September	2.7	2.1
October	2.6 (prov.)	0.9
November	2.8 (prov.)	

(e) Effective supply management policies have been adopted by the Government to keep inflation under control during 1999-2000. Some of the policy initiatives taken by the Government are as follows:

- A High Powered Price Monitoring Board has been set up under the Cabinet Secretary to keep a close watch on the movement of prices of essential commodities.

- A Crop Forecasting Centre has been set up by the D/O Agriculture and Cooperation for making more authentic crop forecasts.

- A special Price Monitoring Cell has been set up in the D/O Consumer Affairs for monitoring retail prices of essential commodities.

- NAFED was authorised to undertake market intervention through creation of short term buffer stocks of onions and pulses to stabilise their prices.

- Edible oils was imported on government account for supplying to state governments through the PDS.

- State governments were advised to take strict action against hoarders of essential commodities.

[English]

Import of Agricultural Commodities under OGL

*295. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural commodities allowed to be imported under O.G.L.;

(b) the likely impact of it on the Indian farmers; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of domestic farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Quantitative Restrictions were notified for 2714 tariff lines on account of balance-of-payment reasons on 22.5.97. Out of these, Quantitative Restrictions have already been removed on 1285 tariff lines of which 425 tariff lines pertain to agriculture sector. On the remaining number of tariff lines, Quantitative Restrictions are still maintained. However, for SAARC countries such Quantitative Restrictions were removed on all items with effect from 1.8.98. The details of the import policy on agriculture items are available in 'ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import items' published by Ministry of Commerce, copies of which have been placed in the Parliament Library. However, all such imports are subject to applicable rates of Customs Duty. Protection to domestic farmers is thus available through tariff the mechanism. At the present level of tariffs, the domestic farmers are unlikely to be seriously affected.

Funds Collected by NBFCs

*296. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any data about the amount of public funds deposited with non-banking financial companies functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the total estimated amount of money collected by these companies including those companies which have gone underground during the past three years;

(c) whether many companies are collecting money from the general public without any licence or authority;

(d) if so, whether the Government have enforced any licensing scheme for the security of huge funds collected by these companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the funds still remaining with unlicensed companies;

(g) whether any rescue package for investors is under consideration of the Government; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the amount of public deposits with Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Residuary Non-Banking Financial Companies) during the last two years have been as under:-

Year	Amount of Deposits (Rs. in Crores)
As on 31.3.1998	23,150
As on 31.3.1999	21,519 (Provisional)

(c) to (e) As per the amended provisions of the RBI Act, it has been made compulsory for the NBFCs to obtain a Certificate of Registration from RBI to commence or carry on the business of an NBFC. An entry level minimum Net Owned Fund of Rs. 25 lakhs was prescribed. This has been raised to Rs. 200 lakhs with effect from 21.4.1999. RBI has also resorted to a publicity campaign to educate prospective depositors of NBFCs. The campaign, inter-alia, advises the public not to make deposits with unregistered NBFCs and those not having RBI approval to accept public deposits.

(f) RBI's data reporting system does not generate information as asked for.

(g) and (h) Company Law Board (CLB) has been authorized under the RBI Act to adjudicate the claims of depositors with specific powers to direct the defaulting companies to make repayments. The Task Force set up by the Government of India has recommended a number of changes in legislative and regulatory framework for NBFCs which include, inter-alia, review of 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, making deposit taking by unauthorised NBFCs and unincorporated financial intermediaries a cognizable offence, ban on issue of advertisements soliciting deposits by unincorporated bodies, setting up of Depositor's Grievance Redressal Authority, publicity campaign for Depositor's Awareness, etc. On the basis of these recommendations the limit of Net Owned Funds of Rs. 25 lakhs has been raised to Rs. 200 lakhs, State Governments have been provided with the lists of NBFCs who have been granted registration and those who have been refused registration, etc. Action has also been initiated to enact a separate legislation for NBFCs.

Request of AIHFM Co-op. Society Ltd. on Textile Policy

*297. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited urging the Union Government not to accept the recommendations of the Sathyam Committee for drafting the new textile policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objections raised by them; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to help the Handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM

RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main objections relate to the recommendations on the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and the Handloom Reservation Act. The Society has pointed out that if the Hank Yarn Obligation order and the Handloom Reservation Act are done away with, it would lead to major problems for the handloom sector which is already suffering from various handicaps, therefore the Government should not accept the recommendations.

While finalising the New Textile Policy, the points raised by the All India Handloom Fabric Marketing Cooperative Society will be kept in mind.

(c) The Government of India extends financial assistance for a number of Development and Welfare Schemes to handloom weavers through State Governments. These schemes include Project Package, Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing, Workshed-cum-Housing, Thrift Fund, Health Package, Group Insurance, New Insurance, Market Development Assistance etc.

Zero Duty Import Structure on Capital Goods

*298. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :

SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Zero Duty Import Structure relating to Capital Goods to create level playing field for domestic industry;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The facility of import of capital goods without payment of duty is available under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme and Export Oriented Unit/Export Processing Zones schemes. The duty free import of capital goods is also allowed to mega power projects, fertilizer plants etc. The domestic manufacturers supplying capital goods against aforesaid schemes are eligible for the benefit of deemed exports. These benefits include (a) Special Imprest Licence for duty free import of inputs required for manufacturing capital goods (b) deemed export drawback (c) refund of Terminal Excise Duty and (d) Special Import licence @6% of the F.O.R. value.

The review of Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme is currently not under consideration.

FDI in Tobacco Sector

*299. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking a fresh look at the question of allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment in tobacco sector;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number and details of proposals allowed 100% FDI in the tobacco sector so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The existing guidelines for consideration of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) do not stipulate any ceiling on the extent of foreign equity participation, inter-alia, in sectors pertaining to consumer non durables, which include cigarettes. However, as there has been no precedent of 100% FDI approval in cigarettes so far, it was felt necessary to clarify the position vide Press Note No. 11 (1998 series) dated 27th August 1998, that proposals for manufacture of cigarettes with FDI up to 100% shall be considered by FIPB subject to the provisions relating to compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.

There has been no subsequent change in the guidelines relating to foreign investment in tobacco and cigarette industry.

Decline in Cotton Prices

*300. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the declining prices of cotton in the country, particularly in Maharashtra, resulting heavy losses to farmers;

(b) If so, the extent to which the prices have declined during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices of cotton to the farmers, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) The number of procurement centres set up by CCI in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) Prior to 1997-98, cotton prices in India normally prevailed at levels lower than international prices. However, during 1997-98, domestic cotton prices increased sharply and prevailed at levels higher than international prices. While prices, during the current year are lower than the previous two years, they are still higher than international prices and are generally higher than MSP also.

According to available information, the average price of kapas (seed cotton) during the last three years, based on weighted average monthly prices, are as under:

Year	Average Price (in Rupees per Quintal)	Variation over last year	Average MSP (in Rupees per Quintal)
1999-2000 (Oct.-14th Dec).	1988	-5%	1698
1998-99	2091	-5%	1576
1997-98	2198	+15.87%	1461
1996-97	1898	-	1313

Government announces Minimum Support Prices of kapas (seed cotton) every year. Whenever market price of kapas falls below the MSP, the Government purchases kapas (seed cotton) at MSP, without any quantitative limit, through the Cotton Corporation of India, in all the Cotton Growing States except in Maharashtra where the Monopoly Procurement Scheme of the State Government is in operation.

In Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Schemes is run by the States Government of Maharashtra. The Procurement prices are fixed by the States Government in the beginning of the season for all varieties and grades grown in Maharashtra. The procurement prices offered by the Government of Maharashtra for 1999-2000 cotton season are in general higher than the prices offered during the previous year.

(d) The number of procurement centres set up by the CCI in the country, State-wise are as under:

Name of the State	Number of Centres
Punjab	14
Haryana	7
Rajasthan	32
Madhya Pradesh	38
Gujarat	42
Andhra Pradesh	51
Karnataka	21
West Bengal	1
Orissa	6
Tamil Nadu	3
Total	215

Indian Bank

2714. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of non-implementation by the management of the Indian Bank of the terms of the MOU entered into with the unions for the revival of the bank;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large scale writing off/sacrifice of outstanding loans is being resorted to in the name of reducing Non-Performing Assets;

(d) whether any action has been taken against

the Top Executives who have committed irregularities causing deterioration of the Indian Bank;

(e) whether the Government /Reserve Bank of India have made any appraisal of the performance or otherwise of the present Chariman and Managing Director of the Bank; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Indian Bank has reported that while the MOU signed by the management of the bank with the representative unions for revival of the bank is being implemented it has not been possible to achieve the levels contemplated by the MOU in respect of some of the areas.

(c) Indian Bank has reported that proposals for one time settlement in respect of non performing assets are considered on the basis of the policy guidelines approved by the Board in accordance with the guidelines suggested by the Reserve Bank of India. The objective of the policy is to recover the maximum possible amount with the minimum sacrifice. Write off is considered only in cases in which no other recovery option is left to the bank and the assets charged to the bank are not sufficient to cover the dues to the bank. There is no evidence to show that there has been large scale writing off or sacrifice resorted to in order to reduce non performing assets.

(d) In addition to criminal cases registered by the CBI in respect of accounts where there is prima facie indication of criminality, departmental action has been taken in a number of cases against officials who appear to have committed irregularities.

(e) and (f) The performance of nationalised banks, especially the weaker nationalised banks, is reviewed by the Government as well as the RBI from time to time. The performance of board level functionaries is assessed on an annual basis. However, the specific action points emerging from the reviews carried out by the Government and the RBI are communicated to the Chairman and Managing Director and through him to the Board of Directors for appropriate remedial action.

Screening of I.T. Returns

2715. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the system arrived at in screening the income tax returns under section 143 (2) of the Income-Tax Rules;

(b) the number of cases that have come to the notice of the Government where tax returns have been manually selected by the Income-tax staff without making any draw;

(c) If so, the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(d) the number of income tax returns scrutinised under rule 143(2) of the Income-Tax Rules in the last three years and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the number of times income tax return pertaining to an individual or company can be taken up for scrutiny?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Central Board of Direct Taxes have recently issued fresh instructions laying down the procedure for selection of cases for assessment under section 143(3) of the Income tax Act, 1961, underwhich the following categories of cases come under compulsory scrutiny;

- 1) Search and seizure cases;
- 2) Cases where survey under section 133A is carried out;
- 3) Cases where re-assessment under section 147 is required;
- 4) Cases of political parties; and
- 5) Cases where assessment is set-aside or where assessment is mandatory as per the direction of the Courts.

In addition to the above, cases are to be selected for assessment under section 143(3) on the basis of credible and specific information after application of mind by the assessing officer and his next superior authority. The selection is made after recording reasons for selection in writing and no draw of lots is envisaged under the new instructions.

(d) The total number of income tax returns scrutinised under section 143(3) of the Income tax Act 1961, during the last three financial years are as follows:

Financial year	Total No. of assessments u/s 143(3)
1999-2000 (upto Oct. 99)	91,777
1998-99	1,91,338
1997-98	3,22,305
1996-97	3,52,276

Keeping in view the facts of each case addition to the returned income have been made. Details regarding the outcome of each case is not separately compiled.

(e) The selection of cases of assessment under section 143(3) being based on credible and specific information, there is no bar on the number of times the case of one taxpayer can be picked up for assessment during successive assessment years.

Export Processing Zones

2716. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- the number of Export Processing Zones (EPZ) have been set up by the State Governments;
- whether any such Export Processing Zones have also been set up in the joint/private sector; and
- If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) An Export Processing Zone has been approved for establishment at Greater Noida (Distt. Gautambudh Nagar) by the Govt. of U.P. for which land has been earmarked by the implementing agency.

(b) and (c) Four Export Processing Zones have been approved for establishment in private/joint sector, as under:

Name of the Promoter	Location
M/s. Diamond and Gem Development Corpn. Mumbai.	Surat, Gujarat
M/s. Kay Foam Ltd., Mumbai.	Kandiveli (E), Mumbai
M/s. Colanac International (P) Ltd., Madras	Singidivakam Village, Kancheepuram Taluk, Tamil Nadu
M/s. TIDCO Ltd., Madras	Nanguneri, Tirunelveli Distt. Tamil Nadu

The private EPZ at Surat has become functional from 2.1.96 and 10 projects have so far been approved for establishment in this Zone. The other private/joint sector EPZs are yet to become operational.

Bank Fraud in Dena Bank

2717. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "FIRs against three bank officers in Rs. 2-cr. fraud" appearing in the 'Express Newslines' dated April 18, 1999;
- If so, whether the CBI had registered four FIRs against three officials of Dena Bank, Mayapuri branch and others;
- If so, the present status of the cases and the action taken against the bank officials; and
- the action proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the compliance of RBI laid down norms and procedures scrupulously by the nationalised banks as well as by the private banks?

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

(c) Dena Bank has reported that exceedings in many cash credit accounts in Mayapuri branch, New Delhi were allowed by officials beyond their delegated powers. After inquiry, the banks suspended two Branch Managers and one accountant and has initiated departmental proceedings against them as well as other officials involved.

(d) Comprehensive guidelines have been issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regarding prevention of frauds which inter-alia include strengthening of internal control mechanisms, review of fraud cases on continual basis, undertaking concurrent audit covering branches accounting for 50 per cent of bank's business, scrutiny of cash deposits and withdrawals of Rs. 10 lakhs and above, improving housekeeping and imparting training to operational personnel. These are being implemented by banks. Frauds in banks are monitorable by RBI till action on recovery, complaint to investigating agencies and staff accountability is completed in each case.

Customs and Immigration at Attari

2718. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the lack of transit infrastructure such as proper rooms for Customs and Immigration at Attari on Indo-Pakistan Border; and
- If so, the steps taken by the Government to provide transit infrastructure to facilitate smooth border movement of people and goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The Government is aware of the need to provide additional passenger facilities at the Attari Land Customs Station.

(b) Government is taking necessary steps to provide additional hundred trolleys in addition to the existing facilities.

Facilities to Agro and Rural Industries

2719. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government propose to set up a bank exclusively for Agro and Rural Industries in the lines of Small Scale Industries Development Bank of India;
- If so, the details thereof;
- If not, the reasons therefor; and
- the steps taken to provide facilities for improvement of Agro and Rural Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), commercial banks are required to lend 40% of their net bank credit to priority sector. Agriculture is also part of the priority sector and as per RBI guidelines 18% of the net bank credit is targeted for agriculture sector. Eleven public sector banks were able to achieve this target as on Friday of March, 1999.

Private Sector Banks

2720. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISW-MUTHIARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has pulled out its nominees from seven private banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the other private banks which are not being run satisfactorily and in the best public interests;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to sack the Chairman/CMD of those banks; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Section 36-AB of the Banking Regulation Act 1949 gives powers to Reserve Bank of India to appoint additional Directors on the Boards of Private Sector Banks. If the Reserve Bank of India is of the opinion that in the interest of Banking Policy or in the interest of Public or in the interest of the Banking Company or its depositors, it is necessary so to do it may appoint one or more persons to hold office as additional Directors of the Banking Company. However, RBI can withdraw its nominee Directors, if in its opinion, the Banks are having satisfactory financial position and the policy of the management has improved to the satisfaction of RBI and the Board is functioning in a coherent manner without any major problem. Accordingly RBI has withdrawn its nominee Directors from seven public sector banks.

(c) to (e) The names of 15 private sectors banks where RBI nominee Directors are continuing is given below:-

- 1) Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.
- 2) Benares State Bank Ltd.
- 3) Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.
- 4) Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.
- 5) Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.

- 6) Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.
- 7) Sangli Bank Ltd.
- 8) Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
- 9) Vysya Bank Ltd.
- 10) Ratnakar Bank Ltd.
- 11) Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.
- 12) Nainital Bank Ltd.
- 13) Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.
- 14) Federal Bank Ltd.
- 15) Nedungadi Bank Ltd.

Note : Siddm Bank Ltd, is not included in the above list as it is under moratorium.

RBI nominees have been continuing on these banks because of their unsatisfactory financial position viz. low capital base, low capital adequacy ratio, high level of NPA's or some other specific problems. In the case of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd., RBI nominee Director will continue in view of the special status of the State. The progress in respect of above 15 banks is being constantly monitored. RBI has informed that presently, there is no move to remove Chairmen/CMDs of these banks.

Import Restrictions

2721. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have relaxed the licensing norms for a number of consumer items in a bid to free the consumer goods sector from State control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the relaxation of import restrictions have been helpful to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) In 1997, India had notified 2714 tariff lines to the WTO, imports of which were subject to quantitative restrictions for the balance of payment reasons. A plan for phase removal of these restrictions was negotiated with our different trading partners and also notified to the WTO. As part of implementation of this phase-out plan, quantitative restrictions have already been removed on 1285 tariff lines, some of which also include consumer goods. All imports are, however, subject to the applicable rates of customs duties which are meant to protect the domestic industries. Free trade ensures availability of quality goods to the consumers at competitive prices. In addition, it helps the Government in increasing its revenue by way of customs duty collections. The items which are now freely

importable are indicated in the "ITC (HC) Classification of Export and Import Items" and in the notifications issued from time to time. These are available in the Library of the House.

Violation of Indian Stamp Act

2722. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The special efforts have been made to save people from the net of the malicious chit fund and Non-Banking Companies accepting deposits;

(b) whether some NBFCs like Rashtriya Sahara etc. are violating Indian Stamp Act by not using Revenue tickets on the deposits; and

(c) If so, the loss of Government exchequer on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Chit fund and Non-Banking Finance Companies are two of the different categories of institutions involved in financial intermediation. In order to ensure the healthy growth of the NBFC sector and increase the protection available to depositors, several steps including legislative enactment and notifying of regulations have been attempted from time to time. These efforts include, inter alia, compulsory registration of NBFCs, prescription of an entry level minimum net owned funds of Rs. 25 lacs in 1997 raised to Rs. 200 lacs w.e.f. 21.4.1999, authorizing Company Law Board to direct defaulting NBFCs to repay deposits prosecution for violation of the orders of Company Law Board etc. Simultaneously, RBI has mounted a publicity campaign to educate prospective NBFC depositors regarding the factors which should merit their attention before they make deposits with NBFCs. The campaign has highlighted the fact that depositors should avoid unregistered NBFCs and those which are not permitted to accept public deposits. As far as Chit funds are concerned, no chit shall be commenced or conducted without obtaining the previous sanction of the State Government within whose jurisdiction the chit is to be commenced or conducted or of such officer as may be empowered by that Government in this behalf, and unless the chit is registered in that State in accordance with the provisions of the Chit Funds Act, 1982.

(b) and (c) There is no NBFC by the name of Rashtriya Sahara. The reference is presumably to a Residual Non Banking Company of Sahara Group. RBI have reported that as per information received from the group, revenue tickets are used whenever it is necessary to do so.

Units of Textiles Sector

2723. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of handloom, powerloom,

synthetic yarn, ready-made garments and hosiery units functioning in the country, especially in the tribal and scheduled cast dominated areas, as on date;

(b) the State-wise amount spent by the Union Government for the development of textile industry, especially in the above areas during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken on proposed to be taken by the Government to promote export of clothes manufactured in these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The number of handloom, powerloom and synthetic yarn units within country is as given below:

Powerlooms*	Synthetic Yarn*	Handlooms**
364,654 units	285 units	3,486,308 looms

* As per statistics of Office of Textile Commissioner, Mumbai

** As per Handloom Census [1995-96 (Provisional)].

The Ministry does not maintain the details of number of units in the readymade garments and hosiery sectors which are in the decentralised sector. In addition, data on various units in tribal and schedule caste dominated areas are not maintained separately.

(b) and (c) The role of Central Government for development of textile industry is that of a facilitator. Through its implementing agencies like Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) and Central Silk Board, Government provides funds for a large number of schemes for development of different sectors of the textile industry. During the last three years the expenditure under Plan on such schemes was Rs. 233.50 Crores, Rs. 238.69 Crores and Rs. 239.33 Crores respectively. For 1999-2000 the Plan budget of the Ministry of Textiles is Rs. 266 Crores. The details of the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the government to promote exports are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

- (i) The government has launched Technological Upgradation fund Scheme for the Textile and Jute Industries which is in operation since 1/4/99 for 5 years i.e. upto 31/3/2004. There is no cap on funding under this scheme. It is an open-ended scheme depending on the capacity of the industry to absorb funds in bankable and techno-economically feasible proposals. The scheme provides a reimbursement of 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme. As on 31st October, 1999, Rs. 1188.03 crores have been sanctioned to 91 eligible cases

under TUFS. The scheme is not State specific or area specific.

- (ii) The Govt. is drafting a new Textile Policy on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Textile Policy to provide direction to the textile industry to face the challenge of the globalised economy.
- (iii) The interest rates on pre-shipment and post shipment credit fund have been reduced to 10% to make available cheaper finance to the exporters.
- (iv) Some of the European Union countries have imposed ban on the use of specific azodyes. In order to promote eco-friendly concepts amongst the textile trade and industry and provide facilities for the testing of textile production as the banned dyes and chemicals and other eco-parameters, the Government has set up econ and quality testing laboratories at important textile centres all over the country at the cost of about Rs. 60 crores.
- (v) Requirement of minimum value addition of 33% under advance License Scheme has been done away with for actual users. The minimum net foreign exchange earnings as percentage of exports for 100% EOUs/DPZs has been reduced for 40% to 20%.
- (vi) The threshold limit for Zero duty DPCG import of textile and garment machinery has been reduced from Rs. 20 crore to Rs. 1 crore with a view to giving definite fillip to the India Textile Exports.
- (vii) To have easy accessibility to quality fabrics and other raw materials, a scheme of private bonded warehouses has been introduced in the Export Policy of India.
- (viii) In addition to tags, labels, poly bags, buttons and belts, duty free import of polywadding and fasteners has been allowed.
- (ix) The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set-up by the Ministry of Textiles for giving training to Fashion Designers and Fashion Technologists to cater the design requirements of the Apparel Industry and Exporters to promote the export of value-added garments.
- (x) With a view to providing trained man power to the readymade garment making industry. Apparel Training and Design Centres have been set up in various parts of the country.

Sick Tea Companies

2724. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some tea estates managed by private companies as well as Tea Trading Corporation of India have fallen sick;
- (b) if so, the details of such tea estates and the reasons for the sickness;
- (c) whether the Government have any proposal to revive and revamping these tea estates; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. According to a survey conducted by Tea Board in late 1998 around 46 tea gardens mainly in the Barak Valley of Assam and West Bengal have been found to be sick/weak. The major reasons for sickness/weakness of the tea estates are stated to be ownership disputes, managerial deficiency, financial mismanagement and protracted litigations.

There are five tea estates in the State of Assam and West Bengal under the Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of State Trading Corporation. The TTCI being a loss making company is facing an acute financial crunch and thus has been unable to discharge its obligations and any revival of its gardens.

(c) and (d) With a view to revive and revamp the sick/weak tea estates Tea Board has extended the following benefits:-

1. Exemption to the contribution of National Tea Research Foundation for a period of 5 years from the date of taking over of sick tea gardens by a new management.
2. To consider the applications of such gardens for financial assistance even if the accumulated Provident Fund liability exceed Rs. 10,000/- (for regular gardens Board's financial assistance in the normal circumstances is not made available if the outstanding P.F. dues exceed Rs. 10,000/-).
3. Concession on membership with the Tea Research Associations so as to enable them avail the technical support for a period of 5 years from the date of assumption of charge by the new management.
4. Extension of moratorium period for the repayment of the outstanding dues in respect of all the past loans availed under the Board's ongoing schemes.

[Translation]

Modernisation/Renovation of Mills

2725. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of mills modernised/renovated in the country particularly in Gujarat with foreign assistance during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) the amount of foreign assistance received so far during the said period indicating the name of countries;

(c) the number of mills still lying closed in the country particularly in Gujarat; and

(d) the number of mills proposed to modernised/renovated with domestic and foreign assistance by 2000-2003, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) State-wise information regarding investments made towards modernisation of textile mills in the private sector is not centrally maintained.

(c) Out of 331 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills lying closed in the country as on 30.9.99, in the Gujarat State the number of closed mill was 75.

(d) The textile mills desiring to have modernisation/ renovation of their units normally prepare a bankable scheme and necessary loan assistance etc. is obtained on their own from the Financial Institutions.

[English]

Patent of Indian Curry

2726. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL :

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 "patent eagles target Indian Curry in Japan" appearing in the Times of India" dated September 3, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) As per information available, no application entitled "Indian Curry" is reported to have been filed in the Patent Office in Japan. However a Japanese company namely, House Food Corporation has reportedly filed an application for grant of patent entitled "Cooking of Curry" in the Japanese Patent Office. The application was filed on 28th April, 1994 and the same was published on 7th November, 1995.

Patents are granted by respective Governments under their Patents Laws. Whenever information is received about the patents being taken on certain products which are not considered patentable, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of patent can be challenged.

World Bank Assistance for Developmental Projects

2727. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the World Bank and other International Institutions for various developmental projects during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) the details of utilisation of such financial assistance, sector-wise and State-wise in general and for Maharashtra State in Particular;

(c) the reasons for slow/non-utilization of such financial assistance and the steps taken to ensure effective and proper utilisation of foreign assistance provided by the International Financial Institutions; and

(d) the projections of financial assistance likely to be available for developmental programmes and projects during the current year and the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The total multi-lateral and bilateral external assistance (loans/credits/grants on Government account) received during the 8th Plan Period (1992-93 to 1996-97) was Rs. 48282.0 crores. The utilisation of the same Sector-wise and state-wise was as per enclosed Statement.

(c) 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 project on the basis of quarterly milestones of important activities has also been introduced.

(d) The total external assistance received (loans/credits/grants) on Government account since 1997-98 (first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan) is as under:

(Rs. in crore)		
Period	Amount	
1997-98	8498.38	(Actuals)
1998-99	9924.93	(Actuals)
1999-2000	9684.54	(Budget Estimates 1999-2000)

For the remaining two years of the Ninth Plan, the quantum of likely assistance from multilateral and bilateral agencies will be known when the pipelines projects are firmed up and finalized.

Statement

*Total External Assistance received during 8th plan period
(1992-93 to 1996-97)*

		Rs. in Crores	
Sector-wise Utilisation	Amount	State-wise Utilisation	Amount
Agriculture	3971.68	Central	28137.44
Energy	16013.76	Andhra Pradesh	2741.25
Industry and Finance	3593.59	Assam	0
Infrastructure	4177.02	Bihar	147.92
Social	4647.68	Gujarat	1112.02
Urban Development	2489.89	Haryana	291.13
Structural Adjustment (Fast Disbursement)	7492.22	Himachal Pradesh	35.61
Water Resources Management	3922.15	Jammu & Kashmir	0
Environment and Forestry	391.13	Karnataka	1082.05
Others	1582.89	Kerala	317.3
		Madhya Pradesh	118.51
		Maharashtra	3476.82
		Orissa	615.75
		Punjab	336.38
		Rajasthan	702
		Tamil Nadu	2211.1
		Uttar Pradesh	1928.56
		West Bengal	533.58
		Delhi	0
		Multistates	4494.59
Total	48282.01	Total	48282.01

Setting up of Sericulture Centre

2728. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start a Sericulture Research and Development Centre in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu which has very high potential as far as the Mulberry cultivation and Silk Grainage industries are concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds allocated to the Central Silk Board for the year 1999-2000 for the development of Sericulture industry in the country particularly in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) There is presently no proposal with Central Silk Board to start a Sericulture Research and Development Centre in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu. The R & D support for development of sericulture in Dharmapuri is being provided by Regional Sericulture Research Station at Salem.

(c) The Government of India has provided budget outlay of Rs. 83.00 crore during 1999-2000 to the Central Silk Board which includes funds required under the Catalytic Development Schemes for various States. The provisions kept by Central Silk Board during 1999-2000 for allocation to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are Rs. 32.61 crore and Rs. 5.26 crore respectively.

Lifting of Export Restrictions

2729. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift the restrictions on the exports of wheat, paddy, some fresh vegetables and fruits in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) As per EXIM Policy, export of wheat is free subject to quantitative ceilings announced by DGFT from time to time. For the year 1999-

2000, a ceiling of 1 million tonne of wheat and unlimited quantity of wheat products have been announced. Export of paddy is restricted. However exports of rice (both basmati and non-basmati rice) is allowed freely subject to registration of contracts with APEDA. Export of fresh Vegetables (except onions) and fruits is allowed freely. Export of onions is permitted through NAFED and other designated agencies and associate shippers registered with them. In July-August, 1999, Government allowed export of Bangalore Rose Onions through M/s. Karnataka State Agriculture Produce Processing and Export Corporation Ltd. (KAPPEC Ltd.) for 5000 (Five thousands only) MTs per month for two months (Upto 7th September, 1999) and also Export through NAFED till 30th Sept. 1999 of 5000 MT of onions (other than Poddusu and Bangalore Rose varieties) to Sri Lanka and Mauritius. Further, the Government has allowed the export of 100,000 MTs of all varieties of onions during the two months from 1.12.99 till 31.1.2000 through NAFED and other designated canalising agencies.

Policy of exports of agricultural products forms an integral part of the Export Import Policy of the country. The policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary, with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable.

World Bank Loan for Primary Education

2730. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has sought loan of Rs. 650 crores from the World Bank in the field of primary education;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the scheme of the Maharashtra Government;

(c) if so, the salient features of the proposed scheme;

(d) the steps being taken to forward these proposals to the World Bank; and

(e) the time by which this loan is likely to be obtained from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No proposal seeking fresh World Bank Loan of Rs. 650.00 crores in the field of primary education has been received from the Government of Maharashtra. However, it may be stated that at present 9 districts of Maharashtra are covered under the World Bank assisted District Primary Education Programme. 5 districts were covered under phase-I and 4 districts were covered under phase-II of the programme. The

total project cost is Rs. 338.21 crores, 85% of which is funded by IDA credit and remaining 15% is shared by the State Government.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

External Aid for Water Supply Schemes

2731. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Water Supply Schemes for various towns submitted by the Government of Karnataka for external aid;

(b) the status of these proposals schemes-wise;

(c) whether the action is being initiated to expedite the necessary clearance to acquire external aid; and

(d) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The following proposals for Water Supply to various towns of Karnataka are under implementation/consideration. Their status as also the action being taken is indicated below:

(i) *Karnataka Water Supply Management and Municipal Strengthening* : A PPF agreement amounting to US \$ 1.5 million is likely to be signed shortly with the World Bank. The tentative World Bank Assistance would be around US \$ 150 million with the objectives to improve the capacity of Urban Local Bodies to manage the delivery of Urban Basic Services in the State.

(ii) *Karnataka Urban Development and Coastal Environment Management* : Asian Development Bank has approved a loan of US \$ 175 million on 26.10.1999. The Project, will address inter-alia need for urgent improvements of water Supply schemes for 10 towns viz. Karwa, Ankola, Sirsi, Dandell, Bhatkal, Kundapura, Udupi, Mangalore, Ullal, Puttur. ADB will start disbursing the loan after it is signed and declared effective.

(iii) *Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development* : The ADB assisted project (worth loan of US \$ 85 million) is under implementation since 10.5.96. One of its components is to improve Environmental Sanitation condition in 4 Urban areas namely Channarayana, Mysore, Ramnagar and Tumkur in which Water Supply is a sub-component. The project is being implemented by KUIDFC (Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation).

(iv) *Bangalore Water Supply Project* : The Japan assisted project (worth loan of Japanese Yen 28452 million) was signed on 25.1.1996. As on 31.8.1999 JY 2664.1 million has been utilized. The project is due to end by 26.3.2004.

(v) *Denmark assisted Water Supply Schemes* : A Sector Support Programme was being finalised but was suspended due to imposition of sanctions.

(vi) *Water supply and Sewerage System for Bangalore* : French have provided a credit of FF 50 million for the project. Draft Purchase Contracts between Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board and French Supplier/Consultants are being processed.

Claims for Car Thefts

2732. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the month-wise details of the total number of cases of car thefts registered with United Insurance of India from the national capital region from 1st January to 31st October, 1999;

(b) the procedure adopted by the insurance company for making payment to the claimant (party) in case of car theft and whether any time limit has been prescribed for it;

(c) if so, out of the total cases registered during the above period, the number of cases for which payments have been made and the number of pending cases with the company alongwith the reasons for non-payment in the pending cases; and

(d) the number of complaints received against the inspecting officials of United Insurance Company from January to October and the number of officials against whom the action has been taken and the details of action taken?

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

Funds by IDRC

2733. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is opening the nodal for interaction with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada office in India and IDRC provides funding for developmental projects which have received approval either of the Government of India or of any State of the Indian Union;

(b) if so, the name of the competent authority that has approved the project entitled "CD-ROM of Asian Information of Health and the Environment" funded by IDRC, after April, 1994;

(c) the name of the organisation to which the initial, second and the subsequent payment of the grant paid by the IDRC;

(d) whether the IDRC had cancelled the payment of the grant of the above project after a certain period;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the amount of grant paid alongwith period of payment, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATEIL) : (a) The IDRC provides grant assistance to various institutions and organisations in India for implementation of research projects/studies. Organisations normally submit the proposals to IDRC directly. IDRC seek on objection from the Department of Economic Affairs before approving the proposals.

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

[Translation]

Housing Loan for Poor People

2734. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide loan for the construction of houses to the people living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the number of such persons in Bihar to whom the loans have been distributed by the banks during the last two years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to formulate such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No separate loaning scheme has been formulated for people living below poverty line. However, under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Government provides financial assistance to this category of people for construction of houses in rural areas.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

[English]

Shifting of Office of Wool Board

2735. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift the Office of Wool Board from Jodhpur to elsewhere; and

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

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

(b) The question does not arise.

Deposit Insurance Corporation

2736. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering of appointing/forming a separate Deposit Insurance Corporation for depositors of a failed bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have accepted the Report of the "Working Group on Reforms in Deposit Insurance in India";

(d) if so, the recommendations of this Group; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the limit of insurance covers for the depositors in banks from rupees one lakh to two lakhs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for forming a separate Deposit Insurance Corporation for the depositors of a failed bank as the interests of depositors in the banks are already protected by the existing Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

(c) and (d) RBI had constituted an Advisory Group on reforms in Deposit Insurance in India which, inter-alia has recommended that the functions of the credit guarantee may be withdrawn from the DICGC. Recommendations will be examined by RBI.

(e) RBI have reported that at present there is no proposal to increase the limit of insurance cover.

Punjab National Bank

2737. SHRIMATI NISHA CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nationalized Banks, particularly Punjab National Bank have taken the premises on rental basis from private owners/landlords for the use of banks for godown purposes in NCT of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of these premises are not in use for a long time and the bank authorities are paying rent to landlords regularly;

(d) if so, the amount paid by the banks as rent of these premises during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the bank authorities to surrender such premises to their landlords to avoid such expenditure of banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) Hiring of premises is a contractual matter between banks and landlords. Information relating to hiring of premises by banks is not maintained by Government. However, Punjab, National Bank have reported that they have hired premises in the NCT of Delhi at Chandni Chowk, Fatehpuri, Rang Mahal, Bhagirath Palace, Sadar Bazar, Paharganj, Basti Harphool Singh at Sadar Bazar, Subzi Mandi, Maidangarhi and South Extension for the purpose. The rent is being paid regularly except in one case where the owner has died and there is no claimant. The rent paid by the bank for each of the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 has been Rs. 47,439.36. The rent paid during 1998-99 was Rs. 34,839.36. The Punjab National Bank has further reported that all the premises are in proper use and no premises is lying unused.

Rubber Growers

2738. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps recently for the upliftment of rubber cultivators of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of rubber while giving incentives to the rubber growers of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) 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.

(c) The export of Natural Rubber is free under the EXIM Policy (1997-2002).

Export of Iron Ore to China

2739. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC has held discussions with the Chinese Government to increase iron ore exports from the country;

(b) if so, the additional iron ore to be exported to China; and

(c) the expected foreign exchange MMTC to be earned from the export of iron ore during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. MMTC has had discussions with a visiting delegation from China headed by

the Vice Minister of China State Administration for Metallurgical Ministry, Govt. of China, to increase iron ore exports from India to China.

(b) and (c) During April to November '99 MMTC exported 2.4 million tonnes of iron ore to China against 1.7 million tonnes exported during the corresponding period last year. MMTC's iron ore exports to China in FY99 is likely to be 3.5 million tonnes as against 2.5 million tonnes in FY 1998 - an increase of 40% earning expected foreign exchange of approx. US \$ 51 million during 1999-2000.

Bank Deposits

2740. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth of bank deposits has considerably declined during the current financial year, in comparison with last year;

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

(c) the impact of declining trend in bank deposits on the economy and banking industry; and

(d) the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government to attract the people to deposit their savings in banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) During the financial year 1999-2000 upto November 19, 1999, aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks increased by Rs. 55605 crore (7.8 per cent) as compared with an increase of Rs. 72445 crore (12.1 per cent) in the corresponding period of the previous year. The larger increase in aggregate deposit of scheduled commercial banks during the previous year 1998-99 was due to Resurgent India Bonds (RIB) inflows of Rs. 17945 crore.

(c) and (d) The underlying trend in early growth of aggregate deposits in the current financial year is in alignment with the envisaged annual growth of aggregate deposits. There has been comfortable liquidity in the system owing to the growth in aggregate deposits and cut in Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR).

Paper Industry

2741. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

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

(a) whether the Indian Paper Industry is facing crisis;

(b) if so, the present status of the Paper Industry alongwith paper units which are lying closed;

(c) whether a large quantity of quality writing/printing paper is being imported in the name of newsprint at negligible duty rates, affecting the domestic Paper industry;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to set up technical development fund for paper industry on the lines of funds created for textile industry earlier; and

(e) the remedial measures being taken by the Government for revival of paper industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The main problems being faced by the paper industry are :-

i) Inadequate availability and high cost of raw material.

ii) Technological obsolescence.

iii) Costly and inadequate availability of grid power.

iv) Capital-intensive nature of industry.

(b) The Paper Industry covering pulp, paper and paperboard is a de-licensed industry. There are more than 380 paper mills with a total capacity of around 49 lakh MTs. per annum. Production of paper in the year 1998-99 was 31.07 Lakh MTs. Capacity utilisation in the paper industry was about 68% in 1998-99.

(c) Import of newsprint is permitted without an import licence subject to actual user condition to those who hold a Certificate for Entitlement to import newsprint issued by the Registrar of Newspapers for India. Newsprint is importable at 5% customs duty. At times it is alleged that writing and printing paper which attracts much higher customs duty than newsprint, is being imported in the guise of newsprint.

(d) There is no such proposal to set up a Technical Development Fund for paper industry.

(e) Govt. has taken a number of steps to encourage the paper mills, which include :-

(i) Paper Industry has been completely de-licensed subject to locational policy.

(ii) Concessional excise duty @ 8% is levied on paper manufactured with not less than 75% non-conventional raw material.

(iii) Excise duty on wood based paper & paperboard has been brought down from 18% to 16% during 1999-2000.

(iv) Basic import duty on pulp and waste paper is currently 5%.

(v) To encourage the domestic industry, basic customs duty on imported paper has been increased from 30% to 35%.

Schemes Run by Voluntary Organisations

2742. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes under his Ministry which are being run through Government organisations and NGOs;

(b) the details of funds allocation by the Union Government under these schemes during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the schemes have been functioning satisfactorily; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government?

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.

Export of Minerals from Bihar

2743. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep fall in the export of minerals from Bihar during last few years;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for this steep fall;

(c) whether the target fixed during the Eighth Plan period to export minerals have been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the target fixed for the export of minerals during the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, the collection of export and import data is at the national level and State-wise figures for exports and imports are not maintained.

(c) to (e) As per the available data annual target and performance from 1992-93 onwards is as under:

(US\$ Million)		
Year	Target	Performance
1	2	3
1992-93	N.A.	697.16
1993-94	N.A.	888.15
1994-95	N.A.	998.32
1995-96	1129.0	1175.01

1	2	3
1996-97	1361.3	1145.9
1997-98	1250.0	1066.12
1998-99	1252.0	891.1
1999-2000	913.0	—

(N.A. : Not Available)

(Source : DGC1&S)

Financial Assistance to States of NCR

2744. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give some financial assistance to the States of National Capital Region particularly to Haryana for bearing extra burden of National Capital, activities during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(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) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Central Government has allocated a budgetary support of Rs. 45 Cr. to the NCR Planning Board for the year 1999-2000. The NCR Planning Board provides loan assistance to its participating States viz. Haryana, UP and Rajasthan for undertaking development project in order to implement the regional plan proposals. So far i.e. from 1.4.1999 to 1.12.1999, the NCR Planning Board has released Rs. 162.71 Cr. as loan assistance to the participating States, out of which an amount of Rs. 109.39 Cr. has been released to the Govt. of Haryana and its implementing agencies i.e. Haryana Urban Development Authority, Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation. In addition, the Board has also sanctioned the release of another Rs. 37 cr. to the Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation during the year 1999-2000. The amount released in excess of the budgetary support available to the Board is from its internal accruals and extra budgetary resources raised from the market in the form of Bonds.

In addition to the above, Board has made provisions for Rs. 134.00 cr. to be released during 2000-2001 for already sanctioned projects as per their approved phasing of loan.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Cashew Industry

2745. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to expand and develop Cashew Industry in the country in general and Kerala in particular; and

(b) If so, whether the Government have taken appropriate steps to explore the possibilities to earn more foreign exchange through Cashew Kernel export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Cashew with a view to enhance the production and productivity of Cashew is being implemented involving an outlay of Rs. 17.50 crores for 1999-2000. Under the scheme assistance is being provided for new planting, replanting, adoption of improved production technology, intensive pest control measures, setting up of regional nurseries for production of quality planting materials and training of farmers. The scheme is being implemented in all the cashew producing States including Kerala. In order to earn more foreign exchange through export of cashew, assistance is being provided for participation in international fairs and exhibitions, organising buyer-seller meets, dissemination of information through publications and circulars, establishment of testing facilities, acquisition of latest packaging systems to improve the quality of cashews for exports and for improving quality standards of cashew kernels by adopting ISO 9000/HACCP Quality Control Systems and for technology transfer/process upgradation/modernisation of cashew processing units.

Foreign Banks

2746. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the modus operandi adopted by some foreign banks, who collect the money from the debtors by using agents called the 'customer assistance specialists' to force the debtors to repay the money by thrashing them, threatening them for life and even coerce them into donating kidneys and other organs for extracting debt repayment; and

(b) If so, the steps taken by Government to effectively prevent such illegal practices adopted by foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a few foreign banks have employed private collection agents for recovery of their dues. In the case of one foreign bank where the alleged recovery of money through collection agent was commented on adversely in the press, RBI brought to the notice of the bank that such adverse report caused concern and the bank should review the system. Reserve Bank of India was assured by the bank that the agents were appointed after thorough screening and that the agents were expected to follow the required code of conduct. Some foreign banks have brought to the notice of the Reserve Bank of India the possibility of defaulters who are approached for repayment making false allegations against the collection agents in order to stall the recovery process. In case of any instance involving the use of force or the

threat to use force in a manner not consistent with the law of the land, the affected parties can seek relief against such collection agents by lodging complaints with the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Special Import Licences

2747. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether imports were allowed on surrender of Special Import Licences (SIL);

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Nagarjuna Oil Company was given such exemption;

(d) If so, the reasons therefor and the amount saved by the company;

(e) whether any other private sector company has applied for such exemption;

(f) If so, the reasons for not granting such exemption in other cases; and

(g) The details of the items imported therein?

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

(b) The items allowed under Special Import Licence (SIL) and those under Restricted Import Licence (RIL) are imported on surrender of SIL for a value equal to three times the CIF value of imports. The idea behind surrender of SIL is to seek neutralization of the foreign exchange outgo.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As mentioned in para (b) above, Restricted Import Licences are issued subject to surrender of SIL for a value equal to three times the CIF Value of imports. However, condition of SIL surrender was waived in case of M/s. Nagarjuna Oil Corporation Limited who sought a licence to import of second hand petroleum refinery on the ground that the import was being made for a core sector project and also on account of the fact that the advance payment for import had been made prior to 31.3.1999. When the SIL surrender condition become applicable to import of Second Hand Capital Goods Amount saved, if any, would be on account of premium on SIL to be surrendered, which is regulated by market forces and is not fixed or decided by the Government.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. There have been no other applications, for import of Second hand Capital Goods in Core

Sector with advance payment made prior to 31.3.1999 where request for such exemption was either made or refused.

[Translation]

Sale of Surplus Land of NTC Mills

2748. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sell the surplus land of mills running under National Textile Corporation in Mumbai to make them economically and technically viable with the amount received from the sale of land;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this sum will be sufficient for the revival of identified textile units of NTC; and

(d) the details of the units which have been selected for revival by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) The Government had approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC mills at a cost of Rs. 2005.72 crores in 1995. The plan was to be implemented through generation of funds from the sale of surplus land/assets of NTC. Major portion of this land is located in Mumbai. The State Government of Maharashtra has not yet given approval for sale of surplus land. Moreover in case of 4 subsidiaries of NTC viz. NTC (UP), NTC (GUJ), NTC (WBAB and O) and NTC (MP), BIFR have not approved the plan on account of their network not becoming positive during the prescribed period. In view of the above, the strategy could not be implemented.

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.

Vacant Posts of SCs/STs

2749. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of SCs/STs in various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of employees working in undertakings under his Ministry have been given

promotion besides fresh recruitments during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of fresh recruitments made of various categories, category-wise during the above period, year-wise and till date;

(e) whether the recruitments and promotions of SCs/STs to various categories were made as per the rules in this regard; and

(f) If not, the action taken by the Ministry to fill up the reserved vacant posts of various categories and make promotions of SCs/STs as per the rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Corruption in Revenue Department

2750. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of false customs duty drawback and garment duty drawback scams that have come to light during the last three years, year-wise, customs house-wise and dry port-wise;

(b) the details of senior officers of the Customs and dry ports that were found engulfed in those cases and the action taken against them; and

(c) the details of officers who have been in their present assignment in the Income-tax, customs, central excise and dry ports, airports etc. beyond the laid down tenure and the steps taken to transfer them out forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The number of false Custom duty drawback cases and garment duty drawback cases that they have come to light in the last three years, year-wise, Custom House wise and dry port wise, alongwith the amount of duty drawback involved therein, are given in enclosed statement-I attached herewith.

(b) The details of senior officers of the Customs and dry ports who were found prima facie involved in those cases and the action taken against them are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The Customs and Central Excise Department, as well as the Income Tax Departments, follow prescribed tenure rules/guidelines in regard to the transfers of their senior officers. However, exceptions are allowed in public interest, as well as in cases involving compassionate grounds of serious nature.

Statement-I

All amounts in Rupees (lakh)

S. No.	Fraudulent Garment duty drawback cases		Other Fraudulent duty drawback cases		Total cases of Fraudulent duty drawback		Name of Custom House/Dry Port
	No. of Cases	Amount of drawback involved	No. of cases	Amount of drawback involved	No. of cases	Amount of drawback involved	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Year 1997-98							
1.	11	175.27	2	14.83	13	190.10	I.C.D., Tughlakabad
2.	—	—	1	14.06	01	14.06	Cochin Custom House
3.	1	65.22	1	190.00	02	255.22	Delhi Custom House
4	9	582.79	1	02.00	10	584.79	Mumbai Custom House
5.	1	11.09	—	—	01	11.09	Jawaharlal Nehru Trust Port (Nhava Sheva)
6.	—	—	1	10.25	01	10.25	I.C.D., Ahmedabad
7.	4	148.23	1	17.50	05	165.73	Chennai Custom House
8.	4.	309.08	—	—	04	309.08	Chennai Air Cargo Complex
9.	2	5009.00	—	—	02	5009.00	Mumbai Air Cargo Complex
10.	2	17.50	6	46.84	08	64.34	Calcutta Custom House
Year 1998-99							
1.	2	51.65	—	—	02	51.65	I.C.D., Jaipur
2.	27	361.62	1	0.39	28	362.01	I.C.D., Tughlakabad
3.	—	—	3	433.00	03	433.00	Delhi Air Cargo Complex
4.	4	31.72	—	—	04	31.72	Chennai Custom House
5.	2	189.59	—	—	02	189.59	I.C.D., Tirpur
6.	1	0.94	—	—	01	0.94	I.C.D., Coimbatore

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	1	15.40	1	21.94	02	37.34	Kandla Custom House
8.	2	282.43	—	—	02	282.43	Bangalore Custom House
9.	8	333.53	2	3.00	10	336.53	Mumbai Custom House
10.	—	—	1	.09	01	0.09	Hyderabad
11.	1	234.00	—	—	01	234.00	Jawaharlal Nehru Trust Port (Nhava Sheva)

Year 1999-2000

1.	10	28.28	—	—	10	28.28	I.C.D. Tughlakabad
2.	1	16.49	—	—	01	16.49	Coachin Custom House
3.	1	37.77	—	—	01	37.77	Calcutta Custom House
4.	2	42.75	—	—	02	42.75	Chennai Custom House
5.	11	593.00	13	97.00	24	690.00	Mumbai Custom House
6.	1	16.32	—	—	01	16.32	Calcutta Custom House

Statement-II

The details of senior officers of Customs and Dry Ports found prima facie involved in fraud cases and the action taken against them are as under :

- (i) An FIR (First Information Report) has been lodged against one Assistant Commissioner. He has also been transferred to a non-sensitive charge.
- (ii) An FIR has been lodged against two Appraisers and they have been placed under suspension.
- (iii) One Superintendent has been placed under suspension.
- (iv) Show Cause Notices have been issued to two Superintendents to explain their conduct and they have also been placed under suspension.

Funds to State Governments

2751. DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of fund released to various States under the provision of article 275(1) (a) and article 275(1) (b) of the Constitution during the last three years;

(b) the schemes undertaken with such funds during corresponding years;

(c) whether the State Governments have submitted utilisation certificate for the said fund;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be furnished.

[Translation]

Better Financial Arrangement in States

2752. SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any agreement with some State Governments for better financial arrangements;

- (b) If so, the names of such States;
- (c) the name of such States out of the above which have violated the term and conditions of the agreement;
- (d) whether any action has been taken against those;
- (e) If so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the terms and conditions laid down in the agreement with Government of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (f) In the 48th meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held on 19.02.99 several State Governments had raised issues relating to fiscal stress. NDC decided that the Union Finance Minister would discuss with a group of representatives States the financial difficulties of the States and a medium term fiscal strategy would be undertaken by the States. In tune with this decision nine State Governments have prepared their own programmes of fiscal correction. These States are Punjab, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Manipur, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim. An Official Committee has also been set up to monitor and review the fiscal reform programmes of these States. The process of fiscal reform initiated by the States envisage formulation and implementation of a credible and monitorable programme to achieve fiscal stability. These programmes are States-specific and are drawn up by the State themselves in consultation with the Official Committee.

Refunding of Import Duties

2753. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to refund the import duties paid by ESSAR Steel during 1992-93; and

- (b) If so, the details thereof?

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.

[English]

Setting up of Dry Ports

2754. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up some dry ports in the country in view of the rising trend of import-export trade;

- (b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the locations selected therefor, State-wise; and

- (c) the time by which these dry ports are likely to be set up in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Dry [Ports also known as Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs)] are functioning at vantage locations in the country to provide door steps facilities to the trade. The Government, through a single window mechanism functioning in Ministry of Commerce, considers proposals for setting up of ICDs/CFSs as and when received. Both private and public sectors can participate in such ventures. A State-wise list of ICDs/CFSs approved by the Government is given in enclosed statement. About 80 facilities are already in operation and others are at different stages of implementation.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State	Location of the Dry Ports
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Sanathnagar, Guntur, Chirala Anaparti, Kakinada, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam
2.	Assam	Amingaon
3.	Bihar	Jamshedpur
4.	Delhi	Tughlakabad, Patparganj
5.	Goa	Verna
6.	Gujarat	Sabarmati, Surat (2), Ahmedabad, Kandla, Daarath (Baroda), Vapi, Bharuch
7.	Haryana	Panipat, Faridabad, Gurgaon (2), Rewari
8.	Karnataka	Whitefield (Bangalore), New Mangalore, Panambur, Mysore
9.	Kerala	Cochin (3), Aroor
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Malanpur, Raipur, Indore
11.	Maharashtra	Wadibunder, Chinchwad, Bhandup, Pune (2), Mulund, Nhava Sheva/Dronagiri Node (8) Nasik (2), Aurangabad, Nagpur (2), Jalgaon, Waluj, Miraj
12.	Orissa	Paradeep Port, Ballasore
13.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
14.	Punjab	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Ludhaina (2), Jalandhar, Dera Bassi (near Chandigarh)
15.	Rajasthan	Jaipur (2), Jodhpur (2), Udiapur, Kota, Bhilwara, Bhawadi, Sriganganagar, Abu Road

1	2	3
16.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai, (in/around-8), Royapuram, Virugambakkam, Tondiarpet, Tiruvottiyur, Coimbatore, Tuticorin (5), Salem, Singanailur, Madurai, Tirupur
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Moradabad, Kanpur (2), Varanasi, Agra, Meerut, Saharanpur, Rudrapur, Dadri (Greater Noida), Bhadohi, Loni, Surajpur
18.	West Bengal	Calcutta (2), Siliguri, Haldia, Cossipore Road

Figures in brackets indicate total numbers.

[Translation]

Import of Textiles

2755. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- the varieties of textiles being imported;
- the reasons for import of these textiles;
- the variety, quantity and value of textiles imported during each of the last three years and the current year, till date;
- the amount of foreign exchange spent on such imports during the above period year-wise and value-wise; and
- the details of programmes for the production of the said textiles in the country and the time by which the import of these textiles are likely to be stopped to save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The varieties of textiles being imported are Silk, Wool, Cotton, Flax/Jute, Man-made fibre/Yarn/Fabrics, Pile fabrics of cotton and man-made fibre, Ready made garments and made ups.

(b) The imports take place due to a variety of reasons, mainly due to commercial factors.

(c) and (d) 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-Jul.)	128,540.44
1999-2000 (Apr-Jul.)	113,673.67

Source : DGCIS, Calcutta.

The variety wise imports of textiles are as below:-

Item (in Million Kgs)	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Cotton Fabrics	4.01	4.16	3.15
Man-made Fabrics	5.64	8.27	5.54
Woollen Fabrics	0.16	0.32	0.26
Silk Fabrics	0.23	0.24	0.31

(e) In the atmosphere of liberalisation, the imports are governed by market forces subject to export-import policy inforce from time to time. Steps are being taken by Government to modernise and upgrade the technology, e.g., Technology Upgradation Fund Schemes (TUFs) so that local production of quality products is encouraged. To protect local industry from any injurious effects of imports, agreements are available under the WTO like those on anti-dumping, subsidies and countervailing measures etc.

[English]

Setting up of Cement Factory in Bhutan

2756. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- whether there is any proposal to set up a cement factory in Bhutan in collaboration with India;
- If so, the details thereof;
- whether ecological factors and the damage to the environment likely to be caused to the contiguous local Indian region has been duly taken account of; and
- If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. At the specific request of the King of Bhutan, India agreed to consider the proposal of Bhutan for assistance to develop economically backward region of South Eastern Bhutan. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Royal Government of Bhutan signed an agreement on March, 5, 1996 regarding the setting up of the Dungsun Cement Plant at Nganglam in South Eastern Bhutan.

(b) The Dungsun Cement Plant is a dry process cement plant with a capacity of 0.5 million tonnes per year. As per the Bilateral Agreement of 1996, India is to provide a total of Rs. 400 crores on 100% grant basis from Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to Royal Government of Bhutan for setting up of Dungsun Cement Plant. Out of the total grant, Rs. 300 crore is meant for project itself and Rs. 100 crore for establishment of the infrastructure facilities on the Indian side.

(c) The ecological factors and environmental impact of setting up of the Dungsun Cement Plant have been taken into consideration before the finalisation of the project proposal.

(d) The Cement Corporation of India, who prepared the first detailed project report submitted in 1992 for the Dungsun Cement Plant, had identified the necessary measures on pollution control and environmental protection.

Setting up of Cotton Board

2757. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request for setting of Cotton Board at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh has been received by the Union Government from the Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Cotton Board likely to be set up there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) In October, 98, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had written a letter to the Prime Minister of India, inter alia suggesting for setting up of an All India Cotton Board on the lines of Tobacco Board etc. to look into all aspects of cotton. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was informed that there are already a few bodies/agencies, such as Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), The Directorate of Cotton Development (DCD), Indian Cotton Development Council (ICDC) and Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) to take care of the growth of cotton sector and there is no need for a separate Cotton Board.

WTO

2758. SHRI ANNASABH M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of farmers against the backdrop of WTO Agreement;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce any scheme in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Various WTO Agreements are aimed at trade liberalisation through an open, equitable and rule based multilateral trading system. Mainly the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS) have direct relevance to the farmers. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture contains provisions in the areas of market access, domestic support and export subsidies. The TRIPS Agreement requires that plant varieties should be protected either through patents or through a sui generis system or through a combination thereof. The SPS Agreement contains provisions for least trade restrictive manner of protection of human, animal, plant life and health.

The Government have taken various steps to safeguard India's interests in future negotiations in the WTO, particularly, with regard to food security and rural employment. All policies and programmes currently in place for enhancing the productivity of the agricultural sector are designed to derive benefits from WTO Agreements. In the forthcoming negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture, India has sought flexibility in the implementation of her domestic policies in order to safeguard the country's food security. Adequate protection to farmers is also available through high tariff bindings as well as through price support mechanisms. Further, India has decided not to grant patents on plant varieties and instead a sui generis protection system is envisaged which will retain the farmers' right to save, exchange, share and sell their farm produce of the protected variety except sale for re-sowing under commercial marketing arrangement. The Export Import Policy of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, the need to maximise the farm income and foreign exchange earnings and to augment domestic availability of agricultural products while protecting and providing avenues for rural employment.

[Translation]

Pay Scale in Central Secretariat Official Language Service

2759. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assistant Directors of the Central Secretariat Official Language Service (Kendriya Sachivalaya Rajbhasha Sewa) have got the pay scale of Rs. 7500-250-12000/- as mentioned in the notification dated September 30, 1997 of the Ministry of Finance regarding the Government's decision on the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which they are likely to get this pay scale; and

(d) the date from which this pay scale is likely to be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) As per the recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission only 65 out of the existing 145 posts of Assistant Director in the Central Secretariat Official Language Services are to be placed in the higher replacement scale of Rs. 7500-250-12000. The remaining posts are to be placed in the normal replacement scale of Rs. 6500-200-10500. The said recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission was accepted and notified in the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1997 dated 30th September, 1997. There is no decision to depart from the said recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission and to extend the higher replacement scale to all posts of Assistant Director in the Central Secretariat Official Language Services.

[English]

Grievances of Employees of State Bank of Indore

2760. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

SHRI RAJAJAH MALYALA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints in respect of grievances of employees of the Delhi based branches of State Bank of Indore during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the action taken by the Government in each case for redressal of the grievances of bank employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Grievances pertaining to the service matters of one employee of State Bank of Indore posted at Delhi have been received. According to State Bank of Indore, keeping in view the hardships of the employee concerned, a decision was taken by them to treat the period of absence from 4.6.1985 to 31.12.1987, i.e. the period of conciliation proceedings, at par with the matters under investigation and the employee was extended some monetary compensation for subsistence as under:

1. 1/3rd of pay and allowances for first 3 months (from 4.6.1985);
2. ½ of pay and allowances for the next 9 months;
3. and thereafter full allowances for the remaining period upto 31.12.1987;
4. admissible leave for the period 1.1.88 to 31.12.89.

Further, the State Bank of Indore vide order dated 4.10.94 treated the employee as continued in service.

Income-Tax on Central Government Employees

2761. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken to increase the saving limit for income-tax purpose from rupees sixty thousand to rupees one lakh per annum to encourage the savings or to raise the limit of income-tax or to reduce the slab rate of income-tax for salaried employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : The Government considers various aspects covering direct tax provisions, as part of the annual budget exercise. These are considered in light of the overall objective of increasing direct-tax revenues after broadening the tax-base to the extent possible on the one hand and need to further social objectives, for instance, promote household saving etc. on the other. The slab rates of taxation are also reviewed at the same point of time. This is done by either raising limits of income-tax or reducing the slab rates. The Government examines all such options, and its response, if any, shall be contained in the annual budget proposals for the year 2000-2001.

Re-opening of Jute Mills in West Bengal

2762. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the employees of NJMC Jute Mills of West Bengal regarding reopening of mills.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reopen those mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Government have received memoranda from the employees of various units of NJMC Mills located in West Bengal and Bihar. The memoranda has listed various demands relating to the affairs of NJMC which include, inter-alia, filling up of senior Board level posts, payment of timely wages and salary to the workers, steps to be taken for increasing productivity in the mills and renewal of obsolete machinery, ensuring regular supply of raw jute from JCI for continued production in the mills, implementation of new pay structure and revival plan of the Corporation etc.

(c) NJMC is sick public sector undertaking, which has been referred to Board for Industrial and Financial reconstruction. The reasons for sickness of these mills are attributed to the age old plant and machinery with out-dated technology, surplus labour force etc.

2. After being declared a sick company by BIFR, the Ministry has considered Turn Around Plans from time to time for making the units viable. A revised Turn Around Plan prepared by the operating agency based on BIFR norms, is being examined.

3. Although the mills have been incurring losses, the Government has been giving financial support to the company to meet its expenses towards salary & wages. Funds for VRS have also been provided.

[Translation]

Misuse of Funds Allocated for Central Schemes

2763. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate an effective monitoring system to check the misuse of funds allocated for the Central Schemes;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The concerned Ministries dealing with the Central Schemes are responsible for ensuring proper utilisation of funds allocated under the Schemes. The Planning Commission also carries out periodic review of the Plans.

[English]

Integrated Framework to Monitor the Working of Banks

2764. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to prepare an integrated framework to monitor the working of banks, financial institutions and insurance companies; and

(b) 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.

[Translation]

Protest of PDEXCIL against Handloom Reservation Order

2765. SHRI AJIT SINGH :

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council has registered its protest against the implementation of Handloom Reservation Orders;

(b) If so, the grounds on which the said protest has been made;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision after studying these grounds;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the handloom industry is a labour oriented cottage industry which requires the protection of the Government; and

(f) If so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir, the PDEXCIL have made a representation to the Government for withdrawing the Handloom Reservation Order.

(b) The grounds of their representations were:

i) Powerloom sector is more cost effective;

ii) It has higher capacity for production and productivity;

iii) Under the process of globalisation, the Handloom Act and Order will adversely affect the export market;

iv) Implementation of the Handloom Reservation Order will affect the employment generation in the powerloom sector.

(c) and (d) The Government promulgated the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985. A number of writ petitions were filed in different High Courts of the country where stay was granted. Subsequently, these cases were moved to Supreme Court where an ex-prate stay was granted w.e.f. 31.3.1987. Thereafter, the Handloom Reservation Act and Orders were finally upheld by the Supreme Court on 5.2.1993. Since then the Act has been in operation. Handloom Reservation Order of 1986 was issued reserving 22 textile articles. Several representations were received from different powerloom and mill sectors. Five Sub Groups were constituted by the Government to undertake an extensive field study and submit its recommendations. Based on these recommendations, the

Advisory Committee recommended reservation for 11 textile articles for exclusive production on handlooms. This was notified vide Handloom Reservation Order dated 26.7.1996. Thereafter, the Advisory Committee meets from time to time to consider such representations made by various sectors of textile industry. Therefore, review of the Handloom Reservation Order is a continuous process.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Handloom industry is a labour oriented cottage industry. It largely provides employment to the weaker sections of the society in the decentralised sector. It requires protection from the Government as it is facing stiff competition from the powerloom/mill sector due to its inherent disadvantages. Hence, in pursuance of the Textile Policy of 1985 and keeping in view the need to provide protection to handloom sector, the Government have promulgated the Handloom (Reservation of articles for Production), Act, 1985 under which at present 11 textile articles are reserved exclusively for production on handlooms.

[English]

FDI in Retail Sector

2766. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken decision to allow Foreign Direct Investment in retail sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any obligation to allow foreign direct investment in retail sector as per the W.T.O. Agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details and number of proposals received by the Government for FDI in retail sector;

(f) whether the Government have received representations from Indian Garment Industry against the decision; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (e) Foreign Investment upto 51% for trading is allowed through the automatic route subject to the condition that the undertaking concerned should be an export house, registered under the provisions of the Export and Import

Policy in force. Foreign equity up to 100% is permitted in case of trading involving the following:-

- (i) Exports;
- (ii) Bank imports with exports/exbonded warehouse sales;
- (iii) Cash and carry wholesale trading;
- (iv) Other import of goods or services provided at least 75% is for procurement and sale of goods and services among the companies of the same group.

Receipt and Disposal of Foreign Investment proposals is an ongoing process as per the extant policy in force.

(f) and (g) Representations received from various quarters are examined in light of the extant policy.

[Translation]

Production Cost of Coal

2767. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

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

(a) whether the expenditure incurred on production of coal by Coal India Limited has been estimated more from the comparative point in view;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a foreign company has been assigned the job of giving report on all the aspects relating to reduce the production cost in view of the high cost of production at present;

(d) if so, the name of the company and the criteria and procedure of selecting the above company for this purpose; and

(e) the amount likely to be given to the company as remuneration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The cost of production of coal by Coal India Limited (CIL) is comparatively lower than the cost of production in many countries of the world. However, the delivered price of coal produced by CIL includes freight, royalty/cess, taxes over and above the cost of production. The imported coal is not subjected to domestic levies like royalty/cess and sales tax. The imported coal also enjoys concessional Railway freight as well as nominal customs duty.

(c) CIL have not engaged any foreign company to prepare a report on the aspects relating to reduction in production cost.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of the answer to part (c) of the question.

[English]

Expenditure on Welfare of Workers by CIL

2768. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred so far by the Coal India Limited in construction of houses, water supply and provision of medical facilities to coal mine workers;

(b) whether health card issued to coal mine workers in 1994-95 are not being updated; and

(c) 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, total expenditure incurred by the CIL and its subsidiaries on construction of houses, water supply, provision of medical facilities and education so far is as under:-

Capital	Rs. 2042.49 crores
Revenue	Rs. 7767.67 crores
Total	Rs. 9810.16 crores

(b) and (c) Up-dating of health cards on a quarterly basis of such a large work force has not been feasible. However, the same is being done during periodical medical examination of employees.

[Translation]

Losses to Banks

2769. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the loss suffered by various public sector banks/financial institutions every year during the last three years due to mutual funds like Canara Bank Mutual Fund, SBI Mutual Fund, BOI Mutual Fund, LIC Mutual Fund;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check/ make up such losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Jute Mill at Dalgaoon

2770. SHRI MADHAB RAJBANSHI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approval proposal for the construction of a jute mill in Dalgaoon/Mangaldoi (Assam) is still under active consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government are planning to include this project in the current financial year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) At present there are enough capacities with existing Jute Mills in Country to meet both local requirement and export demand. Now Government have no plan to set up any new Jute Mill in the Country because of enough capacities with existing Jute Mills.

Bank Branches Running in Rented Building

2771. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of branches of nationalized banks in Delhi and Mumbai functioning in rented buildings and since when;

(b) the names of the banks whose landlords had requested to vacate their premises and taken the matter to the court after their request were turned down by the banks;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue any directions to the banks to vacate the premises at the requests of the landlords;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) Following the considerable expansion in the branch network of nationalized bank subsequent to nationalization of commercial banks in 1969 and thereafter in 1980, as large number of banks branches are presently functioning in rented premises. Since the renting of private premises for the location of bank branches is a contractual matter between the landlord and the bank concerned neither the Govt. of India nor the Reserve Bank of India maintains information on the number of branches located in rented premises. Information regarding the cases in which landlords had requested the banks to vacate the premises and

thereafter taken the matter to the court following the turning down of the requests by the concerned banks is also not maintained by the Government. Both the occupation of rented premises by banks and the vacation of or the refusal to vacate, such premises are matters to be determined mutually by the banks and the landlords. As and when complaints are received by the Govt. they are forwarded to the banks for disposal in accordance with the policy guidelines for premises framed by the banks. Govt. does not propose to issue any directions to the banks to vacate the premises at the request of the landlords.

[Translation]

Hindustan Paper Corporation

2772. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- the profits earned by the Hindustan Paper Corporation during the last three years;
- whether all the appointments have been made in the Hindustan Paper Corporation;
- If not, the number of posts lying vacant alongwith the date of vacancy; and
- the reasons for not filling-up such vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The profits earned by Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) during the last three years are:-

Year	Profit (Rs. in crore)
1996-97	6.99
1997-98	11.51
1998-99	9.32

(b) and (c) At the Board level all appointments of Functional Directors have been made except for the post of Director (Marketing). This post was revived in August 1999 and action is underway to make recruitment to the post.

Below the Board level the following senior posts are vacant :-

Post	Date of Vacancy
Executive Director (Nayagaon Paper Mill)	April, 1997
Executive Director (Vigilance)	June, 1999
General Manager (Technical Services)	May, 1998
General Manager (Works) Cachar Paper Mill	Dec., 1997
Dy. General Manager (Finance) Nayagaon Paper Mill	Jan, 1999
Sr. Manager (Finance/Internal Audit)	Feb, 1998
Sr. Manager (Legal)	Jan, 1997

(d) Action for filling up the vacancies has been initiated in accordance with the procedures. Dearth of suitable candidates, however, often delays the effort.

Fake Currency Notes

2773. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government are aware that fake currency notes are in circulation on a large scale in the country;
- If so, the efforts made by the Government to check the circulation of fake currency notes;
- the number of people arrested so far involved in printing and circulation of fake currency notes during the last three years, State-wise;
- the value of currency notes seized from them so far and the action taken against them;
- whether cases of smuggling of fake currency notes from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have come to the notice of the Government during the above period;
- If so, the details thereof; and
- the number of smugglers arrested so far and the details of smuggled fake currency notes seized between 1.1.1997 to 31.10.1999 and the action taken against such smugglers?

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

[English]

India Development Forum Meeting

2774. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether the meeting of "India Development Forum" to be hosted by Japan to review the economic measures by Japan in the wake of Pokhran tests have been cancelled after their being scheduled;
- If so, the technical and other 'area co-operation programmes' which got affected and what are the alternatives to fund the ongoing projects;
- whether the Government are taking any comprehensive effort to profit the economic sanctions by way of projecting that the flow of funds from International Funding Agencies are spent only on the earmarked projects; and
- If so, the countries which have been approached and their response?

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.

Industrial Development

2775. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme or programme for industrial development in the country, particularly in Manipur;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith funds allocated;

(c) the details of industrial development which has taken place due to the liberalisation policy being implemented since 1998; and

(d) the details of domestic and foreign capital investment in setting up of industries during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, separately State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Measures initiated for industrial development in the country, including Manipur, inter alia are new industrial policy for North-Eastern Region, Transport Subsidy Scheme for certain hilly, remote and inaccessible areas of the country and Growth Centre Scheme.

(b) The Budget Estimate allocations for Transport Subsidy Scheme and Growth Centre Scheme in the current year are Rs. 85 crore and Rs. 25 crore respectively.

(c) The growth rates of industrial production during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (April-October), are 4.0% and 6.9% respectively.

(d) The State-wise details of foreign direct investment and domestic investment intentions (IEMs plus LOIs) are given in the enclosed Statement I and II.

Statement-I

State-wise Industrial Investment Proposals (Rs. Cr.)

States	IEM+LOI	
	1998-99 (Apr-Mar)	1999-2000 (Apr-Oct)
1	2	3
Maharashtra	42063	9232
Gujarat	5236	11895
Uttar Pradesh	3229	1798
Tamil Nadu	3950	4459
Andhra Pradesh	4810	2252

1	2	3
Haryana	1409	824
Madhya Pradesh	6012	3852
Rajasthan	1550	330
Punjab	1313	12352
W. Bengal	751	1138
Karnataka	3480	1050
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	483	539
Daman & Diu	154	89
Delhi	1	19
Kerala	1127	88
Himachal Pradesh	151	202
Pondicherry	59	109
Bihar	1136	85
Goa	522	102
Orissa	2624	5436
Assam	340	32
Jammu & Kashmir	182	35
Chandigarh	28	36
Meghalaya	7	17
Sikkim	0	0
Andaman & Nicobar	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
Nagaland	17	0
Tripura	0	1
Lakshdweep	0	0
Mizoram	0	0
Manipur	0	0
More than 1 State	9	24
Total	80643	55996

Statement-II

State-wise Foreign Direct Investment and Domestic Investment intentions (Rs. Cr.) is given below:-

States	Foreign Direct Investment (State-wise)	
	1998-99 (Apr-Mar)	1999-2000 (Apr-Oct)
1	2	3
Maharashtra	3598.56	3905.65

1	2	3
Gujarat	1820.23	656.69
Uttar Pradesh	290.70	548.98
Tamil Nadu	3012.59	822.07
Andhra Pradesh	2287.81	685.15
Haryana	671.60	225.38
Madhya Pradesh	2246.20	213.09
Rajasthan	88.49	147.63
Punjab	101.84	15.14
W. Bengal	221.16	233.28
Karnataka	5281.01	1065.13
Dadra & Nagar Havelli	6.72	33.60
Daman & Diu	10.46	0.27
Delhi	5657.03	688.63
Kerala	56.77	194.70
Himachal Pradesh	15.91	0.57
Pondicherry	25.31	17.29
Bihar	644.45	0.10
Goa	65.29	33.19
Orissa	182.87	217.18
Assam	—	0
Jammu & Kashmir	—	0.40
Chandigarh	65.48	1.53
Meghalaya	44.46	—
Sikkim	—	—
Andaman & Nicobar	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
Nagaland	—	—
Tripura	0	—
Lakshdweep	—	—
Mizoram	—	—
Manipur	—	—
More than 1 State	7512.84	2795.27
Total	33920.58	12500.92

Damages by Cyclone

2776. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(b) the details of damages made to his Ministry by the recent Cyclone in Orissa and West Bengal; and

(a) the details of steps being taken by his Ministry/Deptt./Subordinate offices under his Ministry and the help being extended for immediate restoration of facilities to the survived people of the affected areas in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) There are 48 operating PSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry and none of these PSUs has been affected by the Cyclone.

(b) Central PSUs in Orissa and adjoining areas have been directed to provide immediate relief in the cyclone affected areas in terms of priorities identified hereunder in the following fields:-

- i) Provision of Drinking water;
- ii) Supply of Food-stuff and starting of free kitchens;
- iii) Supply of clothing/blankets/utensils;
- iv) Health—to avert outbreak of epidemic; and
- v) Erection of Temporary shelter and supply polythene sheets.

Six PSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry identified in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture have undertaken relief work in the affected Blocks/Districts as per enclosed statement.

The Blocks and Districts of the State of Orissa allotted to the six PSUs under the administrative control of Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the relief work are as follows:-

S.No.	Name of the PSU	District	Block
1	2	3	4
1.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.	Bhadrak	Sadar
2.	Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.	(I) Balasore (II) Bhadrak	Sore Asurali
3.	Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd.	(I) Jagtasinghpur (II) Bhadrak	Ersama Sadar

1	2	3	4
4.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	Kendrapada	Indupur
5.	Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Ltd.	Ganjam	Gopalpur
6.	Bridge and Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	Keonjhar	Anandpur

Imports of Cars

2777. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has unearthed a major racket involving import of luxury cars and sale thereof in the local market in violation of the Export-Import policy regulations;

(b) if so, the number of cars imported during each of the last three years and the amount of loss of revenue suffered by the Government;

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

(d) whether there is any proposal to liberalise the import and sale of such cars in domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and even certain other Customs field formations have detected a number of cases of import of cars, mostly, by individuals, in violation of the Export-Import Policy Regulations.

(b) and (c) 22,105 and 40 numbers of cases of import of cars in violation of the Export-Import Policy involving attempted duty evasion estimated provisionally at Rs. 111.40 Lakhs were detected by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and other Customs formations, taken together, in the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (till date) respectively. After investigations, appropriate show cause notices have been issued to the persons concerned except for some cases of the current year where the investigations are still under progress. The cases where show cause notices have been issued have either been adjudicated already (imposing suitable fines and penalties), or are under the process of adjudication. One case was settled under the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme on payment of a sum of Rs. 4,48,917/-.

(d) No such proposals is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Loans to Tribal People

2778. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any directives to the nationalised banks with regard to providing loans to the tribals in the country; and

(b) if so, the names of nationalised banks who have set up their branches in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh and are providing loans to the tribals in the various districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have prescribed targets for banks lending to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes under various Governments sponsored schemes for Poverty alleviation and employment generation.

(b) Besides State Bank of India, the following nationalized banks are having their branches in tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh and are implementing the various schemes:

1. Allahabad Bank
2. Andhra Bank
3. Bank of Baroda
4. Bank of India
5. Bank of Maharashtra
6. Canara Bank
7. Central Bank of India
8. Corporation Bank
9. Dena Bank
10. Indian Bank
11. Indian Overseas Bank
12. Oriental Bank of Commerce
13. Punjab & Sind Bank
14. Punjab National Bank
15. Syndicate Bank
16. Union Bank of India
17. United Bank of India
18. UCO Bank
19. Vijaya Bank

[English]

Tax Incentives for Capital Goods

2779. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps taken to provide the tax incentives for capital goods as well as raw materials

in textile industry for development of infrastructure to facilitate more export of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : Over the last few years, the Government has been taking several policy initiatives both Export-Import policy and fiscal policy in relation to the capital goods and raw materials, generally and with specific reference to textiles. They are as follows:

- i) Rationalisation of duty structure (both excise and customs) on the inputs.
- ii) Rationalisation of duty drawback scheme.
- iii) Reduction in the threshold limit for import of capital goods under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme, from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 1 crore.
- iv) Import of specified (159) textile machinery under concessional import duty.
- v) Duty free import of raw materials for manufacture of export goods under Advance Licence Scheme.
- vi) Duty free import of all necessary inputs by units under 100% EOU scheme and Export Processing Zones.

Request for Ban on Silk Import

2780. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is persistent demand by the silk producers, particularly from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to impose ban on import of silk and silk yarn;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of domestic producers of silk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) 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 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 and Handicrafts Export Corporation Ltd.
- (3) State Handloom Development Corporations
- (4) Other State Corporations dealing with handlooms, powerlooms and silk

(c) To protect the interest of domestic silk industry the import of silk continues to be in the restricted list of imports. Besides 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 and D, training, infrastructural and extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units and implementation of certain developmental/incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk.

Recommendations of Justice Mohan Committee

2781. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of HEAVY AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state

(a) whether the employees of Public Sector Undertakings are against the Union Government because the recent pay hike effected by the Union Government is much below the Justice Mohan Committee recommendations;

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

(c) whether the Union Government propose to implement the recommendations of Justice Mohan Committee in toto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Pay scales recommended by Justice Mohan Committee for the executives of Public Sector Undertakings (for Board level, below Board level and non-unionised Supervisor level) have been accepted by the Govt.

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

Interest Rate of Provident Fund

2782. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to cut interest rate on Provident Fund and Small Savings Schemes, as suggested by the Planning Commission;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have considered the concern of the average common man in this regard, whose major portion of savings come from these two means; and

(d) If so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) At present there is no proposal to reducing the interest rates on small savings schemes and provident fund, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Small Savings Schemes and Public Provident Fund are designed for the common man and offer zero risk, attractive returns, liquidity and tax incentives; they are available in urban, rural and remote areas round the year and have nominal lower limits for investment.

Items Reserved for Handloom Sector

2783. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the items reserved for handloom sector;

(b) whether these reserved items are also being produced by non-handloom sector;

(c) If so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the non-handloom sector from producing reserved items;

(d) whether the Government are providing any marketing facility to handloom weavers;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) If not, the steps taken by the Government for marketing of finished products of handloom weavers so that they could sell their items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Eleven categories of textile articles have been reserved for exclusive production on handloom namely : 1. Saree, 2. Dhoti, 3. Towel, Gamcha and Angavastram, 4. Lungi, 5. Khes, Bedsheet, Bedcover, Counterpane, Furnishing, (including tapestry, upholstery), 6. Jamakkam, Durry or Durret, 7. Dress Material, 8. Barrack Blankets, Kambal or Kamblies, 9. Shawl, Loi, Muffler, Pankhi etc. 10. Woollen

Tweed, 11. Chaddar, Mekhala/Phanek with the technical specifications as mentioned in the Handloom Reservation Order vide S.O. 557 (E) dated 26.7.96 and S.O. 408 (E) dated 2.6.99.

(b) Yes Sir, certain instances of violations have come to notice from time to time.

(c) For effective and strict enforcement of the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 and the Handloom Reservation Order, directions to the implementing agencies i.e. States/UTs were issued as it is their primary responsibility to implement this Act in letter and spirit.

Central Enforcement Machinery with its Head. Quarter at Delhi and three regional enforcement offices at Calcutta, Chennai and Ahmedabad has been set up.

Powers were delegated to the Authorised Officers of the Central and States/UTs Governments, for effective implementation of the said Act/Orders.

The violation detected by the Authorised Officers during their inspection of the powerloom units/mills are being reported in the police station concerned after completing the legal formalities like preparation of panchanama, seizing of samples etc. for booking necessary FIRs against such violating units as per provisions of the Act.

(d) and (e) Assistance is being provided under the revised Market Development Assistance scheme to various handloom agencies. The Government is also providing marketing support to the handloom agencies/weavers by way of organising Handloom Expos, District Level Events, Product specific exhibitions and participation in major National Level Meets like Suraj Kund etc.

Marketing complexes are also set up at major cities to help handloom agencies to market their handloom products.

(f) Does not arise.

Regional Rural Banks

2784. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) which are suffering losses in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to restructure such banks, particularly Balangir Anchalik Gramya Bank which is a RRB in Balangir districts in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The State-wise details of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) incurring losses as on 31st March, 1999 are given in enclosed statement.

(b) The Government have initiated recapitalisation programme since 1994-95 and, in six Annual Phases, have so far taken up 175 out of 196 RRBs for financial strengthening with an aggregate financial support of Rs. 2076 crores. Of the 175 RRBs covered under the programme, 158 stand fully recapitalised whereas 17 RRBs have been partially recapitalised. Balangir Anchalik Gramya Bank is being considered for recapitalisation support during the current year.

The other important measures taken to improve the functioning of the RRBs are, inter-alia, as under :

(i) Introduction of Development Action Plans/Memoranda of Understanding on annual basis for bringing improvement in the performance of the RRBs in a planned way;

(ii) Introduction of prudential norms of income recognition, asset classification and provisioning.

(iii) Diversification of business activities;

(iv) Increased avenues for investment of surplus non-SLR funds;

(v) Rationalisation of branch net-work including relocation and merger of loss incurring branches;

(vi) Introduction of composite credit facilities for the farmers with satisfactory track record and introduction of Klean Credit Cards;

(vii) Complete deregulation of interest rate structure; and

(viii) Clarity in role responsibility of various authorities and providing greater role to the sponsor banks in managing the affairs of the RRBs sponsored by them.

Statement

State-wise Details of Regional Rural Banks incurring losses as on 31st March, 1999

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Total Number of RRBs	No. of RRBs incurring losses
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	-
2.	Assam	5	2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-
4.	Bihar	22	12
5.	Gujarat	9	1
6.	Haryana	4	-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2	-

1	2	3	4
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	2
9.	Karnataka	13	-
10.	Kerala	2	-
11.	Madhya Pradesh	24	8
12.	Maharashtra	10	3
13.	Manipur	1	1
14.	Mizoram	1	-
15.	Meghalaya	1	-
16.	Nagaland	1	-
17.	Orissa	9	5
18.	Punjab	5	-
19.	Rajasthan	14	7
20.	Tamil Nadu	3	-
21.	Tripura	1	1
22.	Uttar Pradesh	40	2
23.	West Bengal	9	5

[Translation]

Foreign Tobacco Companies in India

2785. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

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

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has undertaken any study into the likely repercussions of the entry of foreign tobacco companies in manufacturing of cigarettes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this study has been undertaken by any external agency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Seminar on World Trade System

2786. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Seminar on "World Trade System after Uruguay Round Prospects for South Asian Countries" was organised in New Delhi in the recent past;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether suggestions on upgradation of products have been made in the Seminar; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Government have not organised Seminar on "World Trade System after Uruguay Round Prospects for South Asian Countries" as a part of its consultation in preparation for the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation held from 30th November to 3rd December 1999 at Seattle, USA.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

FDI from German

2787. COL. (RETD.) SONARAM CHOUDHARY : 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 "German investments continue to Decline" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 22, 1999;

(b) If so, whether the German direct investment in India are on the decline during each of the last three years;

(c) If so, whether the Germany has dropped to number 9, from number 5 in 1996 and 1997 in the list of top 15 foreign investors in India;

(d) whether the German investment in India is to be promoted by Indian Officials in Germany; and

(e) If so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest decline in investment from Germany?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) Sir, the details of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved in respect of Germany and its rank vis-a-vis total FDI approved during the last three years is as under :-

Foreign Direct Investment Approved (Amount in Millions)		
Year (Jan-Dec.)	With Germany (In Rs.)	Year-wise Rank
1	2	3
1996	15378.9	5th
1997	21558.1	5th

1	2	3
1996	8537.6	9th
1999 (Jan-Oct)	10880.6	8th
Total	78483.7	6th (Cumulative)

(d) and (e) The Central Government takes steps, on a continuous basis, to promote foreign investments such as:-

- (i) Providing information regarding 'Projects on Offer' through Websites.
- (ii) Organisation of Seminars etc. abroad in consultation and with cooperation of various Industry Associations.
- (iii) Establishment of Contact with International Companies for inviting investments in appropriate projects.
- (iv) Providing institutional mechanism for facilitating speedy implementation of projects.
- (v) Reviewing FDI Policy from time to time in order to make it more and more investor friendly.

Export of Tea

2788. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total tea growing land in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total yielding capacity of orthodox, CTC and Darjeeling tea;

(c) whether the Government have set up any task force to study the requirement of domestic consumption of tea by the year 2010 and the available surplus tea for export; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production of tea in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total area under tea cultivation in India is 436057 hectares. The State wise break up is as under :-

Major Tea Producing States	Area under Tea in Hectare
1	2
Assam	230978
West Bengal	104226
Tamil Nadu	49085
Kerala	36809

1	2
Tripura	6100
Himachal Pradesh	2325
Karnataka	2099
Arunachal Pradesh	2000
Uttar Pradesh	1068
Nagaland	456
Manipur	400
Orissa	219
Sikkim	172
Bihar	120
Total All India	436057

(b) During the year 1998, the production of tea in India was 870.4 m.kgs. of which 759.5 m.kg. was CTC tea, 8.6 m.kg. was Green Tea and 102.3 m.kg. was Orthodox tea which included 10.7 m.kgs. of Darjeeling Tea.

(c) For the purpose of formulating the 9th plan targets, the Tea Board had carried out a study in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, to assess the demand of tea for domestic consumption. A core group of experts was also set up to study the export potential. Based on the reports of the above studies, the 9th Plan targets were arrived at as under:-

Target for the terminal year of the 9th Plan Period.

1.	Domestic Consumption	730 m.kgs.
2.	Export	265 m.kgs.
3.	Pipeline Stock	5 m.kgs.
		1000 m.kgs.

(d) Several steps have been taken by the Government/Tea Board for increasing production of tea. The steps include financial assistance by Tea Board to the tea industry through its various developmental schemes for encouraging extension planting, re planting, rejuvenation pruning, infilling, creation of irrigation facilities and drainage etc.

Development of Textile Industry

2789. CH. TEJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the rank of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra in the textile industry in the country;

(b) the number of handloom, powerloom, synthetic yarn, readymade garment and hosiery units in

operation at present in the country, State-wise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra; and

(c) the amount spent by the government during 1997-98, 1998-99, till date, for the development of textile industry in the country State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) In the Government there is no system for ranking of States in respect of textile sector. Data relating to important textile related activities in respect of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh is given below :-

Sl. No.	All India	Maharashtra	Uttar Pradesh
1. Cotton/Man-Made Fibre Textile Mills (Non SSI)			
i) No. of Mills	1,824	201	72
ii) Installed capacity			
a) Spindles (In '000)	34,722	5,020	2,003
b) Rotors	382,779	43,044	9,232
c) Looms	122,504	36,104	11,391
2. Production of spun yarn (In '000 kg.)	2,807,850	354,401	94,890
3. Production of Fabrics Mill sector (In '000 sq. Mtr)*	1,494,232	692,409	39,873
4. No. of powerlooms	1,619,689	692,603	65,366
5. No. of handlooms	3,486,308	39,900	189,570

*excluding fabric production of exclusive weaving units.

(b) The Ministry does not maintain the details of number of units in the readymade garment and hosiery sectors which are in the decentralised sector. There are 285 synthetic yarn (236, 100% non cotton spun yarn and 49 filament Yarn) producing units in the country out of which 16 and 22 synthetic yarn manufacturing units are in the States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh respectively. The State-wise (including Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh) details of distribution of Looms in the handloom and powerloom sectors is given in enclosed statement.

(c) The role of the Central Government for the development of textile industry is that of a facilitator. Through its implementing agencies like Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) and Central Silk Board, Government provides funds for a large number of schemes for development of different sectors of the textile industry. During 1997-98 and 1998-99, expenditure

under plan on such schemes was Rs. 238.69 Crores and Rs. 239.33 Crores respectively. For 1999-2000 the Plan budget of the Ministry of Textiles is Rs. 266 Crores.

Statement

State-wise Distribution of Looms in the Handloom & Powerloom Sector

Sl. No.	State	Powerlooms as on 30.9.99	Handlooms As Per Census 1995-96 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42924	202100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	39592
3.	Assam	2726	1322056
4.	Bihar	2894	46220
5.	Delhi	1102	7027
6.	Goa	122	43
7.	Gujarat	308165	20550
8.	Haryana	9882	22718
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1302	47631
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	65	18154
11.	Karnataka	64422	70835
12.	Kerala	3418	49508
13.	Madhya Pradesh	43130	22536
14.	Maharashtra	692603	39900
15.	Manipur	Nil	281496
16.	Nagaland	Nil	87878
17.	Orissa	3301	92869
18.	Pondicherry	830	3106
19.	Punjab	22542	6556
20.	Rajasthan	32868	34343
21.	Tamil Nadu	317128	413174
22.	Tripura	Nil	117792
23.	Uttar Pradesh	65366	189570
24.	West Bengal	4361	350654
25.	Sikkim	Nil	-

1	2	3	4
26.	Meghalaya	Nil	-
27.	Mizoram	Nil	-
28.	Dadra Nagar Havelli	496	-
29.	Daman & Diu	Nil	-
30.	Lakshadweep	Nil	-
31.	Andaman & Nicobar	Nil	-
32.	Chandigarh	42	-
Total		1619689	3486308

MFN Status to Pakistan

2790. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has given the status of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) to India;

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to review its stand of continuing MFN status to Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to use the security provisions under World Trade Organisation (WTO) to slap trade sanctions against Pakistan; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f) Pakistan does not extend Most Favoured Nation status to India. Government have taken up this issue with the Government of Pakistan on several occasions. Separately, through the SAARC process, discussions have been held with Pakistan with a view to liberalize their import regime for Indian products, and there has been some progress in this regard. However, the position is reviewed from time to time and the Government of India reserves the right to take necessary action to safeguard its trade interests including a possible recourse to the Dispute Settlement Process under WTO.

Recommendation of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

2791. DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN :

SHRI KRISHNAMARJU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) has come out with mid-term review of Indian Economy recently;

(b) If so, the salient features and the main tasks identified in the review;

(c) whether any steps are proposed by the Government as suggested in the review; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy brought out by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy has provided an overview of the Indian economy and delineated the tasks head for the Government. The important features of the Indian economy which have been highlighted include acceleration in the growth, low inflation and a reasonably comfortable foreign exchange reserve position. The tasks identified in the Mid-Year-Review for the Government include fiscal consolidation which involves legislation of a Fiscal Responsibility Act, need to scrutinize the whole gamut of tax exemptions and; concessions, expenditure reprioritisation and structural reforms which include enactment of reform legislations, decontrol of hydrocarbon sector by 2002, need to expedite disinvestment and reducing Government stake in public sector banks to 33 per cent. The trends in the economy are closely monitored and under constant review and appropriate policy steps undertaken in the light of emerging trends as and when necessary.

Ban on Cotton Import

2792. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received by the Government for imposing ban on the import of cotton this year and explore the possibilities of more exports of cotton to assist farmers in view of decrease in the price of cotton; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has not received any request for imposing ban on the import of cotton this year. The Government of India has released export quota of 5 lakhs bales (each of 170 Kgs.) of raw cotton to various State Co-operative Cotton Growers Federation and Private traders, apart from the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) and the National Agriculture Co-operative Marketing Federation (NAFED).

[Translation]

Use of CCT Coal Transportation Machine

2793. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the machinery for the transportation

of C.C.T. coal in the Kargali Washery under Kargali and Bokaro areas of Central Coalfields Limited is not being used;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the government propose to reuse the machinery; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Cross Country Conveyor Transport (CCCT) of Kargali washery is not in use at present.

(b) CCCT at Kargali washery was transporting coking coal from Bokaro O.C. and U.G. mines for the Kargali washery but with the conversion of Kargali washery from coking coal washery to a non-coking coal washery w.e.f. 1.6.1999, the need for running of this system is now not there.

(c) and (d) Conveyor structure & other parts of CCT are in the process of dismantling and shall be used at suitable places in the company as and when required.

[English]

Retirement Age in Public Sector Undertakings

2794. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to reduce the retirement age in all the Public Sector Undertakings to fifty eight; and

(b) If not, the reasons and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Government have on policy raised the retirement age from 58 to 60.

[Translation]

Schools under CIL

2795. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

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

(a) the total number of schools functioning in various industrial units functioning under Coal India Limited as on March, 1999;

(b) the number of employees working in these schools, category-wise;

(c) whether the employees working therein have submitted any memorandum to the concerned authorities about their pay scales;

(d) If so, the details of demands put forth by the employees; and

(e) the reasons for not accepting these demands by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, there are no schools functioning under the control of CIL.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of the reply given to part (a) above.

Over/Under Invoicing

2796. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steps being taken by the Government to check the outflow of capital from the country through over-invoicing and under-invoicing;

(b) whether his department has studied the report published after the research conducted in this regard by American and other foreign experts; and

(c) the losses being suffered by the country on account of this outflow of money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has been taking steps to check the outflow of capital from the country through over-invoicing and under-invoicing through its agencies such as Directorate of Enforcement and Customs.

(b) The Government is aware of the study made by Dr. John S. Zdenowicz, and two others in Florida International University of USA, in which a global price matrix has been used to select average prices for all commodities traded between the US and India and the average prices for all commodities traded between the US and the World.

(c) Government has not made any estimate of capital flight through over-invoicing of import and under-invoicing of export.

Foreign Trade

2797. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with which the foreign trade of India has increased during the last financial year;

(b) the per cent of the said increase;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase it more during the current financial year; and

(d) If so, the details thereof alongwith the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics provisional data names of the major trading countries with which India's exports and imports in US \$ terms has increased during last financial year are as follows:-

India's Exports, 1998-99

Country	Export Growth %
Belgium	6.7
Denmark	19.1
France	10.9
Greece	4.8
Ireland	1.4
Luxembourg	20.3
Spain	15.6
Finland	27.3
Bangladesh	26.0
Saudi Arabia	12.0
United Arab Emirates	9.5
Israel	0.4
Egypt	8.2
Nigeria	14.4
Canada	10.1
USA	7.8

India's Imports, 1998-99

Country	Import Growth %
1	2
Denmark	11.7
Ireland	18.9
Italy	18.7
Netherlands	5.0
Spain	31.3
UK	5.0
Finland	2.0

1	2
Switzerland	8.7
Bangladesh	25.2
Nepal	49.2
Sri Lanka	29.1
Australia	0.5
Hong Kong	40.7
Indonesia	11.3
Japan	11.2
Korea	16.3
Malaysia	33.2
Singapore	13.9
Thailand	16.1
Israel	0.5
Nigeria	5.6
South Africa	171.9

(c) and (d) 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.

[English]

Cotton Cultivation Plan of CCI

2798. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India has started an ambitious plan for better cotton cultivation in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the villages chosen under this plan, State-wise; and

(d) the criteria for selection of villages under this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir., since 1995-1996, Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has started a development/extension activities programme for better cotton production in the country. This programme includes:-

Production/distribution of certified label Seeds, Pesticides.

- Village adoption programme, Dissemination of technology, Organising Field days and Seminars etc.
- Integrated pest management in Cotton.
- Cotton Crop Surveillance and Extension Service.
- Support to Research and Development Projects of Agriculture Universities and Research Institutions.
- Promoting Cotton Cultivation in Non-traditional areas like Orissa, Sunderban Tracks in West Bengal, Jammu Division in J & K, Tanjavur Distt. in Tamil Nadu.
- Improvement in existing G & P Factories and construction of Modern sheds and godowns etc.

(c) The number of villages chosen by CCI, State-wise during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under :-

State	No. of villages	
	1997-98	1998-99
Rajasthan	12	25
Haryana	18	32
Punjab	25	18
Gujarat	38	41
Madhya Pradesh	05	-
Andhra Pradesh	24	32
Karnataka	32	69
Total	154	217

(d) The criteria for selection of villages are as under:-

- Villages with productivity lower than overall productivity of States.
- Villages having concentration of marginal and trial farmers, particularly in rainfed areas.
- Farmers of villages intending to accept "Once Variety One Village concept."

[Translation]

Frauds in Insurance Companies

2799. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of frauds took place in LIC and GIC and its four subsidiaries during the last three years;

(b) the details of each case, company-wise and subsidiary-wise; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by the Government to check recurrence of such frauds?

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.

[English]

Amount Spent on Development of Handicrafts/Textiles

2800. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the development of handicrafts and textiles in the country, particularly in Gujarat and Maharashtra during 1998-99, till date, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the development of handicrafts;

(c) whether the Government are providing incentives and facilities to the rural artisans in order to encourage handicrafts in the country;

(d) If so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor and the necessary steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) As per available information, the details of amount spent on the development of handicrafts and textiles in the country including in the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra during 1998-99, till date, State-wise are given in enclosed statement.

(b) For the promotion and development of handicrafts in the country the Government implements a number of schemes. The schemes include training; design development; market related programmes; setting up of craft development centre and emporia; common facility centre and workshop-cum-holding etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The government is providing incentives and facilities to artisans all over the country, including artisans in rural areas, in order to encourage the handicrafts in the country. These incentives include recognition by way of conferring National Award to outstanding crafts persons. The Award is in the form of Rs. 25,000 in cash, an Angavastam and a Tamrapatra. The crafts persons based in North Eastern Region are provided 100% reimbursement of the expenditure for organizing

exhibitions outside North East Region. Financial assistance is also provided to National Awardee crafts persons, in indigent circumstances in the form of monthly pension @ Rs. 500/-.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	(Rs. Lakhs)	
		Year	
		1998-99	1999-2000 (till date)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1235.05	768.70
2.	A & N Islands		2.70
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	28.90	11.15
4.	Assam	1492.84	286.36
5.	Bihar	42.84	17.52
6.	Delhi	315.15	31.12
7.	Goa	3.22	5.99
8.	Gujarat	504.65	171.93
9.	Haryana	90.18	35.03
10.	Himachal Pradesh	154.26	58.09
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	121.94	50.30
12.	Karnataka	347.74	119.15
13.	Kerala	974.27	12.96
14.	Madhya Pradesh	229.71	80.48
15.	Maharashtra	873.07	289.33
16.	Manipur	234.65	146.31
17.	Meghalaya	10.60	14.56
18.	Mizoram	36.36	
19.	Nagaland	167.03	160.91
20.	Orissa	536.39	535.29
21.	Punjab	162.23	13.37
21.	Pondicherry	32.22	70.48
22.	Rajasthan	285.84	120.25
23.	Sikkim	100.00	2.81
25.	Tamil Nadu	2582.52	1054.93
26.	Tripura	67.59	177.27
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1114.10	467.41
28.	West Bengal	529.33	132.98
Total		12272.68	4837.38

Export of Agro Products

2801. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to boost the exports of Agro products;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the agricultural commodities whose exports are likely to be augmented;
- (d) whether the interests of country's consumers are to be kept in view so that there is no scarcity of items which are proposed to be exported; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Policy of exports of agriculture products forms an integral part of Export-Import Policy of the country. The policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an ongoing process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making agriculture exports increasingly viable. The major agro commodities exported are pulses, rice, wheat, cereals, tobacco, spices, cashew, sesame and nigerseeds, groundnut, spirits 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.

Direct Tax Evasion

2802. SHRI AJIT SHIV VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Direct Tax Evasion by the companies as detected by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence during the last three years has witnessed significantly;
- (b) If so, the details of such fraud detected, estimates of tax evasion each year and the names of companies involved in major evasion;
- (c) the details of tax evasion reported initially in such cases during the last three years and the tax finally settled and recovered in respect of major cases of tax evasion during the last three years, State-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular; and
- (d) the details of reasons for tax evasion and actual collection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Search actions are conducted on the basis of credible information about tax-evasion and after making necessary pre-search enquiries. During the last three years, searches were conducted in the cases of companies also and the appropriate proceedings under the Income Tax Act, 1961 have been initiated for taxing undisclosed income in such cases.

The quantum of evasion and the taxes finally realised thereof depend upon regular assessments to be made a period of ten years under Chapter XIV B of the Act.

NRI in PSUs

2803. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any policy to appoint Non-Residents Indian as a Director in Public Sector Undertakings by the Central Government; and
- (b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the name of PSU in which NRI is appointed and date of appointment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHAIRIA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Exemption of Tax on the Onion

2804. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received several representations for the exemptions of tax on onion export; and
- (b) If so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units

2805. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals received and cleared

for setting up of export oriented units during 1998-99; and

(b) the number of units out of these provided infrastructure and other facilities to start production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) 359 Proposals were received for setting up Export Oriented Units during 1998-99 out of which 347 were cleared.

(b) Concerned State Governments are responsible for creation of necessary infrastructure and providing any other facilities.

Akaltara Unit of CCT

2806. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the date from which the Akaltara Unit of Cement Corporation of India is lying closed and the reasons therefor;

(b) the present position of its profit and loss;

(c) whether the Government propose to sell or give the above unit on lease;

(d) If not, whether the above unit can not be made viable by solving the difficulties in its operation;

(e) whether the employees of the above unit are not getting their salary intine; and

(f) If so, 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) Production at Akaltara Unit of Cement Corporation of India (CCT) remains suspended with effect from 09.12.96 due to unviability of operations. However, the Unit has not been closed so far.

(b) The Unit incurred net losses of Rs. 21.55 crores (prov.) during 1998-99. The cumulative losses of the Unit upto 31st March, 1999 are Rs. 177.60 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Global tenders have already been invited for the outright sale of the Unit.

(e) and (f) Due to the acute liquidity crisis faced by CCL, payment of salary/wages by the company to its employees is sometimes delayed. Government has been providing non-plan support to the company for meeting part of its cash losses on account of the salary and wages of employees of CCL, including statutory dues, etc.

Methodology for Spending the Funds

2807. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the several Ministries/Departments do not adopt the fixed methodology for spending the funds and generally spend the funds in the last months of the financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure strict compliance of the procedure/rules in this regard and to avoid unnecessary expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Rule 69 of General Financial Rules contains provisions for avoidance of rush of expenditure particularly in the closing months of the financial year. Instructions have been issued from time to time in this regard.

It is seen from the Audit Reports that the Rule/Instructions are by and large followed by most of the Ministries/Departments. Specific instances of financial irregularities brought out in the Audit Reports are looked into by the concerned Ministries/Departments and also by the Public Accounts Committee.

[English]

Funds for Gram Panchayats

2808. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start routing Central Funds directly to Gram Panchayats by passing the District Panchayats and State Governments under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS);

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Governments had discussed it with State Governments or it had come before the Inter-State Council or NDC; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There is no such proposal on any Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-Myanmar Border Trade

2809. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKKIP : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Indo-Myanmar trade; and

(b) the manner in which it has beneficial for both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Indo-Myanmar border trade agreement which was signed in January 1994 became operational with effect from April, 1995. The border trade between the two countries from April 1995 to March 1999 has been of the order of Rs. 173.24 crores.

The Government of India have taken several steps to facilitate border trade via Moreh in Manipur including banking, customs, immigration and other trading arrangements.

A Trade Centre has been constructed at Moreh to provide stall for show room cum sales counter to the local traders, open an export import information cell, provide telecommunication facilities like telephone, STD/ISD, telex, fax, computer centre conference hall for organising awareness programmes like export import training/seminars and rooms for other Government/semi-Government offices relating to export import.

Empowered Committee on Critical Infrastructure Balanced Scheme (CIB) has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 70 lakhs for the development of external roads in Moreh.

Myanmar Government have been requested to expedite the operationalisation of the second border point at Champal in India and Rih in Myanmar. On the Indian side, a township is being developed Zokhawthar near Champal in Mizoram.

Revision of Pay Scale of NTC Workers

2810. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not implemented the recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission on the non-supervisory grade workers of N.T.C. and B.I.C. Mills at Kanpur;

(b) If so, the reasons for such discrimination vis-a-vis supervisory personnel at Kanpur; and

(c) the details of steps which the Government have taken to implement the report for workers of Non-supervisory Grade at Kanpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to

(c) The recommendations of the 5th Pay Commission are applicable only in respect of those employees who are governed by CDA pay pattern similar to Central Government employees. In NTC (U.P.) Limited, Kanpur, 775 such employees were benefited. In case of BIC, the 5th Pay Commission recommendations are not applicable since no employees in on CDA pay scales.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

2811. SHRI HARIBHAI SHANKAR MAHALE :

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange reserves in the country as on date and share of NRIs bank deposits in it;

(b) the extent to which these figures compare with the last three years;

(c) whether it is sufficient; and

(d) If not, the details of the steps being taken by the Government to increase it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) India's foreign exchange reserves, including gold and SDRs, amounted to US\$ 34288 million as on December 3, 1999. As per the latest information available on NRI deposits, the outstanding balances, including accrued interest, under various NRI deposit schemes with repatriation benefits, at the end of September 1999 amounted to US \$ 15193 million. This is about 44.3 per cent of the current level of foreign exchange reserves.

(b) The position regarding India's foreign exchange reserves, and outstanding balances under repatriable NRI deposit schemes, as at the end of March 1997, March 1998 and March 1999 is given below:-

	Foreign Exchange Reserves (US\$ million)	Outstanding Balances under Repatriable NRI deposits schemes (US\$ millions)	Ratio of Col. (3) Over Col. (2) (%)
End of :			
March 1997	26423	14785	56.0
March 1998	29367	14105	48.0
March 1999	32490	14543	44.8

(c) and (d) The current level of foreign exchange reserves is considered adequate to meet any unforeseen contingency arising from NRI deposits front.

Purchase of Cotton by CCI

2812. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the government are formulating any scheme to export narra and cotton;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the government propose to increase the price of cotton;
- (d) If so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Cotton Corporation of India propose to start the purchase of cotton; and
- (f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has already released an export quota of 5 lakhs bales (of 170 kg. each) of raw cotton during the current cotton season 1999-2000 (Oct. Sept.).

(c) and (d) Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton is fixed by the Government before the commencement of the cotton season. The Government does not intervene in the market unless the price of kapas falls below the MSP, when MSP operation is undertaken by the Government in all Cotton Growing States except Maharashtra where the Monopoly Procurement Scheme of the State Government is in operation.

(e) and (f) 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

[English]

Term of FIPB

2813. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the term of Foreign Investment Promotion Board has expired and no appointments have been made so far to fill the vacancies;
- (b) If so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the vacancies are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has the following composition:

- (i) Industry Secretary, (Secretary, Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion)
- (ii) Finance Secretary,
- (iii) Commerce Secretary,

- (iv) Secretary (Economic Relations) Ministry of External Affairs.

The Board may co-opt other Secretaries to the Government of India and top officials of financial institutions, banks and professional exports of industry and commerce, as and when necessary.

In view of above, the question of filling of vacancies in the Board does not arise.

Branches of IFCI

2814. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) is going to re-open/open its branches at Indore, Shimla, Shillong, Nagpur, Ranchi, Coimbatore and other places to mobilise the fund resources;

- (b) If so, the details thereof; and

- (c) whether the IFCI is considering to strengthen its Guwahati Branch Office to Regional Office to give more focus on industrialisation in North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI) has reported that it has no office/branch at Indore, Shimla, Shillong, Nagpur, Ranchi and Coimbatore and there is no proposal to open offices at these places at present.

- (c) IFCI have informed that it has no proposal to upgrade its Guwahati Office to a Regional Office.

[Translation]

Setting up of Mineral Based Industries

2815. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the pilot project scheme formulated for setting up mineral based industrial units in rural areas of Bihar; and
- (b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far and the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

[English]

DEPB Scheme

2816. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to do away with the Duty Entitlement Pass Bank (DEPB) Scheme for the export of drugs, chemicals and pharmaceuticals;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of domestic pharmaceutical industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No Proposal to do away with the Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) Scheme for export of Drugs, Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals is currently under consideration.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Export Promotion Scheme

2817. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have simplified the export promotion schemes;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which exporters have been benefited?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Government have initiated various measures to increase the competitiveness of Indian exports and to reduce the transactional cost and time with a view to providing level playing field to Indian exporters. These measures include extension of Zero duty EPCG scheme to textile sector and certain sub sectors of chemicals; exemption of additional customs duty under Zero duty EPCG scheme for marine and software sectors; introduction of Annual Advance Licence scheme; rationalisation of EOU/EPZ scheme; recognition for export of services; decentralisation of decision making and automaticity in timebound disposal of various categories of applications and computerisation of the offices of Directorate General of Foreign Trade. These changes are providing effective from the point of view of reducing the time consuming interface between the exporters and Government.

Narcotics Control Bureau

2818. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of Narcotics Control Bureau during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons booked against violation of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 during the above period, state-wise; and

(c) the action taken/being taken to punish them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Sir, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has made substantial

seizures of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals and arrested the accused persons. During the last three years, seizures, of 94.324 kgs. of opium, 430.259 kgs. of heroin, 7452.405 kgs. of ganja, 1053.390 kgs. of hashish, 7.243 kgs. of cocaine, 317.196 kgs. of methaqualone and 1981.600 litres of acetic anhydride were made. During this period, 321 persons were arrested by NCB, which has been also successful in identifying and destroying four units engaged in illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs. Destruction of illicit cultivation of opium and cannabis was carried out in 219 acres of land in the States of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. NCB has frozen illegally acquired properties to the extent of Rupees 335.25 lakhs during the same period. As the nodal Central coordinating agency, NCB has been holding Coordination Committee Meetings to coordinate with enforcement authorities of the sensitive States to curb drug trafficking in the country. During this period, Bilateral Agreements were signed with the Governments of Italy and Turkey. Bilateral Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding with 15 countries are at various stages of finalisation. 36 Controlled Delivery Operations were undertaken in collaboration with the Drug Liaison Officers of foreign countries. NCB has also been organising and conducting training programmes, workshops and seminars on drug law enforcement for officers and staff of various Central and State Law enforcement agencies.

(b) A statement showing details of persons arrested by various Central and State enforcement agencies in connection with drug related cases in the last 3 years, State-wise, is enclosed.

(c) All the arrested persons are liable for prosecution under NDPS Act. During the last 3 years, 7494 persons involved in drug trafficking have been convicted.

Statement

Details of persons arrested in connection with Drug related cases in last three years Statewise

S. No.	States/U.T.	Years		
		1997	1998	1999 (Upto Nov.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80	309	138
2.	Goa	13	35	10
3.	Gujarat	231	308	114
4.	Haryana	199	270	121
5.	Himachal Pradesh	71	123	66
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	72	82	63
7.	Karnataka	—	—	—
8.	Kerala	412	282	121

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Madhya Pradesh	889	409	105
10.	Maharashtra	848	878	574
11.	Manipur	178	89	64
12.	Meghalaya	—	18	—
13.	Mizoram	17	66	29
14.	Nagaland	221	41	45
15.	Orissa	1	—	2
16.	Punjab	298	312	275
17.	Rajasthan	825	344	411
18.	Tamil Nadu	2711	2926	2554
19.	Tripura	1	4	3
20.	Uttar Pradesh	6320	5661	3890
21.	West Bengal	67	178	16
22.	Delhi	852	522	413
23.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
24.	A & N Islands	1	1	4
25.	Chandigarh	30	31	13
26.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
27.	D & N Haveli	—	—	—
28.	Assam	222	187	92
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
30.	Sikkim	—	—	—
31.	Bihar	1	110	21
32.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	18	2

Restructuring of PSUs

2819. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey undertaken by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has revealed that a large number of respondents (executives of Public Sector Undertakings) gave priority to restructuring over privatisation and as many as 85 per cent of the respondents felt that restructuring can be done without privatisation;

(b) If so, the details regarding their opinions expressed in this regard; and

(c) the details regarding some of the important areas of restructuring that have been identified in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Business, organisational financial and labour restructuring are some of the areas of restructuring identified by the survey. The respondents to the survey were of the opinion that restructuring on these lines will enhance the value of enterprise and enable the government to get better value of shares.

Textiles Process House in Nagpur

2820. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Textile Process House is being commissioned in the Nagpur city during the month of December, 1999;

(b) If so, the total outlay of this project;

(c) the total assistance provided by the Union Government;

(d) the main purpose of this Textiles Process House;

(e) the main facilities that would be provided by it;

(f) to what extent these facilities are proposed to be provided to the private parties;

(g) whether 1044 former workers of the closed down Nagpur Zilla Vinakar Co-operative Spinning Mill have been insisting on their rehabilitation at the Process House;

(h) If so, the details thereof; and

(i) the name of head of this Process House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (i) Government of India, Ministry of Textiles does not have any provision for financial assistance for setting up any Textile Process House in India, including Nagpur.

New Export Markets

2821. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry has requested for a Medium Term Plan to consolidate our share of exports in existing markets and explore new markets; and

- (b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry carried out a study on "Indian Exports—Issues and Strategy".

(b) The Ministry has prepared a Medium term strategy covering sectoral and directional aspects for achieving 1% share in world exports. The sectoral strategy discusses sector specific issues and suggests various measures to improve trade in these sectors. The directional strategy suggests a special focus on the emerging markets in Africa, Latin America, and CIS countries apart from deepening our exports in the existing markets.

Office of IDRC, Canada

2822. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada office in India was established in 1983, under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details of said Memorandum of understanding; and

(c) the outcome of the establishment of the office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The IDRC has established its Regional Office in New Delhi under a Letter of Exchange dated 2nd June 1983 between IDRC and the Department of Economic Affairs for the purpose of coordinating its activities within India and the South Asia Region and its head office in Canada.

IDRC Regional Office in New Delhi to date, has funded about 240 research projects of various Indian Institutions/organisations with financial support of over 60 million Canadian dollars.

Exploration of Coal in Maharashtra

2823. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to explore the possibilities of coal in the hilly areas of Sahayadri in Maharashtra;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the time by which the survey is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) As per the information received from Geological Survey of India (GSI), GSI has not carried out any survey to explore the possibilities of occurrence of coal in the Sahayadri hilly area of Maharashtra. This area is occupied by huge thickness of Deccan basalts and as such drilling has not been undertaken by GSI. Directorate of Geology & Mining, Maharashtra have carried out drilling in the Ratnagiri and surrounding areas where 29 bore holes were drilled and maximum thickness of 0.85 metres of lignite deposits was intersected. Based on the data available, GSI is not contemplating any further exploration in the Ratnagiri area of Maharashtra.

Revised Policy of World Bank

2824. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has revised its policy regarding assistance/loans to be given to India;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Discovery of Diamond Reserves in Orissa

2825. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have discovered new diamond reserves in some areas of various States;

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

(c) the approximate diamond reserves discovered in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) New occurrences of kimberlite pipes with incidence of diamond have been reported in the district of Raipur, Madhya Pradesh and Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh. However, the preliminary work carried out so far is not sufficient to estimate reserves of diamond.

Merger of IFCI with IDBI

2826. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to merge the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) a premier financial institution with the Industrial

Development Bank of India (IDBI), a leading financial institution, or with the State Bank of India, in view of its sharp fall in profit and unprecedented increase in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs); and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No proposal to merge Industrial Financial Corporation of India Ltd., (IFCI) with any financial institutions or bank is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

FDI in Hero Honda

2827. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Honda company is withdrawing their foreign investment in Hero Honda Motors Ltd. in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Hero Honda Motors Ltd. is not confirming their employees working on ad hoc/temporary basis as a result thereof;

(d) If so, the details thereof along with the number of employees working as ad hoc/temporary basis/daily workers; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, M/s. Honda Motor Co. Ltd., Japan has been granted approval to set up a wholly owned subsidiary to manufacture scooters, motorcycles and their components, spare parts and after sale services with 100% foreign equity amounting to US\$ 43.00 million. The approval was granted by the Government only after the application company furnished the 'no objection' to their proposal from their existing joint venture partners in India including M/s. Hero Honda.

(c) to (e) The Management/Administration of a private sector company is out of the jurisdiction of Government of India and is the concern between promoters and employees. However, in case of any grievance the aggrieved party is free to seek redressal of grievance from the Labour Commissioner and other agencies empowered in the matter.

Credit Flow for Rural Areas

2828. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalised banks are violating guidelines for lending in rural areas;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure adequate credit flow to rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The outstanding credit of all scheduled commercial banks in their rural branches has increased from Rs. 28183 crore in March 1995 to Rs. 41,193 crore in March 1999 as given below :-

Year ending	Outstanding rural credit (Rs. in crore)
March 1995	28183
March 1996	29122
March 1997	32372
March 1998	36697
March 1999	41193

(c) The credit flow to rural areas is being ensured through Government Sponsored Rural Development Schemes including IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA etc. These schemes have been restructured into a single scheme namely Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY). The scheme guidelines provide for monitoring at bank level as well as Block/District/State and Central level through various committees set up under the scheme.

Commercial banks are also required to achieve the stipulated targets and sub-targets for lending to priority sector including agriculture. Banks have also been advised to extend cash credit facility for meeting composite credit requirements of farmers having a good track record and to introduce the Kisan Credit Card Scheme for agricultural borrowers.

Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) has been established with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for assisting State Governments and State-owned Corporations in quick completion of on-going projects relating to rural infrastructure. The corpus of the Fund is contributed by domestic banks having shortfall in total priority sector lending/agriculture lending. It is expected that with the full utilization of loans sanctioned under the RIDF scheme to State Governments so far, credit absorption capacity in rural areas would improve leading to enhance flow of credit to agriculture sector including artisans and village industries in rural areas.

Accounts of Resident Indians in Foreign Countries

2829. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Exchange Directorate has received a number of complaints against resident Indians holding accounts in foreign countries without permission of the Government;

- (b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether any investigations has been made in this regard; and
- (d) If so, the outcome of the investigations, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, The Enforcement Directorate, under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, has received 10 complaints pertaining to Delhi Zone and 23 complaints pertaining to Mumbai Zone.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) On the basis investigations, adjudication proceedings have been initiated in respect of 1 case of Delhi Zone and 14 cases of Mumbai Zone.

VRS in PSUs

2830. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings have evolved Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS) for their employees; and

(b) the number of employees have accepted such VRS offer during 1998-99 and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Government have evolved a model Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for general implementation by Public Sector Undertakings. Till 31.3.1998, upto which period information is available 227113 employees had availed of VRS. During 1997-98 26853 employees in PSUs have opted for VRS. Compiled information is not yet available of such retirements during 1998-99.

Labour Standard

2831. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India got a major jolt as the US forced the World Trade Organization (WTO) to set up a working group to discuss proposals for creating a group on labour standard within the WTO or a body operated jointly by a number of informative organizations;

(b) If so, whether India will resist the inclusion of labour standard; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) In the very last phase of

the preparatory in process the General Council of WTO at Geneva for the Seattle Ministerial Conference, both the United States (US) and the European Union (EU) had made proposals on Labour Standards. While the US proposed the establishment of a working group to discuss the Labour issue within the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the proposal of EU was to establish a joint WTO-International Labour Organisation (ILO) working forum without specifying as to where it would be located. At Seattle, India and a host of other developing countries vehemently opposed the linkage of Trade with Labour Standards. No consensus-based conclusion could be reached and the work of Ministerial Conference was suspended.

(b) and (c) It is India's firm belief that Labour Standards is a non-trade issue and therefore should not be brought into the ambit of the WTO. It is proposed to oppose any proposal to link Trade with Labour Standards within WTO.

Incentive to Handloom Sector

2832. SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make the textile industry competitive before phasing out of the Multi-Fibre Agreement in 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the kind of assistance and incentives provided by the Government to the handloom/handicraft sector in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Government has already initiated schemes like Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs) to facilitate the industry to modernise and upgrade itself so as to be more competitive. Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy Notifications also have Manufacturer's Exporters Entitlement and New Investors' Entitlement Systems to encourage new investment in textile sector.

(c) The Handloom/Handicraft sectors are mainly not affected by MFA. The Government has initiated a number of schemes in Handloom sector which include Project Package, Workshop-cum-Housing, Thrift Fund, Health Package, Group Insurance, Development of Exportable products and their Marketing, organisation of National Handloom Expos, Participation in Fairs, Melas and Haats etc.

As far as Handicraft sector is concerned, incentive in the form of TA/DA is provided to master craft persons for their participation in various National Level Melas/Expos. Master craft persons unable to work due to old age and infirmity are provided pension. As a token of recognition of their craftskill, outstanding craftsmen and weavers are conferred National Awards. The award includes cash prize

of Rs. 25,000/-, a Tamarapatra and an Angavastram. Moreover, the craftpersons from North-East Region are provided 100% reimbursement and free transportation for mounting exhibitions outside North-East Region.

Tax on Natural Rubber

2833. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have directed the Government of Kerala to withdraw Sale Tax on Natural Rubber produced by the State Trading Corporation;

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

(c) the total amount paid by STC to the Government of Kerala towards Sale Tax;

(d) whether the Union Government have imposed any conditions on the Government of Kerala for procuring Natural Rubber from farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Government of India has requested the Government of Kerala for exemption of purchase tax on the sale/purchase of Natural Rubber procured by State Trading Corporation (STC).

(b) The State Government has on 30th November 1999 issued a Notification exempting from tax the rubber procured during the period from 1.9.97 to 31.10.99 by the STC under the programme of procurement of rubber authorized by Government of India.

(c) STC, has, so far paid an amount of Rs. 5.63 crore as on 31.10.1999 to Government of Kerala on account of purchase tax.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Export Benefits

2834. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Joint Director General of Foreign Trade made payment to the tune of several crores towards deemed export benefits and cash compensatory support to the exporters during 1996 on the basis of the claims submitted by them which were time barred;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the officials concerned for extending undue benefit to the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) It is a fact that the office of Jt. DGFT, CLA, New Delhi made payment to the tune Rs. 2.04 crores towards deemed export benefits to 12 firms on the basis of claims submitted by these firms. The names of the firms are as follows:-

1. M/s. Micropro India Ltd., New Delhi
2. M/s. Advance Steel Tubes Ltd., Sahibabad
3. M/s. Maharashtra Seamless Ltd., New Delhi
4. M/s. SAE India Ltd., New Delhi
5. M/s. Indian Aluminium Cables Ltd., New Delhi
6. M/s. Samtel Colour Ltd., New Delhi
7. M/s. Inalsa Ltd., New Delhi
8. M/s. Indure Ltd., New Delhi
9. M/s. Wiegand India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
10. M/s. Global Engineering, New Delhi
11. M/s. Siemens Ltd., New Delhi
12. M/s. BHEL, New Delhi

(c) The Audit has objected to the payment to the above firms on the ground that the claims were time barred. These observations now form part of the CAG Report No. 2 of 1999. Each of the above cases will be examined and necessary action as per law will be initiated against all concerned, including the officers, after due investigations. Action taken report will be submitted to Parliament after the same is duly vetted by the audit.

Assistance from OECF

2835. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on going projects with the assistance of the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund; and

(b) the details of proposals made to foreign countries, interest shown by the foreign countries for conservation and modernisation of these sites and the present position of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The details of on going OECF (now JBIC) assisted projects are given in enclosed statement.

(b) After the nuclear tests conducted by India in May, 1998, Govt. of Japan have stopped all Yen credit for new projects.

Statement*List of Ongoing JBIC (earlier OECF) assisted projects*

Sl. No.	IDP No. and Name of the Project	Centre/State	Date of	Loans
			Signing/Closing (JY million)	Amount
1	2	3	4	5
1.	IDP-40 Teesta Canal HEP	West Bengal	18.12.96/31.3.2000	8025
2.	IDP-53 Ghatghar Pumped Storage Project	Maharashtra	15.12.88/20.1.2003	11414
3.	IDP-66 Power System Improvement and Small Hydro Project	Centre	23.1.91/5.2.0002	24379
4.	IDP-72 Teesta Canal HEP II	West Bengal	23.1.91/31.3.2000	6222
5.	IDP-73 Indra Gandhi Afforestation	Rajasthan	23.1.91/5.2.2000	7869
6.	IDP-79 Urban City Water Supply Project	Centre	9.1.92/31.3.2002	6788
7.	IDP-80 Afforestation Project in Aravalli Hills	Rajasthan	9.1.92/31.3.2000	8095
8.	IDP-81 NH-2 Improvement Project	Centre	9.1.92/30.9.2000	4855
9.	IDP-82 Ajanta Ellora Conservation & Tourism Dev. Project	Centre/Maharashtra	9.1.92/30.3.2002	3745
10.	IDP-84 Yamuna Action Plan Project	Centre	21.12.92/19.4.2000	17773
11.	IDP-85 Srisaillam Power Transmission System	Andhra Pradesh	21.12.92/19.4.2000	3806
12.	IDP-88 Anpara 'B' Thermal Power Project Stage V	Uttar Pradesh	24.1.94/11.3.2001	17638
13.	IDP-90 Faridabad Thermal Power Station Project	Centre	24.1.94/11.3.2001	23536
14.	IDP-91 Bridge Accross River Yamuna Near Naini	Centre	24.1.94/11.3.2001	10037
15.	IDP-92 Four laning of NH-5	Centre	24.1.94/11.3.2001	11360
16.	IDP-94 Srisaillam Left Bank Power Project II	Andhra Pradesh	28.2.95/12.4.2001	22587
17.	IDP-95 Srisaillam Power Transmission System Project II	Andhra Pradesh	28.2.95/12.4.2001	9546
18.	IDP-96 Assam Gas Turbine Power Station Transmission Project II	Centre	28.2.95/12.4.2000	15821
19.	IDP-97 Bakreshwar Thermal Power unit 3 Extension Project	West Bengal	28.2.95/12.4.2001	8659
20.	IDP-98 Purulia Pumped Storage Project	West Bengal	28.2.98/12.4.2003	20520
21.	IDP-99 Kothagudam 'A' TPS Rehabilitation Porject	Andhra Pradesh	28.2.95/12.4.2002	5092
22.	IDP-100 NH-5 Improvement Project II	Centre	28.2.95/12.4.2002	5836
23.	IDP-101 NH-24 Improvement Project	Centre	28.2.95/12.4.2002	4827
24.	IDP-102 Madras Sewerage Renovation & Functional Imp. Project	Tamil Nadu	28.2.95/12.4.2001	17098
25.	IDP-103 Lake Bhopal Conservation & Management Project	Madhya Pradesh	28.2.95/12.4.2002	7055

1	2	3	4	5
26.	IDP-104 Rajasthan Forestry Development Project	Rajasthan	28.2.95/12.4.2002	4219
27.	IDP-105 Industrial Pollution Control Project	West Bengal	28.2.95/12.4.2001	1525
28.	IDP-106 ICICI-Industrial Pollution Control Programme	Centre	28.2.95/12.4.2000	3000
29.	IDP-107 NHPC-Dhauliganga HEP	Centre	25.1.96/23.5.2000	5665
30.	IDP-108 Anpara Power Transmission Project	Uttar Pradesh	25.1.96/26.3.2000	12020
31.	IDP-109 Bangalore Water Supply	Karnataka	25.1.96/26.3.2004	28452
32.	IDP-110 Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Programme	Centre	25.1.96/28.6.2004	8670
33.	IDP-111 Attapaddy Wasteland Development	Kerala	25.1.96/26.3.2005	5112
34.	IDP-112 Gujarat Forestry Project	Gujarat	25.1.96/26.3.2004	15760
35.	IDP-113 Kurnool Cuddapah Canal Modernization Project	Andhra Pradesh	25.1.96/26.3.2003	16049
36.	IDP-115 Pipavav Ship-breaking Development Project	Gujarat	25.1.96/26.3.2003	7046
37.	IDP-116 Northern India Transmission System Project	Centre	25.2.97/3.6.2006	8497
38.	IDP-117 West Bengal Transmission System Project	West Bengal	25.2.97/29.5.2004	11087
39.	IDP-118 Uiam Hydro Power Station Renovation Project	Meghalaya	25.2.97/10.6.2004	1700
40.	IDP-119 Tirial Hydro Electric Power Station Project	Centre	25.2.97/18.6.2009	11695
41.	IDP-120 Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project	Centre	25.2.97/24.6.2007	19817
42.	IDP-121 Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project	Centre	25.2.97/21.10.2007	14760
43.	IDP-122 Calcutta Transport Infrastructure Development Project	West Bengal	25.2.97/29.5.2004	10679
44.	IDP-123 Kerala Water Supply Project	Kerala	25.2.97/3.6.2006	11997
45.	IDP-124 Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	Karnataka	25.2.97/29.5.2005	15968
46.	IDP-125 Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	Tamil Nadu	25.2.97/29.5.2005	13324
47.	IDP-126 Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	Madhya Pradesh	25.2.97/29.5.2006	13222
48.	IDP-127 Simhadri & Vizag Transmission System Project	Andhra Pradesh	12.12.97/19.2.2003	10629
49.	IDP-128 Srisaillam Left Bank Power Station III Project	Andhra Pradesh	12.12.97/16.2.2003	14499
50.	IDP-129 Dhauliganga Hydro Electric II Project	MoP	12.12.97/9.2.2003	16316
51.	IDP-130 Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Project II	West Bengal	12.12.97/9.2.2003	34151
52.	IDP-131 Tuticorin Port Dredging Project	MoST	12.12.97/19.8.2003	7003
53.	IDP-132 Punjab Afforestation Project	Punjab	12.12.97/16.2.2003	6193
54.	IDP-133 Madhya Pradesh Sericulture Project	Madhya Pradesh	12.12.97/5.2.2005	2212
55.	IDP-134 Manipur Sericulture Project	Manipur	12.12.97/28.7.2005	3962
56.	IDP-135 Rangali Irrigation Project	Orissa	12.12.97/5.2.2003	7760
57.	IDP 137-Bakreswar Thermal Power Stn. Unit3 Extn. Project (II)	West Bengal	24.3.99/28.4.2004	11537

Production of Pepper

2836. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of pepper in the country during 1997-98 and 1998-99, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of the Production exported; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) State-wise production of pepper in the country during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given below:-

State	(Production in '000 tonnes)	
	1997-98	1998-99*
Karnataka	0.92	1.04
Kerala	55.52	64.34
Tamil Nadu	0.80	0.52
Pondicherry	0.01	0.01
Andamans	0.08	0.08
Total	57.33	65.99

*Provisional

Source : Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

(b) The percentage of production exported is 62.6% in 1997-98 and 52.8% in 1998-99.

(c) The amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of Indian pepper during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given below:-

Year	Amount of foreign exchange earned (in Rs. Lakhs)
1997-98	49635.70
1998-99	63811.28

(Source : Spices Board, Cochin)

[Translation]

Fraud in PNB

2837. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindi daily 'Navbharat Times' dated November 24, 1999 captioned "PNB Ke Prabhandh Nideshak Sahit Kal Per Kroron Rupaye Ke Gaban Ka Mukadma Darj";

(b) If so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action being taken against the guilty officers?

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

(b) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that short term deposit facilities aggregating Rs. 13 crores against their rights issues were extended to two companies by PNB Capital Services Ltd. (PNB Caps.) and the amount was later written off. The Board of PNB Caps. while considering the proposal had allegedly failed to take into account the unsatisfactory performance of the companies and the decisions for sanction and write off were allegedly taken without proper appraisal and there was lack of diligence. Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a Regular Case on 28.10.1999 against Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Punjab National Bank (PNB), the Ex-Managing Director (Ex-MD) of PNB Caps. and others in the matter.

[English]

Accidents in Coal Mines

2838. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

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

(a) the names of coal mines where accidents have taken place during the last two years, till date;

(b) the number of accidents took place in each coal mine alongwith the number of persons killed in the accidents in each mine during the above period year-wise;

(c) cause of each accident; and

(d) the number of persons found guilty in this regard and the punishment meted out to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (d) Mine-wise details of the total accidents during the last two years, till date, alongwith number of fatalities, cause of the accident and action taken against the persons found guilty in respect of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited are given in enclosed statements I and II respectively.

Statement-I*Coal India Limited*

Company	Colliery	Year	Killed	Cause	Responsible	Punishment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BCCL	Akashkinaree	1997	1	Fall of Person	6	Warned 5, Exonerated 1
BCCL	Angarpathra	1997	1	Truck	4	Suspended 1, Warned 3
BCCL	Angarpathra	1997	1	Haulage	Deceased	
BCCL	Basantimata	1998	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
BCCL	Bastacollah	1998	2	Roof Fall	Deceased	
BCCL	Bastacollah	1998	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
BCCL	Bera	1999	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
BCCL	Bhalgora	1997	1	Electricity	1	Suspended
BCCL	Bhatdih	1999	1	Haulage	Deceased	
BCCL	Bhowrah North	1998	1	Explosives	1	Suspended 1
BCCL	Bhowrah South	1998	1	Dumper	2	Inquiry in Progress
BCCL	Bhowrah South OCP	1997	1	Dumper	3	Warned 2, Suspended 1
BCCL	Bhowrah South (UG)	1997	1	Haulage	1	Warned
BCCL	Bhowrah (North)	1997	1	Roof Fall	2	Suspended 2
BCCL	Block IV OCP	1998	1	Dumper	1	Suspended 1
BCCL	Block -IV U/G	1998	1	Haulage	2	Exonerated 2
BCCL	Burragarh	1999	1	Roof Fall	1	Suspended 1
BCCL	Busseriya	1997	1	Winding	1	Suspended
BCCL	Dahibari	1997	1	Haulage	2	Warned 1, Suspended 1
BCCL	Damoda	1998	1	Haulage	1	Increment Stopped 1
BCCL	Dhansar	1997	1	Dumper	2	Suspended 2
BCCL	Dobari	1997	1	Misc.	Deceased	
BCCL	East Busseriya	1998	1	Haulage	3	Suspended 3
BCCL	East Busseriya	1998	1	Non-Transport M/C	Deceased	
BCCL	Ganhoodih	1999	1	Explosives		ISO Inquiry in Progress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BCCL	Ghanoodih	1997	2	Roof Fall	2	Exonerated 2
BCCL	Ghanoodih	1997	1	Non-Transport M/C	1	Suspended
BCCL	Godhur	1999	1	Side Fall	Deceased	
BCCL	Godhur	1999	1	Fall of Person		ISO Inquiry in Progress
BCCL	Gondudih	1998	1	Dumper	1	Suspended 1
BCCL	Gondudih	1999	1	Roof Fall	1	Admn. Inquiry in Progress
BCCL	Gondudih	1999	1	Inundation		ISO Inquiry in Progress
BCCL	Gopalchuck	1998	1	Side Fall	1	Suspended 1
BCCL	Jealgora	1997	1	Roof Fall	None	
BCCL	Jealgora	1999	1	Haulage	Deceased	
BCCL	Jealgora	1999	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
BCCL	Joyrampur	1997	1	Roof Fall	2	Exonerated 2
BCCL	Kachchi Balihari	1998	1	Side Fall	1	Suspended 1
BCCL	Kachchi Balihari 5/6PIT	1998	1	Side Fall	2	Suspended 2
BCCL	Keshalpur	1997	1	Roof Fall	2	Suspended 2
BCCL	Kharkharee	1998	1	Winding	Deceased	
BCCL	Khas Kusunda	1997	1	Side Fall	3	Cautioned 1, Promotion withheld 2
BCCL	Kustore	1999	1	Explosives	1	Suspended 1
BCCL	Kustore	1999	1	Haulage	1	Suspended 1
BCCL	Kustore	1999	1	Conveyor	Deceased	
BCCL	Lodna	1998	1	Side Fall	1	Warned 1
BCCL	Lodna	1999	1	Roof Fall		ISO Inquiry in Progress
BCCL	Lohapatti	1997	1	Haulage	2	Warned 2
BCCL	Lohapatti	1998	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
BCCL	Loyabad	1999	1	Winding	4	Suspended 2, Warned 2
BCCL	Maheshpur	1999	1	Roof Fall	5	Suspended 2, Admn. Inquiry in Progress 3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BCCL	Moonidih	1998	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
BCCL	Moonidih	1998	1	Fall of Person/ Object	2	Suspended 2
BCCL	Moonidih	1999	1	Side Fall	1	Suspended 1
BCCL	Muraidih OCP	1997	1	Dumper	1	Demoted 1
BCCL	Murulidih 20/21 Pit	1997	1	Fall of Person	Deceased	
BCCL	Nadkhurkee	1999	1	Fall of objects	1	Admn. Inquiry In Progress
BCCL	Nichitpur	1997	1	Roof Fall	3	Exonerated 2, In Progress 1
BCCL	Nudhkhurkee OCP	1999	1	Fall of Person	Deceased	
BCCL	Patherdih	1997	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
BCCL	Patherdih	1999	3	Side Fall		ISO Inquiry In Progress
BCCL	Phularitand	1997	1	Fall of Person	Deceased	
BCCL	Phularitand	1999	1	Fall of Person		ISO Inquiry In Progress
BCCL	Pootki	1998	1	Side Fall	Deceased	
BCCL	Rajapur OCP	1997	1	Dumper	1	Warned 1
BCCL	Rajapur OCP	1999	1	Dumper	Deceased	
BCCL	Ramkanali	1997	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
BCCL	Sendra Bansjora	1997	1	Electricity	Deceased	
BCCL	Sendra Bansjora	1998	1	Winding	Deceased	
BCCL	Sendra Bansjora	1999	1	Misc.	Deceased	
BCCL	South Govindpur	1998	1	Winding	1	Cautioned
BCCL	Sudamdih Incline	1998	1	Haulage	2	Exonerated 2
BCCL	Sudamdih Inc.	1998	1	Roof Fall	2	Suspended 2
BCCL	Sudamdih Shaft Mine	1998	1	Fall of Person/Object	Deceased	
BCCL	Tetulmari	1997	1	Non-Transport M/C	1	Suspended 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BCCL	Tetumari	1997	1	Haulage	2	Warned 1, Exonerated 1
CCL	Amlo	1999	1	Fall of Person		ISO Inquiry in Progress
CCL	Ara	1997	3	Roof Fall	7	Suspended 5, Memo Issued 1, Admn. Inquiry In Process 1
CCL	Ara	1998	1	Roof Fall	4	Suspended 3, Warned 1
CCL	Argada	1999	1	Dust Gas Etc.		ISO Inquiry in Progress
CCL<	Ashoka OCP	1997	1	Electricity	6	Warned 2, Suspended 4
CCL	Hutar	1997	1	Haulage	6	Censured 1 Cautioned 2, Warned 1, Suspended 1, Increment Stopped 1
CCL	Jarangdih	1997	1	Roof Fall	2	Censured 1 Suspended 1
CCL	Kabribad	1997	1	Dust. Gas, Etc.	Deceased	
CCL	Kabribad	1999	1	Misc.		ISO Inquiry in Progress
CCL	Karo OCP	1997	1	Fall of Person	1	Censured
CCL	Karo OCP	1998	1	Fall of Person/Object	Non-Mining Accident as Per DGMS List of 16/7/99	
CCL	Kathara	1999	1	Fall of Person		ISO Inquiry in Progress
CCL	KLH	1997	1	Misc.	3	Cautioned 1, Warned 2
CCL	Kedla OCP	1997	1	Dumper	1	Increment Stopped 1
CCL	Kuju	1998	5	Roof Fall	7	Suspended 7, Further Amn. Inquiry in Progress
CCL	Pundi	1997	1	Non-Transport M/C	4	Suspended 1 Warned 3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CCL	Rajrappa OC	1999	1	Truck	1	Removed from Service
CCL	Ray Bachra	1998	1	Roof Fall	4	Censured 1 Warned 2 Suspended 1
CCL	Rohini OC	1999	1	M/C Other than Transport		ISO Inquiry in Process
CCL	Saunda D OCP	1997	1	Truck	3	Censured 2, Suspended 1
CCL	Sayal-D	1999	1	Explosives	2	Admn. Inquiry In Progress 2
CCL	Sirka	1998	1	Truck	1	Removed From Service
CCL	Sirka OC	1997	5	Roof Fall	5	Suspended 5
CCL	Tapin North	1998	1	Dumper	4	Warned 3 Increment Stopped 1
CCL	Topa OCP	1999	1	M/C Other than Transport	8	Cautioned 3, Suspended 2, Admn. Inquiry In Process 3
CCL	Urimari	1997	1	Dust, Gas, Etc.	2	Warned 1, Censured 1
CCL	Urimary	1997	1	Explosives	5	Suspended 2, Warned 2, Censured 1
CCL	Urimari OC	1999	1	Dumper	3	Cautioned 2, Admn. Inquiry In Process 1
ECL	Amritnagar	1998	1	Conveyor	1	Suspended 1
CL	Badjna	1998	1	Roof Fall	4	Suspended 3 Cautioned
ECL	Badjna	1998	1	Roof Fall	1	Cautioned
ECL	Bahula	1998	1	Haulage	1	Suspended 1
ECL	Bahula	1999	1	Roof Fall	6	Warning 2, Admn. Inquiry In Process 4
ECL	Bahula	1999	1	Roof Fall	9	Admn. Inquiry In Process 9
ECL	Bankola	1999	1	Haulage		ISO Inquiry In Process
ECL	Chapapur II	1997	1	Roof Fall	4	Suspended 2, Exonerated 2,
ECL	Chapui Khas	1997	1	Explosives	1	Suspended

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ECL	Chinakuri 1	1998	2	Roof Fall	4	Suspended 1 Admn. Inquiry in Process 3
ECL	Chinakuri 2 Pit	1998	1	Side Fall	6	Cautioned 1, Warned 1, Suspended 2 Admn. Inquiry in Process 2
ECL	Chinakuri No. 1	1997	1	Haulage	Deceased	
ECL	Chinkuri No. 3 PIT	1997	1	Haulage	Deceased	
ECL	Chora 10 PIT	1999	1	Conveyor	Deceased	
ECL	Chora OCP	1997	1	Dumper	Deceased	
ECL	Damra	1998	1	Electricity	2	Cautioned 1 Suspended 1
ECL	Dhemomain	1997	1	Explosives	6	Warning 3, Suspended 3
ECL	Ghusick	1997	1	Non-Transport M/C	2	Warned 2
ECL	Gopinathpur	1999	1	Electricity		ISO Inquiry in Process
ECL	Haripur	1998	1	Roof Fall	1	Warned 1
ECL	Jambad	1998	1	Side Fall	4	Warned 2, Admn. Inquiry in Process 2
ECL	Jaykay Nagar	1997	1	Winding	3	Warned 2, Suspended 1
ECL	Jaykay Nagar	1997	1	Fall of Object	2	Cautioned 2
ECL	Jhanjra 1 & 2	1999	1	Misc.	Deceased	
ECL	Kapasara	1997	1	Haulage	5	Suspended 5
ECL	Khairabad	1997	2	Roof Fall	4	Warned 1, Exonerated 1 Cautioned 2
ECL	Khandara	1998	1	Electricity	2	Suspended 2
ECL	Khottadih	1997	3	Roof Fall	None	
ECL	Kumardihi B	1999	1	Roof Fall		ISO Inquiry in Process
ECL	Kumardihi B	1998	1	Roof Fall	1	Suspended 1
ECL	Kumardubi	1997	1	Fall of Person	Deceased	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ECL	Kunustoria	1999	1	M/C Other than Transport		ISO Inquiry in Process
ECL	Lakhimata	1999	1	Roof Fall		ISO Inquiry in Process
ECL	Lower Kenda	1999	1	Truck	1	Responsible is Cont. Worker. Contractor has been advised to take action.
ECL	Madhabpur	1999	1	Haulage		ISO Inquiry in Process
ECL	Madhalpur	1998	2	Roof Fall	3	Cautioned 2, Suspended 1
ECL	Madhujore	1997	1	Haulage	2	Suspended 2
ECL	Manderboni	1997	1	Haulage	3	Cautioned 3
ECL	Manderboni	1998	1	Misc.	4	Cautioned 3 Suspended 1
ECL	Mithapur	1998	1	Roof Fall	5	Warned 3, Suspended 2
ECL	Naba Kajora	1998	1	Roof Fall	7	Suspended 2, Cautioned 3, Admn. Inquiry in process 2
ECL	Naba Kajora	1998	1	Haulage	2	Admn. Inquiry in Process 2
ECL	Narsamunda	1998	1	Haulage	Deceased	
ECL	Ningha	1997	1	Fall of Person	Deceased	
ECL	Ningha	1998	1	Roof Fall	2	Suspended 2
ECL	Ningha	1999	1	Winding	1	Suspended 1
ECL	North Searsole	1997	1	Roof Fall	3	Cautioned 2, Suspended 1
ECL	Nutundanga	1997	1	Side Fall		Adm. Inquiry in Process.
ECL	Pandaveswar	1999	1	Roof Fall		ISO Inquiry in Process
ECL	Parascole (W)	1999	5	Misc.		ISO Inquiry in Process
ECL	Parasea	1998	1	Winding	3	Suspended 3
ECL	Patmohona	1997	1	Haulage	3	Exonerated 3
ECL	Poldih	1998	1	Non-Transport M/C	4	Cautioned 2, Warned 2
ECL	Satgram INC.	1997	1	Roof Fall	3	Counseled 1, Suspended 2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ECL	Sodepur 9 and 10 1999		1	Haulage	Deceased	
ECL	Sonepur Bazari	1999	1	Dumper	Deceased	
ECL	Sonepur Bazari	1999	1	M/c other than Transport		ISO Inquiry in Process
ECL	Sonepur Bazari	1999	1	M/c Other than Transport		ISO Inquiry in Process
ECL	Sripur	1997	1	Roof Fall	3	Suspended 3
MCL	Belpahar OC	1997	1	Electricity	Deceased	
MCL	Bharatpur OCP	1998	1	Non-Transport M/C	2	Suspended 1, Admn. Inquiry in Process 1
MCL	Bharatpur OCP	1999	1	Truck	2	Admn. Inquiry under Process 2
MCL	Bharatpur OCP	1999	1	Electricity		ISO Inquiry in Process
MCL	Deulbera	1997	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
MCL	Deulbera	1997	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
MCL	Jagannath OCP	1997	1	Dumper	1	Demotion
MCL	Jagannath OCP	1997	1	Truck	Deceased	
MCL	Jagannath OCP	1997	1	Truck	1	Contractor's Driver Terminated
MCL	Jagannath OCP	1999	1	Conveyor	3	Cautioned 1, Increment Stopped 1 Demoted 1
MCL	Lakhanpur OCP	1999	1	Dumper		ISO Inquiry in Process
MCL	Lingaraj OC	1997	1	Truck	Deceased	
MCL	Lingaraj OCP	1998	2	Non-Transport M/C	6	Admn. Inquiry in Process 6
MCL	Nandira	1999	1	Electricity	5	Admn. Inquiry in Process 5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MCL	Orient No. 2	1998	3	Roof Fall	4	Suspended 2 Admn. Inquiry in Process 2
MCL	Orient No. 2	1998	1	Haulage	Deceased	
MCL	Samleswarl OCP	1998	1	Truck	1	Terminated (Contractor's Driver)
MCL	Talchir	1999	1	Fall of Objects		ISO Inquiry in Process
NCL	Amlohri	1998	1	Non-Transport M/C	Deceased	
NCL	Dudhichua	1998	1	Dumper	Deceased	
NCL	Dudhichua	1999	1	Electricity	Deceased	
NCL	Jayant	1998	1	Dumper	1	Suspended
NCL	Jayant	1998	1	Non-Transport M/C	2	Suspended 1 Warned 1
NCL	Jayant	1999	1	Truck	1	Suspended
NCL	Jhingurda	1999	1	Dumper	Deceased	
NCL	Jhingurdah OCP	1997	1	Conveyor	Deceased	
NCL	Khadia OCP	1997	2	Dumper	4	Censured 4
NCL	Nigahi	1998	1	Non-Transport M/C	1	Cautioned
NEC	Baragolai	1998	1	Roof Fall	1	Suspended
NEC	Ledo	1997	1	Roof Fall	None	
NEC	Tikak OC	1999	1	Truck	1	Admn. Inquiry in Process
NEC	Tirap OC	1998	1	Side Fall	Deceased	
SECL	Amlai	1999	1	Truck	Deceased	
SECL	Balrampur	1999	1	Truck	Deceased	
SECL	Bhadra U/G	1997	2	Gas, Dust, Etc.	5	Demoted 2, Cautioned 3
SECL	Chirimiri OC	1998	1	Misc.	Deceased	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SECL	Churcha West	1999	1	Roof Fall	4	Admn. Inquiry in Process 4
SECL	Churcha West	1999	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
SECL	Dhanpuri OCM	1999	1	Dumper		ISO Inquiry in Process 4
SECL	Dhanpuri U/G	1999	1	Electricity		ISO Inquiry in Progress
SECL	Dipka Augmentation	1997	1	Truck	Deceased	
SECL	Dipka OC	1999	1	Truck	Deceased	
SECL	Duman Hill	1999	1	Truck	1	Admn. Inquiry in Process
SECL	Duman Hill Colly	1998	1	Truck	1	Dismissed (Contractors Workers)
SECL	Gevra	1999	1	Truck	3	Cautioned 3
SECL	Gevra OC	1997	1	Conveyor	3	Cautioned 2 Warned 1
SECL	Gevra OC	1997	1	Dumper	1	Demoted
SECL	Gevra OC	1998	1	Dumper	Deceased	
SECL	Gevra Project	1998	1	Wagons	Deceased	
SECL	Harad Inc.	1998	2	Side Fall	7	Exonerated 2, Admn. Inquiry in Process 5
SECL	Jainagar 3 & 4	1999	1	Roof Fall	6	Suspended 2, Admn. Inquiry in Process 4
SECL	Jayanagar New	1997	1	Roof Fall	1	Suspended
SECL	Jhillmilli	1999	3	Explosives	8	Suspended 4 Admn. Inquiry in Process 4
SECL	Kapildhara	1998	1	Truck	2	Cautioned 2
SECL	Kotma OC	1997	1	Dumper	2	Cautioned 2
SECL	Kotma Old	1997	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SECL	Kotma West	1997	1	Fall of Object	1	Suspended
SECL	Kotma (W)	1999	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
SECL	Kumda 7 and 8	1998	2	Roof Fall	9	Cautioned 4, Warned 1, Increment Stopped 4
SECL	Kusmunda OC	1998	1	Dumper	2	Warned 1, Increment Stopped 1
SECL	Laxman OC	1997	1	Truck	1	Dismissed 1
SECL	Laxman OC	1999	1	Dumper		ISO Inquiry In Progress
SECL	Manikpur OC	1997	1	Truck	1	Contractors's Driver Suspended
SECL	Meera INC	1997	1	Roof Fall	1	Suspended
SECL	North Chirimiri	1999	1	Roof Fall	Deceased	
SECL	Nowrozabad West	1999	2	Foor Fall		ISO Inquiry in Process
SECL	Pandavpara	1997	1	Side Fall	4	Cautioned 2, Suspension 2
SECL	Pinoura	1999	1	Roof Fall		ISO Inquiry in Process
SECL	Rajendra UG	1998	1	Misc.	Deceased	
SECL	Rajnagar Old Inc	1997	1	Haulage	Deceased	
SECL	Rajnagar R.O.	1999	1	Explosives	3	Suspended 1, Admn. Inquiry in Process 2
SECL	Surakchar 5 & 6 Inc.	1997	1	Roof Fall	3	Increment Stopped 2, Censured 1,
SECL	Surakachar	1998	1	Haulage	3	Cautioned 2 Suspended, 1
SECL	Surakachar Main	1997	1	Fall of Person	3	Exonerated 3
SECL	West J K D	1997	1	Roof Fall	2	Suspended 2
WCL	Ambara	1999	1	Roof Fall	3	Warned 1, Suspended 1, Increment Stopped 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WCL	Ballarpur 3 and 4 pits	1998	1	Explosives	5	Warned 4, increment Stopped 1
WCL	Ballarpur 3 & 4 Pit	1997	1	Fall of Persons	4	Warned 4
WCL	Ballarpur CHP	1999	1	Conveyor		ISO Inquiry in Process
WCL	Bhatadi OC	1997	1	Misc.	3	Warned 2, Suspended 1
WCL	Chinda U/G	1997	1	Roof Fall	5	Warned 2, Suspended 3
WCL	Damua	1997	1	Fall of Person	2	Warned 1, Suspended 1
WCL	Durgapur OC	1997	1	Conveyor	5	Warned 2, Suspended 3
WCL	Durgapur OC	1998	1	Dumper	1	Dismissed,
WCL	Durgapur Rayatwari	1997	1	Haulage	4	Warned 2, Suspended 2
WCL	Ganpati	1997	1	Side Fall	1	Suspended
WCL	Ghorawari	1999	1	Truck	1	Dismissed, Contractor's Worker
WCL	Ghugus OCP	1999	1	Misc.	Deceased	
WCL	Gondagaon	1998	1	Non-Transport M/C	Deceased	
WCL	HLC	1998	1	Misc.	4	Warned 4
WCL	HLC-1	1999	1	Winding	1	Admn. Inquiry in Progress
WCL	HLC-III	1999	1	M/C Other than Transport		ISO Inquiry in Process
WCL	Kamptee	1998	1	Roof Fall	4	Prosecuted by DGMS 4
WCL	Kamptee UG	1998	1	Side Fall	4	Warned 2, increment Stopped 2
WCL	Mahadeopuri	1997	1	Haulage	1	Suspended
WCL	Mahakali	1998	1	Misc.	1	Warned 1
WCL	Mathani	1999	1	Roof Fall	6	Censured 2, Cautioned 1, increment Stopped 1, Promotion withheld 2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WCL	Nakoda	1998	1	Side Fall	4	Warned 4
WCL	Nandan I	1997	1	Roof Fall	5	Warned 3 Suspended 2
WCL	Nandan II	1998	1	Side Fall	6	Suspended 2 Increment Stopped 2, Censured 2
WCL	Nandgaon	1999	1	Haulage	Deceased	
WCL	Padmapur	1999	1	Electricity		ISO Inquiry in Process
WCL	Patansaongi	1998	1	Roof Fall	6	Warned 3 , Increment Stopped 3
WCL	Pauni OC	1999	1	Electricity	3	Admn. Inquiry in Progress 3
WCL	Rajur Pits	1998	1	Side Fall	1	Warned 1
WLC	Rawanwara Khas	1998	1	Roof Fall	5	Warned 5
WLC	Shobhapur	1997	1	Non-Transport M/C	2	Warned 2
WCL	Tawa	1997	1	Roof Fall	3	Warned 3
WCL	Walni U/G	1998	2	Roof fall	2	Increment Stopped 2

Statement-II*Singareni Collieries Company Limited*

Name of the Mine	No. of Accidents	No. of persons killed	Cause of accident	No. of persons found guilty	Punishment meted out
1	2	3	4	5	6
Year-1997					
Polampalli	2	2	Roof fall in depillaring area	2	Sirdar Inerement stopped.
SMG-1 Inc.	4	4	Turn over by set of tubs side fall due to bump set riding	3	Trammer suspended for 10 days OM. MS & HOM reverted.
GDK-11A Inc.	2	2	Siddefalling depillaring are Shot-firing.	6	Ventilation Officer warned MS and SFs, Increment stopped.

1	2	3	4	5	6
KK - 5 Inc.	3	3	Side fall. Rope haulage	6	MS, OM suspended for 10 days and also 3 persons were terminated for one month.
GDK-10 A Inc.	1	1	Fall of person	3	All the 3 persons were suspended.
SRP-I Inc.	1	1	Fall of person	1	Nil
SRP-3 & 3A Inc.	1	1	Electrical	1	Suspended for 12 days.
GDK-9 Inc.	2	2	Roof fall and Air blast in dep. Area	2	Under Manager warned and MS suspended for 10 days.
Medapalli OCP	2	2	Fall of object, Other HEMM.	4	Contractor workers terminated and also one was warned.
SMG-3 Inc.	2	2	Roof fall in depillaring area	6	MS., HOM reverted to lower grade. Shot-firer suspended for 10 days UM Manager recommended for reversion.
Santhikhanl	1	1	Roof fall in development area	1	MS suspended for 10 days.
GDK-2A Inc.	1	1	Roof fall at development face	3	All 3 were suspended for 40 days.
OC III, RGM	3	3	Run over by tipper. Fire in Dumper Cabin	3	Contractor workers terminated. Enquiry is in progress with DDMS. Police also investigating.
RK - 6 Inc.	1	1	Hitting of Haulage Rope	1	Trammer suspended for 30 days
GDK-8 Inc.	2	2	Fall of object Side fall from unauthorised area.	1	OM suspended for 10 days.
JK-5 Inc.	1	1	Roof fall in development area	3	UM warned, OM suspended, 2 increments cut for MS.
K K-2 Inc.	1	1	Hitting of tub.	2	Both suspended for 10 days.
GDK-5A Inc	1	1	Roof fall in depillaring area	2	Suspended for 30 days.
RK 4 Inc.	1	1	Electrical	Self	Nil
GDK-6A Inc.	1	1	Sidfall in depillaring area	1	Increment stopped.

1	2	3	4	5	6
GDK-I Inc.	1	1	Setriding	Self	Nil
MVK-I Inc.	1	1	Fall of person	Self	Nil
Year-1998					
Santhikhanl	2	2	Shot-firing and set-riding	2	Engineer Warned Fitter suspended for 10 days.
VK-7 Inc.	1	1	Fall of object	2	Enquiry is under progress
SMG-3 Inc.	2	3	Set-riding and roof Fall in dep. area	Self	Crane Operator Increment stopped.
RG.OC. II	1	1	Toppling of Crane from Upper bench to lower bench	1	Nil
GDK- Inc.	1	1	Set-riding	Self	Nil
KK-5A, Inc.	1	1	Side fall	Self	Nil
Med. OCP	1	1	Hit by truck	2	Both were terminated.
RK-8 Inc.	1	1	Hitting of tubs	2	Both were terminated.
IK-1 Inc.	1	2	Roof fall in development area	2	OM & MS suspended
GDK-5 Inc.	1	1	Side robbing	2	Both were suspended.
No. 21 Inc. Yld.	2	2	Root fall and Shot-firing	4	OM and MS suspended for 10 days SF reverted to lower grade.
RG.OC.I	1	1	Hit by tipper	1	Driver terminated.
GDK-10 Inc.	1	3	Entering into Fenced-off area, where Black damp accumulation exists.	Self	Nil
GDK-11A Inc.	1	1	Hits by direct Hauler Rope	2	One reverted and the other suspended.
RK New Tech.	1	1	Fall of persons	Self	Nil
MK-4 Inc.	1	1	Pressing between moving tub and pillar	2	One reverted and the other suspended.
Goleti-2 Inc.	1	1	Roof fall in development area	2	OM and MS suspended for 17 days.

1	2	3	4	5	6
MVK-6 Inc.	1	1	Root fall in development area	2	OM and MS suspended for 29 days.
SRP-2A Inc.	1	2	Roof fall in development area	5	Case filed by DMS in the Court.
SMG-1 Inc.	1	1	Side Fall	3	All the three were suspended for 10 days.
RK-3 Inc.	—	—	Hitting of rubs	3	Nll
GDK-6 Inc.	1	1	Caught between Haulage rope coils	Self	Nll
OC. III, RGM	1	1	Falling from Dumper	Self	Nll
RK-5 Inc.	1	1	Fall of person on hard object	Self	Nll
RK-1 Inc.	1	1	Roof fall in depillaring area	2	OM & MS suspended for 10 days each.
Goleti-1 Inc.	1	1	Roof fall in development area	1	MS suspended for 10 days.
Year-1999					
PK. OC. II	1	1	Runover by Dumper while steeping	1	EP Operator dismissed.
RG.OC.II	1	1	Burried under Dozing heaps while steeping	1	Supervisor dismissed
SRP-1 Inc.	1	1	Roof fall in development face	4	OM warned, MS reverted to lower grade, Increments reduced to 2 Timber men.
GDK-8 Inc.	1	1	Roof fall in depillaring area.	None	Nll
JK-5 Inc.	2	2	Side fall and set riding	3	MSS suspended for 10 days OM warned.
GDK-2A Inc.	3	4	Tub-derallment and fall of Object Roof fall in depillaring area	3	Trammer suspended for 20 for 20 days. MS & OM increment stopped.
KK-5A Inc.	1	1	Roof fall	2	Both were warned.
GK-OC.	2	3	Sunk into Fiery area and toppling of tipp	1	Enquiry is in progress.
SRP-2 Inc.	1	1	Roof fall in development face.	2	OM & MS suspended for 25 days.

1	2	3	4	5	6
GDK-6 Inc.	1	1	Side fall while robbing	Self	Nil
VK-7 Inc.	1	1	Entering into unauthorised area and overcome by black damp.	1	MS warned
SMG-1 Inc.	2	2	Roof fall and side fall while dressing	-	Enquiry is in progress.
RG.OC.1	1	1	Toppling of tipper	Self	Nil
GDK-10 Inc.	1	1	Side fall.	-	Enquiry is in progress.

French Assistance to Karnataka

2839. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted any proposal seeking French Assistance for the establishment of Centre for Power Laser Industrial Applications in GTTC, Mysore;

(b) If so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether the Union Government have forwarded the proposal to the French Government for assistance; and

(d) If so, the time by which the assistance is likely to be obtained?

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

(b) The proposal envisages setting up of a Centre for propagating knowledge and to provide training in Laser based production technologies and processes at GTTC at a cost of Rs. 10 crores (approx).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal was forwarded to the French Government in April 1998. The assistance will be available as and when the contract signed for the project by GTTC with the French Supplier is forwarded by Govt. of Karnataka to Govt. of India and is accepted by both the Govt. of India and Govt. of France and formalities regarding the Indo-French Protocol (1998) are completed.

[Translation]

**Textiles Export Quota and
Powerloom Sector**

2840. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase textile export quota of powerloom sector;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely to impact on powerloom sector and the economy of the country as a result of increase in export quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) As per Yarn, Fabrics and Made-ups Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy 2000-2004, notified vide No. 1/129/99 Exports-I dated 12th November, 99, the Govt. has already increased the Powerloom Export Entitlement from the present 10% of the annual level to 15% of the annual level of quantities for exports of Fabrics and Made-ups (mill-made and powerlooms), in respect of countries where such exports are covered by restraints under the provisions of Agreement of Textiles and Clothing.

(b) and (c) The powerloom industry is the main producer of textile fabric on machines and the weavers can participate in the direct exports if the quota is available to them. Due to the increase of powerloom quota, more powerloom weavers will be able to participate in export directly and there will be a direct link between the buyer and seller. Increase in quota will give further boost to this sector which provides employment to a large number of people.

[English]

Package for Foreign Investors

2841. SHRI G.J. Javiya : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had offered some attractive package for foreign investors including NRIs in the recent past;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the objectives likely to be achieved from these offers;

(d) whether the Government have drawn up any programme to utilise part of such investment in Gujarat for development of infrastructure of the State; and

(e) If so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) In line with the economic reform policy inter-alia aimed at deregulation and decontrolling industry, four more industries have been delicensed, namely: (i) Coal & Lignite (ii) Petroleum (other than crude) and its distillation products (iii) Sugar Industry and (iv) five bulk drugs. Now only six industries are under compulsory licensing on the basis of environmental, strategic and safety considerations. Foreign Equity up to 100% in Power Sector for electric generation, transmission and distribution as also roads & highways, ports & harbours, and vehicular tunnels and bridges has been made eligible for automatic approval provided foreign equity does not exceed Rs. 1500 crore. Requirement of prior approval by RBI for bringing in FDI/NRI/OCB investment and issues of shares to foreign investors after FIPB/Government approval has been done away with.

Minimum capitalisation norms in respect of certain NBFC activities have been further amended & provides with a minimum capitalisation norms of US \$ 0.5 million for hte activities which are not fund based

To create a more favourable investment environment for NRI, (i) automatic approval upto 100% in the high priority industries, (ii) investment upto 100% in the Housing and Real Estate Sector and (iii) increase in individual secondary market investment limit in a company from 1% to 5% and aggregate investment in a company by all NRIs from 5% to 10% has been permitted.

(d) and (e) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) takes place generally through private entrepreneurs/companies. State Govt. of Gujarat has not sent any specific proposal regarding this. However, 825 proposals (including some public sector undertakings) in Gujarat amounting to Rs. 10,891.14 crore through this route has been approved since August, 1991 till September, 1999.

Powerloom/Handloom Sectors

2842. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of people employed in power loom and handloom sector, separately, in the country, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of cloth produced in each of these sectors during each of the last three years; and

(c) the value and quantum of cloth exported during the last three years, sector-wise, alongwith the capital invested therein during these years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The State-wise details of number of people employed in powerloom and handloom sectors are given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) The quantum of cloth produced in powerloom and handloom sectors during the last three years are as follows:-

	(Qty. in Million Sq. Mtr.)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Powerloom	19352	20951	20690
Handloom	7456	7603	6792

(c) The value and quantum of cloth exported in the last three years sector-wise are given in enclosed Statement-II. It is very difficult to compile or even to estimate the capital investment in handloom and powerloom sectors because of the decentralised nature of these sectors.

Statement-I

State-wise details of people employed in powerloom and handloom sectors

S. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Powerloom	Handloom
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	107310	490616
2.	Assam	6815	2322268
3.	Bihar	7235	167707
4.	Goa	305	25
5.	Gujarat	770412	57936
6.	Haryana	24705	22810
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3255	65099

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	162	51847	21.	Nagaland	Nil	126228
9.	Karnataka	161055	177562	22.	Tripura	Nil	291761
10.	Kerala	8545	63153	23.	Meghalaya	Nil	-
11.	Madhya Pradesh	107825	56106	24.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	53473
12.	Maharashtra	1731507	80901	25.	Manipur	Nil	462087
13.	Orissa	8252	246782	26.	Mizoram	Nil	-
14.	Punjab	56355	13160	27.	Chandigarh	105	-
15.	Rajasthan	82170	71915	28.	Dadra Nagar Havell	1240	-
16.	Tamil Nadu	792820	607675	29.	Pondicherry	2075	7369
17.	Uttar Pradesh	163415	420684	30.	Daman & Diu	Nil	-
18.	West Bengal	10902	686254	31.	Lakshadweep	Nil	-
19.	Sikkim	Nil	-	32.	Andaman & Nicobar	Nil	-
20.	Delhi	2755	6708	Total		4049222	6550126

Statement - II

The value and Quantum of cloth exported in the last three years sector-wise is as given below:-

		Value in million in US\$ & in bracket in Rs. crore Qty. in million sq. mtr.					
Sr.No.	Item	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1.	Cotton fabrics						
	a. Powerloom	1270.94	563.60 (2002.10)	1315.80	589.25 (2190.82)	1461.20	545.45 (2294.16)
	b. Handloom	47.69	65.50 (232.66)	43.01	59.14 (219.87)	39.90	53.14 (223.49)
2.	Man-made Fabrics*	60172.12	478.23	69971.51	511.48	71644.48	479.19
	PL/Knit/MM	**	(1691.51)	**	(1899.13)	**	(2013.82)
3.	Woollen fabrics						
	a. PL/Knit/MM*	13.28	44.68 (158.69)	9.41	39.05 (145.19)	4.11	19.38 (81.51)
	b Handloom	0.07	0.24 (0.87)	0.08	0.52 (1.94)	0.53	1.96 (8.25)

Note : * Sector wise separate details of exports are not available.

** Quantity in tonnes

PL = Powerloom

MM = Mill Made

Knit = Knitwear

[Translation]

Regional Rural Banks

2843. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of Regional Rural Banks in the country, State-wise, particularly in Jamnagar district of Gujarat;

(b) the criteria laid down for setting up of such banks;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more such banks in the near future; and

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

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

are 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) operating in the country with a net-work of 14,486 branches. State-wise, number and location of RRBs is given in enclosed statement. Jamnagar Rajkot Gramin Bank with a net-work of 53 branches is operating in the districts of Jamnagar and Rajkot in the State of Gujarat.

(b) The Regional Rural Banks were established since 1975 under the provisions of Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 with a view to developing the rural economy by providing for the purpose of development of agriculture, trade, commerce, industry and other productive activities in the rural areas, credit and other facilities, particularly to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs. RRBs were created mainly to serve the unbanked/under-banked areas.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration.

Statement*State-wise list of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and their locations*

Sl. No.	Name of the States	No. of RRBs	Locations
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	Khamme, Cuddapah, Srikakulam, Anantapur, Chittoor, Adilabad, Mehboobnagar, Medack, Nellore, Konda Ramnagar, Tenali Distt. Guntur, Karimnagar, Hyderabad, Nizamabad, Dudivada, Rajahmundry.
2.	Assam	5	Distt. Kamrup, Golaghat, Cachar, Distt. Karbi-Anglong, North Lakhimpur
3.	Bihar	22	Distt. Bhojpur, East Champaran, Gaya, Purnea, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Santhal Parganas, Madhubani, Distt. Nalanda, Chaibasa, Darbhanga, Distt. Samastipur, Distt. Palamau, Ranchi, Gopalganj, Chapra, Siwan, Girdih, Hazaribagh, Patna, Bhagalpur, Begusarai.
4.	Gujarat	9	Bhuj, Jamnagar, Mehsana, Panchmahal, Surendranagar, Valsad, Bharuch, Himmatnagar, Junagadh.
5.	Haryana	4	Bhiwani, Gurgaon, Hissar, Ambala
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	Jammu, Srinagar, Baramulla
7.	Karnataka	13	Bellary, Dharwar, Mysore, Gulbarga, Chitradurga, Tumkur, Kolar, Bijapur, Chickmagalur, Shimoga, Mangalore, Kumta, Mandya.
8.	Kerala	2	Mullappuram, Kannur
9.	Madhya Pradesh	24	Hoshangabad, Bilaspur, Rewa, Tikamgarh, Satna, Surguja, Jagadalpur, Rajnandgaon, Jhubua, Raigarh, Shivpuri, Damoh, Dewas, Khargaon, Mandla, Chhindwara, Bhopal Naka, Shahdol, Mandsaur, Morena, Narsinghpur, Ujjain, Datia, Vidisha.
10.	Maharashtra	10	Nanded, Aurangabad, Chandrapur, Akola, Ratnagiri, Solapur, Bhandara, Yavatmal, Buldhana, Thane.
11.	Manipur	1	Imphal

1	2	3	4
12.	Meghalaya	1	Shillong
13.	Nagaland	1	Kohima
14.	Orissa	9	Puri, Bolangir, Cuttack, Jeypore, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Ganjam, Dhenkanal.
15.	Punjab	5	Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Gurdaspur, Sangrur, Bathinda
16.	Rajasthan	14	Jaipur, Pali, Sikar, Churu, Bharatpur, Sawai Madhopur, Kota, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bundi, Bhilwara, Durgapur, Sriganganagar, Bikaner.
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	East Siang
18.	Tamil Nadu	3	Virudhunagar, Dharmapuri, Cuddalore.
19.	Tripura	1	Agartala
20.	Uttar Pradesh	40	Moradabad, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Barabanki, Raebarilly, Fatehgarh, Sitapur, Ballia, Sultanpur, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bahraich, Etawah, Budaun, Mainpuri, Varanasi, Basti, Allahabad, Pratapgarh, Faizabad, Fatehpur, Bareilly, Gonda, Aligarh, Banda, Etah, Jaunpur, Jalaun, Jhansi, Bijnaor, Shahjahanpur, Nainital, Mirzapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Agra, Muzaffarnagar, Pithoragarh, Dehradun, Pauri Garhwal, Ghaziabad.
21.	West Bengal	9	Malda, Bankura, Birbhum, Cooch Behar, Nadia, Calcutta, Burwad, Howrah, Murshidabad.
22.	Mizoram	1	Aizawai
23.	Himachal Pradesh	2	Mandi, Chamba.

*[English]***Circulation of Bhutan's Currency**

2844. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Bhutan's currency is in wide circulation in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal; and

(b) the circulation of Bhutan's if so, the steps taken to prevent currency in Indian territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Tax Holiday**

2845. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of the Government of Gujarat regarding adopting taluk instead of district as an overall criteria for giving tax exemption period for industrially backward regions has been reconsidered;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Suggestions from various quarters, including State Governments to treat areas other than the districts, including 'taluks/tehsils' as a basis for determining backwardness have been considered from time to time.

(c) The recommendations of the Study Group constituted in the Ministry of Finance for incentives for promoting industrialization and dispersal of industries, inter-alia, suggested guidelines for identifying backward areas. The Study Group noted the need for identification by applying a standard, reliable and uniform criteria. It also noted the lack of adequate and reliable data at the sub-district i.e., Taluk level.

It has not been found practical or feasible to reconsider a change in basic policy formulation in a short period of time for want of reliable and adequate data at Taluk level.

Export of Tea

2846. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Indian tea growers are quite concerned about export of tea this year as the foreign buyers especially those of Germany and United States have raised certain apprehensions about the quality of tea;

(b) If so, whether a delegation of tea growers of Germany had visited the tea gardens of Assam in this regard; and

(c) If so, the conclusion drawn by the German delegation of tea growers about the quality of tea after visiting tea gardens of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. The Government have not received any representation from the tea growers expressing concern about exports of tea to Germany and the United States of America. There is no serious concern on quality of Indian tea including teas produced in Assam and exported to USA and Germany since Indian teas for exports conform to International Standards on quality.

(b) No tea importer from Germany has visited the tea gardens of Assam recently under the auspices of the Tea Board.

(c) Does not arise.

NRI Investment

2847. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "NRI inflows till August drop 69% despite concessions", appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated November 22, 1999;

(b) If so, whether there has been continuous decline in the investment made in India by the citizen of the Indian origin living abroad for the last three years;

(c) If so, the amount of investment made by them during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(d) the estimated amount of investment in the first six months during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. While there had been a decline in NRI direct investments during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998, on the basis of the information available till the end of September this year, the investments during 1999 will be higher than 1998.

The year-wise inflow details in investment schemes by NRIs from 1996-97 are as follows :-

1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000* *provisional
Rs. Crores	Rs. Crores	Rs. Crores	Rs. Crores
1871.10	878.35	272.70	166.32 (Sept.)

[English]

I.T. Assesseees in Karnataka

2848. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Income Tax Payers in the country during the year 1998-99;

(b) the number of new assesseees who have come within the Income Tax fold because of satisfying one of the six criteria stipulated by the Government in Karnataka and other States of the country;

(c) whether Permanent Account Numbers have been issued to all the new assesseees in Karnataka; and

(d) If not, the reasons for delay in issuing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The number of Income Tax payers in the country during 1998-99 was 1,82,26,238.

(b) The number of new assesseees in the Karnataka Charge (including Goa) and the country as a result of the one by six scheme during the Financial Year 1998-99 is 51,004 and 4,67,075 respectively. In addition, the number of returns received in Form 2C in the Financial Year 1999-2000 (up to 30.11.99) in the Karnataka Charge (including Goa) and the country is 79,120 and 2,52,817 respectively.

(c) In Karnataka Charge (including Goa), out of total number of 7,97,396 applications for allotment of PAN received till 9.12.99, Permanent Account Number (PAN) has been allotted to 6,22,008 assesseees, including new assesseees.

(d) There is no delay in allotment of Permanent Account Numbers in Karnataka charge wherever applications are complete in all respects. Incomplete information given in the application forms necessitates issue of deficiency letters to the applicant for correction of defects, so noticed, in the application.

Demand and Production of Cement

2849. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production capacity of Cement in the country, State-wise;

(b) the demand and production of Cement during each of the last three years; and

(c) the additional capacity required to meet the country's demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAM) : (a) A statement indicating Statewise production capacity in respect of units having a capacity of more than 2,97,000 tonnes per annum is enclosed. Besides this, mini cement plants have an estimated capacity of 9 million tonnes per annum.

(b) The demand and production of cement in respect of large cement plants during the last three years is given below:

(In Million tonnes)		
Year	Cement Demand	Cement Production
1996-97	68.16	69.98
1997-98	73.89	76.74
1998-99	79.77	81.67

The data regarding production of mini cement plants is not maintained centrally.

(c) Cement industry has adequate capacity to meet the projected demand for the next five years and is capable of increasing the capacity to the extent required.

Statement	
Region/State	Capacity (Million tonnes)
1	2
Northern Region	
Punjab	1.04
Delhi	0.50
Haryana	0.17
Himachal Pradesh	3.47
J & K	0.20
Rajasthan	15.07
Uttar Pradesh	4.05
Total North	24.50
Eastern Region	
Bihar	4.62
Orissa	2.66
West Bengal	1.13
Assam	0.20
Meghalaya	0.20
Total East	8.81

1	2
South Region	
Tamil Nadu	7.59
Andhra Pradesh	16.70
Karnataka	6.92
Kerala	0.42
Total South	31.63
Western Region	
Maharashtra	6.41
Gujarat	12.59
Madhya Pradesh	26.03
Total West	45.03
Grand Total	109.97

Tax Incentives to Textiles Sector

2850. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

the steps taken to provide tax incentive for capital goods as well as raw materials in textile industry for development of infrastructure to facilitate more exports of textiles.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : There is no tax incentive designed specifically for the textile sector for development of infrastructure to facilitate more exports. However both under the Customs and Central Excise Act and Income Tax Act, certain incentives are available for investment in development of infrastructure. These facilities can be availed also by the textiles sector.

For individual exporters also there are several tax incentives under the various Exports Promotion Schemes both for import of machinery and raw materials to facilitate exports. These can also be availed by exporters in textile sector.

Central Investment in Kerala

2851. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are neglecting Kerala State, particularly in the Industrial Sector with the result that the Central investment in the State has reduced from 3.5% to 1% during the last twenty five years; and

(b) If so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to improve Central investment in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) According to the Annual Report on the Working of Industrial and Commercial Undertakings of the Central Government, Bureau of Public Enterprises, 1972-73 the share of the State

of Kerala in the investment in the Central Government Industrial and Mining Projects as on 31.3.1973 was 2.69%. According to the Public Enterprises Survey, Department of Public Enterprises, 1997-98, the share of the State of Kerala in gross block of Central Public Enterprises as on 31.3.1998 was 1.50%.

(b) The Central Investment in Public Sector Enterprises is planned keeping national priorities in view. However, due consideration is given to backwardness of various regions subject to over-riding consideration of techno-economic feasibility. According to information published in the Public Enterprise Surveys, the percentage share of the State of Kerala in gross block has been continuously rising during the recent years from 1.28% as on 31.03.1995, to 1.32% as on 31.03.1996 to 1.40% on 31.03.1997 and to 1.50% as on 31.03.1998.

[Translation]

Technology Upgradation Fund

2852. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made to give relaxation in the present conditions and procedure for the loan given from the Technology Upgradation Fund, constituted in the Public Sector;

(b) If so, the details thereof, at present state-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken certain new decisions in this regard; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textile and jute industry was launched only on April 1, 1999 for a period of 5 years. Loans under the scheme are extended by the nodal agencies/co-opted institutions to the identified segments of the industry for the projects in conformity with the scheme from their own sources. Ministry of Textiles has been receiving a number of representations from the industry associations/individual units. For this purpose, an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Secretary (Textiles). On the basis of the points raised by the textile industry associations/individual units, the IMSC had taken a number of decisions, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) The loans which were sanctioned prior to 1-4-1999; but not disbursed can be considered under TUFS at fresh cases, if otherwise they meet the parameters of TUFS.
- (ii) In case a part disbursed loans, if the borrower wishes to be considered for TUFS benefits, a

fresh project conforming to TUFS norms can be submitted to the lending agency after terminating the existing loan cases.

- (iii) The energy saving devices, effluent treatment plants and water treatment plants can be installed without any ceiling on investment.
- (iv) The preliminary and pre-operative expenses and incremental margin money on working capital have been included as eligible investment under the scheme. Expenses on training and payment of fees to foreign technicians would also be eligible under the scheme.
- (v) Yarn processing has been made an additional eligible downstream value addition activity for investment in new or expanded spinning.
- (vi) A unit replacing the bale pressing machine or installing bale pressing machine for the first time will be required to install only single-stage automatic bale pressing machine. Prescription of "Baling Press" standard should be in conformity with the recently amended BIS specification.

[English]

Allegation against Customs Chief

2853. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Customs Chief goes on hyped-up charges" appearing in the "Indian Express" dated April 28, 1999;

(b) If so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) The news item, while stating that the Finance Ministry had ostensibly transferred Sh. Krishan Kant because of the un-earthing of a Rs. 100 crore drawback scam by DRI, speculates that his transfer could have been on account of the ruling he had given in a matter relating to alleged misdeclaration of imports by Sony India, which is not correct.

(c) Does not arise as no transfer has been made on account of ruling given in the case of Sony India.

Writing off Loans

2854. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount which has been written off by the nationalised banks during 1998 and 1999 so far, bank-wise; and

(b) the names of the firms whose write-off amount was more than rupees ten lakh and against whom Non-Payment Asset of banks was due up to one crore during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A statement indicating the amount written off by nationalised banks during 1997-98 and 1998-99 (Latest available) as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is enclosed.

(b) The data reporting system of the RBI does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, RBI publishes a list of borrowal accounts against which banks and financial institutions have filed suits for recovery of funds of Rs. 1 Crore and above as on 31st March of the year. A copy of such list indicating the position of such borrowal accounts as on 31.3.99 has been placed in the Parliament Library for ready reference.

Statement

Bank debt written off by the Nationalised banks during the last two years

(Amount in crore of rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of the bank	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad Bank	46.61	88.42
2.	Andhra Bank	72.58	②
3.	Bank of Baroda	157.30	294.76
4.	Bank of India	309.29	②
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	121.26	②
6.	Canara Bank	47.18	467.10
7.	Central Bank of India	154.62	253.62
8.	Corporation Bank	13.69	40.56
9.	Dena Bank	67.87	②
10.	Indian Bank	1.37	10.38
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	201.76	②
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.13	68.95
13.	Punjab National Bank	372.70	218.66
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	16.98	10.29
15.	Syndicate Bank	109.16	75.73

1	2	3	4
16.	Union Bank of India	16.55	②
17.	UCO Bank	176.34	②
18.	United Bank of India	29.90	7.96
19.	Vijaya Bank	6.72	4.91

② Information availed from these banks.

Autonomy to Banks

2855. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted autonomy to some public sector banks;

(b) if so, the names of such banks and nature of autonomy granted to them;

(c) whether the Government have identified some more banks to give autonomy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. In November, 1997 Government had granted conditional autonomy to public sector banks which fulfilled the following criteria;

(i) Net profits for the last three years;

(ii) Capital adequacy ratio of more than 8 per cent;

(iii) Net Non Performing Assets (NPA) level below 9 per cent of the net advances; and

(iv) Minimum owned funds of Rs 100 crores.

The Boards of the Public Sector Banks which fulfil the laid down criteria have been delegated powers and autonomy in the matter of creation, abolition, upgradation/modification of posts for their administrative offices upto the level of Deputy General Manager, recruitment of specialised officers and also to undertake campus recruitment for partly meeting their requirement of probationary officers; eligibility and entitlement, for reimbursement of entertainment expenditure and fee for club membership.

The names of the banks, which became eligible for autonomy during 1997, 1998 and 1999 are given in enclosed statement.

Statement**Public Sector Banks**
List of banks eligible for Autonomy

Sl. No.	As on 31.3.97	As on 31.3.98	As on 31.3.99
1	2	3	4
1.	State Bank of India	State Bank of India	State Bank of India
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	
3.			State Bank of Hyderabad
4.			
5.			
6.	State Bank of Patiala	State Bank of Patiala	State Bank of Patiala
7.			State Bank of Saurashtra
8.	State Bank of Travancore		
9.			
10.		Andhra Bank	Andhra Bank
11.	Bank of Baroda	Bank of Baroda	Bank of Baroda
12.	Bank of India	Bank of India	Bank of India
13.		Bank of Maharashtra	Bank of Maharashtra
14.		Canara Bank	Canara Bank
15.			
16.	Corporation Bank	Corporation Bank	Corporation Bank
17.		Dena Bank	Dena Bank
18.			
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	Indian Overseas Bank	Indian Overseas Bank
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Oriental Bank of Commerce

1	2	3	4
21.			
22.			Punjab National Bank
23.		Syndicate Bank	Syndicate Bank
24.			
25.	Union Bank of India	Union Bank of India	Union Bank of India
26.			
27.			Vijaya Bank
Total	Ten	Fourteen	Seventeen

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

2856. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SCs/STs amongst the total entrepreneurs of the country, State-wise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh who have been provided loans under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the extent to which it is lower than the target fixed under PMRY; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The scheme of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) provides for reservation of 22.5% for SC/STs. The details of loans of SC/STs during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is given in enclosed statement.

(c) The reasons for shortfall in achievement of targets under SC/STs by banks, as revealed by the Field Study conducted by RBI during 1997 are as under:-

(i) Government agencies were not sponsoring adequate number of applications to borrowers belonging to SC/STs.

(ii) Many of the projects/activities sponsored to banks were not found viable.

However, RBI at the instance of Government have advised the banks/agencies to make special efforts to receive/sponsor viable proposals from applicants belonging to these categories in large numbers to ensure achievement of the sub-targets set for them.

Statement

The target and the number of sanctions to SC/STs beneficiaries out of total loan sanctions, State-wise performance of Banks under PMRY during the last three years (year ending 31st March)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Target for SC/STs@ 22.5% of the total target	Loans to SC/STs@ out of total	Target for SC/STs@ 22.5% of the total target	Loans to SC/STs out of Total	Target for SC/STs@ 22.5% of the Total target	Loans to SC/STs out of total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	7178	4971	7695	4335	7695	3819
Arunachal Pradesh	101	81	68	62	101	54
Assam	3375	1310	3015	1479	3375	2152
Bihar	4984	2291	4838	2589	4613	2060
Gujarat	1913	1133	2835	2634	3285	2530
Goa	124	9	135	20	135	15
Haryana	1620	630	1418	587	1868	900
Himachal Pradesh	473	257	518	325	540	296
Jammu & Kashmir	788	86	788	238	1125	174
Karnataka	3983	1983	4950	2247	4928	2331
Kerala	3375	1381	3600	1270	4500	1447
Manipur	675	296	293	44	304	160
Maharashtra	8078	4604	9585	4991	9563	5792
Madhya Pradesh	6086	5292	7088	5065	6930	4943
Meghalaya	186	109	124	115	124	158
Mizoram	84	34	90	34	79	28
Nagaland	101	97	101	118	56	57
Orissa	1856	839	2081	1241	2273	1052
Punjab	1935	1417	2025	1526	2025	1504
Rajasthan	2340	1500	3218	1932	3668	1845
Sikkim	45	25	23	19	34	52
Tamil Nadu	4905	2114	6233	2268	4163	2170
Tripura	439	380	293	63	293	140
Uttar Pradesh	8058	3827	10170	6106	11610	6238
West Bengal	5153	898	5175	599	5175	526

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NCT of Delhi	1024	152	1058	143	1058	94
Andman & Nicobar	23	2	23	12	23	19
Chandigarh	34	8	45	10	23	8
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	34	7	11	22	11	9
Daman & Diu	23	—	11	3	11	3
Lakshdweep	12	36	11	47	11	33
Pondicherry	113	35	101	41	124	49
All India	69118	35804	77669	40185	79723	40658

Cases Against Officials of HCL

2857. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the CBI has registered cases against some high ranking officials of Hindustan Copper Limited for allegedly causing loss of crores of rupees to the Public Sector Undertaking;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which those officials have manipulated crores of rupees;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any further action against such officials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (d) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered four cases against the officials of Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL). In one of these four cases, there is alleged loss of more than one crore rupees to the Company. In this case, CBI, Jablapur Branch has registered a Regular Case No. RC-13(A)/99-JBR for gross misconduct on the part of one DGM and two AGMs for conspiring with each other and a private firm to cheat HCL to the tune of Rs. 1,97,40,382/- by way of not maintaining performance report and not making recovery from the private firm against the nine supply orders of rubber liners. The case is still under investigation by the CBI. The disciplinary action against the suspected employees will depend on the recommendations of CBI.

Loan Through RIDF

2858. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a steady decline in the loan disbursements from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund(RIDF) in NABARD even though the corpus fund increased every year since the year 1995-96:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps for agricultural developments in the rural areas from the corpus fund in RIDF set up in NABARD;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether in the agricultural lending from the RIDF corpus through NABARD or any scheduled Commercial Bank, the under developed most backward districts in the country should be given top priority; and

(f) If so, the most backward districts selected under this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) disburses the fund under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) on reimbursement basis to the State Governments. Therefore, the disbursal of funds under RIDF depends on execution of projects by the State Governments. The position of sanctions and disbursements under RIDF I to V is given below:

(Rs. in crore)			
Ride	Corpus	Sanctions	Cumulative Disbursements Upto (31/11/99)
I	2,000	1,829.69	1572.37
II	2,500	2,602.46	1676.28
III	2,500	2,677.56	986.04
IV	3,000	3,134.61	365.42
V	3,500	1,865.01	36.37

(c) and (d) One of the main objectives of taking projects under RIDF is to facilitate enhanced credit flow to agriculture for its around development. During the current year the scope for financing under RIDF has been widened to cover the projects to be taken up by the Gram Panchayats, Self Help Groups and other eligible organizations. The corpus of RIDF-V has also been raised to Rs. 3,500 crore and repayment period has been extended from 5 to 7 years as well.

(e) and (f) The selection of projects under RIDF is the prerogative of the State Government. Further, the disbursement of agricultural loans banks and disbursement of refinance by NABARD in a particular district/area is dependent on several factors like level of infrastructure, stage of agricultural development, credit absorption capacity of the area, etc. Depending upon these factors and past performances, a district credit plan is prepared every year in each district of the country and banks make concerted efforts to achieve the targets.

[Translation]

Export of Toys

2859. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the value of toys exported during 1998-99;
- (b) whether any scheme has been formulated to boost export of toys in view of their immense potential for export in the Country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken to remove the hurdles coming in the way of expansion of toy-industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The value of toys exported during 1998-99 was Rs. 75 crores. (Source : Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council).

(b) and (c) All the Export Promotion Schemes like 100% Export Oriented Units, Export Processing Zones, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Advance Licence and Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme available under the Export and Import Policy are equally applicable for the toy sector also. Financial assistance under Market Development Assistance Scheme is also provided to the toy exporters.

(d) In order to expand the toy sector, Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) has brought this sector under a Scheme called UPTech which is aimed at Technology Upgradation. To promote this sector in well-coordinated manner and to provide common facilities for cost effective growth, the Greater NOIDA in Uttar Pradesh has earmarked an area of 120 acres of land for setting up the Toy City. Regular discussions are also held with Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council and Toy Association to consider the problems and to resolve them.

[English]

Textiles Industry

2860. SHRI C. P. RADHAKRISHNAN :

DR. V. SAROJA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have conducted any

study regarding impact of implementation of World Trade Organisation (WTO) on the Textile Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the government to save the domestic textiles industry in view of W.T.O. conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Government is constantly reviewing the situation arising out of the implementation of the Agreement on Textiles & Clothing which sets out the implementation of WTO conditions on the textiles sector.

- (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.

JCI to Purchase Jute

2861. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that the Jute Corporation of India has stopped purchasing the jute from the growers in West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether jute growers are compelled to sell jute much below the prescribed price;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of remedial steps taken by the Governments to stop the distress and save the jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) From the beginning of the jute season i.e. from July, 1999 JCI is operating in the State of West Bengal under Maximum Support Price (MSP) operation.

(c) and (d) At present the price of raw jute is ruling higher than MSP at all prices and JCI is very much in the market to purchase whatever quantity is offered for sale at minimum support price.

(e) All JCI centres are in readiness to operate at minimum support price.

Imposition of Duties on Newsprint

2862. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Customs and Excise duties are levied on Newsprint;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have recommended imposition of Anti-dumping Duty on Newsprint;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the domestic newsprint production is facing hardships as a result thereof; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Newsprint presently attracts customs duty of 5.5%. There is no excise duty on newsprint.

(c) No recommendation for imposition of anti-dumping duty on import of newsprint has been received from the Designated Authority in the recent past.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Production of Jute

2863. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of jute during 1997-98 and 1998-99 State-wise;

(b) the quantity and value of jute products exported during the above period alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the production and export of jute in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) During 1997-98 a total Qty. of 2,97,000 MT and in 1998-99 a total Qty of 1,94,900 MT of Jute products were exported amounting to total value of Rs. 842 and Rs. 628.9 crores respectively.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Govt. to increase the production and export of jute in the country. Continuation of cost plus basis purchases of jute bags for packing foodgrains being procured on Govt. account, Grant of export market assistance on selected thrust export items of jute products, Participation in various Trade Fairs and Exhibition by JMDC at home and abroad for popularizing jute products among buyers, Enactment of Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 providing foodgrains, sugar and Urea to be packed in jute bags, Introduction of technology upgradation scheme w.e.f. 1.4.1999. For improvement of productivity, quality and achievement of cost competitiveness of jute products; Ministry is formulating a multi pronged titled National Technology Mission on Jute.

States	Statement	
	Production of raw jute (in '000 bales)	
	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	585	464
Assam	829	807
Bihar	1110	1031
Meghalaya	52	54
Orissa	410	337
Tripura	55	66
West Bengal	7621	7436
Others	82	80
	10844	10275

Export of Granite

2864. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has prominent place in the export of Granite;

(b) If so, whether India is facing stiff competition in this field in the international Market; and

(c) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of Granite?

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

(c) Sir, Department of Commerce have identified and declared 'Granite' as a 'thrust area' and as such initiated necessary steps for hassle-free export of granite. However, being a 'minor mineral', granite is falling under the purview of State Governments who practise different policies as regards leasing royalty, dead rent etc. Department of Commerce had organised a States Mines Ministers Conference in November, 1997 to resolve the various issues connected with granite. The Conference had also adopted various resolutions intended to (a) Grant of 80 HHC benefits to suppliers of rough blocks to granite Export Oriented Units (EOUs) (b) Lower the monetary limit for duty free import of capital equipment for granite under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme (c) Extend custom bonding to captive quarries of granite EOUs for facilitating backward integration of industry etc. Department of Mines have notified rules for systematic development, scientific mining and conservation of granite throughout India.

Export/Import

2865. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import made in excess than export;

(b) If so, whether there is a huge deficit in the Balance of Payment Account;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to overcome deficit in trading account?

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

(b) and (c) During the year 1998-99, the trade balance is estimated at US \$-13246 million and current account balance at US \$-4039 million as per the data provided by Ministry of Finance.

(d) Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government 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.

State Financial Corporations

2866. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Financial Corporations in the country have significantly contributed in the growth of small and medium industries;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the small and medium industries which are financed by the State Financial Corporations are not able to repay the loans;

(d) If so, whether the profitability of State Financial Corporations has been stained as a result thereof; and

(e) If so, the action taken by the Government to restructure the weak State Financial Corporations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that State Financial Corporations (SFCs) have been playing an important role in the development of small and medium enterprises in their respective States. As per information provided by IDBI, cumulative sanctions and disbursements made by SFCs upto end-March 1998 were Rs. 29139 crores and Rs. 23259 crores respectively.

(c) and (d) IDBI has reported that some of the small and medium industries which have been financed by the SFCs have not been able to repay loans resulting in poor recoveries and high non-performing assets, thereby affecting the profitability of SFCs.

(e) In order to strengthen the overall functioning of SFCs, a comprehensive amendment is proposed to be carried out in State Financial Corporations Act, 1951, with a view to enlarge share holders base of SFCs, provide them with greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility and consequent ability to respond to the needs of the changing financial system. The proposed amendments are in advance stage of finalisation.

Unclaimed Money in LIC

2867. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount lying unclaimed with LIC due to LIC policy lapses, as on date; and

(b) the manner in which the money is being utilised by LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The policy may lapse either with or without acquiring paid up value. A policy holder is entitled to get the paid up value of the policy if the policy lapses after three years. In case of policies lapsing after acquiring a paid up value, the amount is paid on death or on maturity as per the policy terms and conditions. In cases where the paid up value remain unsettled, the amount is credited to the 'Life Fund Account' of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) after keeping

the amount in the LIC's books for 5 years. During these 5 years LIC makes vigorous attempts to trace the policy holders through advertisements in local newspapers and individual letters. The Written Back unclaimed amount to the Life Fund becomes part of the Life Fund of the Corporation. However, *the unclaimed amount under a paid up policy due to the policy holders will not get time-barred simply because it is not claimed by them in time.* Moreover a lapsed life insurance policy can be revived within 5 years from the due date of first unpaid premium.

At the end of each year the Life Fund is actuarially evaluated with reference to the total liability of the Corporation and surplus arising thereby is distributed in the ratio of 95% to the policy holders by way of bonus and the remaining 5% to the Government as its share. Thus the funds are utilised for the benefit of policy holders.

LIC has informed that the Written Back amount on account of claims including paid up claims for the year 1998-99 was Rs. 15.47 crore.

Charges against Officials of NLC

2868. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some senior officers of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) have been sacked;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the charges levelled against these officers; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against these officers?

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

Prices of Rubber

2869. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the natural Rubber production is in surplus in the Country;

(b) if so, the whether the price of natural Rubber has come down;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken to maintain temptative price for the farmers; and

(e) the steps taken to boost the export of the natural rubber?

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

(b) and (c) The price of Natual Rubber (RSS IV Grade)

which was around Rs. 30 per kg. in July 1994, touched more than Rs. 60 per kg. in June 1995. However, since November 1996, the prices started declining and at present are ruling between Rs. 28-30 per kg.

(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.

(e) The export of Natural Rubber is free under the current EXIM Policy (1997-2002).

Cement Plants in Madhya Pradesh

2870. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Cement in tonnes produced by A.C.C. Kaimor, district Katni; J.P. Cement, Rewa and Prism Cement, Manakhari, district Rewa during each of the last three years;

(b) the profit earned by each of the above factory during the said period;

(c) the number of workers engaged therein;

(d) the number of workers retrenched during the current year; and

(e) the reasons for their retrenchment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The quantity of cement in tonnes produced by ACC, Kaimor, J.P. Cement, Rewa and Prism Cement, Manakhari during the last three years is as under:—

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
ACC, Kaimor	1220990	1209376	1134671
J P Rewa	2153883	1916490	1879980
Prism	Nil	673533	1405249

(b) to (e) This information is not centrally maintained.

Y2K Compliance

2871. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the nationalised banks have taken action to draw up contingency plan and other programmes to meet Y2K challenge, particularly banks operating in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the nationalised banks which have already attained Y2K readiness in terms of the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that all nationalised banks are prepared for achieving Y2K compliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that all nationalised banks, including those banks in Karnataka, have attained Y2K readiness in accordance with the remediation and testing framework suggested by the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) Reserve Bank of India monitors Y2K compliance by banks on a continuous basis.

Loans to Companies by PNB

2872. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Punjab National Bank has sanctioned short term loans to some companies;

(b) If so, the names of the companies alongwith the details of amount sanctioned to each of them;

(c) whether the sanctions violative of the laid down rules and regulations and the loans are likely to turn in into NPA; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no irregularity in sanctioning of short term loan by Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), Punjab National Bank (PNB) was observed during the course of scrutiny of discretionary lending of the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Executives of PNB at half yearly intervals for the half years ended 31st March, 1998, 30th September, 1998 and 31st March, 1999.

Industrial Policy

2873. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the important changes made in the industrial policy during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the main objects of these changes; and

(c) the extent to which these changes are helpful in improving industrial production in the country, particularly in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) In line with the policy of the Government to continue with reforms in industrial sector to create an investor friendly environment and to facilitate greater investment in the industrial sector, Government have taken a number of steps, which includes, inter-alia, the followings:-

(i) As a result of the review of the list of items requiring compulsory licensing four more sectors have been

de-licensed. These are : coal and lignite, petroleum and its distillation products; sugar and five notified bulk drugs.

(ii) Coal and lignite and petroleum and its distillation products have also been deleted from the list of industries reserved for the public sector.

(iii) More thrust has been given to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) to supplement domestic investment by expanding the list of priority industries eligible for automatic approval.

(iv) Allowed multi-lateral financial institutions to contribute upto 40% equity in private sector banks.

(v) More powers have been delegated to Development Commissioners of Export Processing Zones (EPZ); and

(vi) Procedures have been simplified and the time limit for consideration of FDI proposals reduced from six weeks to thirty days.

Initiatives of the Government and the other positive developments on the economic front have led to an industrial growth rate of 6.9% during April-October, 1999.

[Translation]

Export of Fruits/Dry Fruits

2874. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign currency earned by the country through export of fresh fruit/dry fruits during each of the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to promote the export of fruits; and

(c) the details of subsidy made available to growers/exporters of fresh fruits and dry fruits during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The foreign exchange earned through the export of fresh fruits/dry fruits during the last three years have been as follows:-

Year	Values (Rs. Crores)
1996-97	241.17
1997-98	268.98
1998-99*	260.04

*Provisional Source : DGCI & S/APEDA

(b) The Government has encouraging export of horticulture products including fresh fruits/dry fruits through various support/assistance schemes. The assistance provided in this regard include the following.

(i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know-

how of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits, 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 plat-forms; ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;
- (iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters/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 installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipments at export units.
- (v) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits.
- (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 in transportation for increasing the shelf-life of perishable products such as mangoes and lychees;
- (vii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibition;
- (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.

(c) The total amount of subsidy provided to growers/exporters of fresh fruits/dry fruits under the various financial assistance schemes of APEDA during the above period is as follows :-

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	762.13
1997-98	698.90
1998-99	1196.62

Source : (APEDA)

[English]

Report of the Committee on UTI

2875. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Experts Committee on restructuring of UTI schemes and organisation on commercial basis;

(b) If so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee, accepted by the Government and implemented alongwith implications thereof;

(c) the performance profile of UTI during the current year as compared to the performance during the earlier two years; and

(d) the details of action plan for 1999-2000 and the next three years and growth projections set for UTI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The High Level Experts Committee on US-64 appointed by UTI under the Chairmanship of Shri Deepak Parekh to undertake a comprehensive review of the functioning of US-64, submitted its report on February 25, 1999. The recommendations of the Committee which have been implemented by UTI, include creation Special Unit Scheme 99 (SUS 99) and transfer of PSU stocks to SUS 99 subscribed by Government, launching of a new UTI scheme for investing in the equity of growth stocks, shift to NAV based pricing, greater responsibility and authority to trustees, appointments of separate and independent fund managers for various schemes etc. These steps will further professionalise the functioning of UTI.

(c) The performance profile of UTI during the last two years and the current year to date is as follows :

	(Rs. crores)		
Indicators	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
Sales	13179	18978	5188
Unit Capital	50493	55707	57500
Investible Funds	60979	63548	65826

*As of end November, 1999, UTI's financial year is from July 1 - June 30 of the following year.

(d) The key corporate objectives of UTI for the year 1999-2000 include mobilising higher sales under income and equity schemes, repositioning US-64 and stemming repurchases, raising investible funds at the rate of 20% every year etc.

[Translation]

Import of Consumer Items

2876. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to allow the import of selected consumer goods;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the Government have laid down any terms conditions for such imports; and

(d) if so, the likely effect thereof on the domestic production and small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) In 1997, India had notified 2714 tariff lines to the WTO, imports of which were subject to quantitative restrictions for the balance of payment reasons. A plan for phased removal of these restrictions was negotiated with our different trading partners and also notified to the WTO. As part of implementation of this phase-out plan, quantitative restrictions have already been removed on a large number of tariff lines, some of which also include consumer goods. All imports are, however, subject to the applicable rates of customs duties. Thus, while the quantitative restrictions are being removed, protection through the tariff mechanism is available to the domestic producers and the small scale industries.

[English]

Guidelines for Wage Negotiation in PSUs

2877. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Public Enterprises has issued guidelines for the wage negotiation in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the main points of the guidelines;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has drawn to the objections raised by the trade unions;

(d) whether the Heads of Navaratna Public Sector Companies have requested the Government to review the guidelines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The guidelines for the sixth round of wage negotiations in PSUs w.e.f 1.1.97 were issued on 14.1.99. The main features are:

The management of Public Sector Enterprises would be free to negotiate the wage structure for the workers, subject to following stipulations:-

(i) No budgetary support for the wage increase shall be provided by the Government.

(ii) For PSEs which are monopolies or near monopolies or operate under an administered price

structure, it must be ensured that any increase in wages does not result in any increase in administered prices of their goods and services.

(iii) There shall be no increase in labour cost per physical unit of output.

As regards sick units registered with BIFR, revision of wages & pay would be allowed on approval of revival plan by BIFR with provision for additional expenditure on account of wage revision.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export Performance

2878. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed export performance for 1998-99 and current year, sector-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the review of export processing zones and export promotion schemes;

(c) the details of review of the performance of various export promotion councils for the last three years; and

(d) the details of fresh strategies and fresh initiatives taken/proposed to boost up exports during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Review of export performance including performance review of different promotional schemes, Export Processing Zones, Export Promotion Councils etc. is a continuous process. This includes comprehensive commodity analysis and direction of trade giving special attention to areas offering potential growth.

At the time of consideration of budget estimates of the Export Promotion councils, the export performance of the grantee institutions are reviewed in detail. Annual Administrative Reports and accounts of these institutions are also placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament.

(d) Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government 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]

Payment to Railways by CCL

2879. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) The annual additional/demurrage payment

made by the Central Coalfields Limited to the railways due to delayed loading of coal and other reasons during the last three years, as on date; and

(b) the positive steps taken by the Government to maintain austerity in the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Details of year-wise demurrage payment made by Central Coalfields Limited during the last three years are as follows:-

(Rs. in lakh)	
Year	Payment of Demurrage
1996-97	251.54
1997-98	369.14
1998-99	444.84
1999-2000 (upto Oct. 1999)	361.81

(b) While formulating the revenue budget of the coal company, the following austerity measures have been adopted:

- (i) Reduction in other miscellaneous expenses like telephone, hiring of vehicle etc. by 20% over last year.
- (ii) Reduction in under loading/over loading and demurrage.
- (iii) Quality improvement by atleast 10% over last year.
- (iv) No increase in transportation cost.
- (v) Restriction on overtime cost.
- (vi) Deployment of employees on Sundays for maintenance work is being restricted to the minimum by staggering the maintenance work.
- (vii) Restricting deployment of workers on Sundays for production to high productivity open cast mines.

[English]

I.T. Refund Cases

2880. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of I.T. refund cases are pending for the assessment year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 with salary circles in Delhi;

(b) If so, the details of such cases pending in each assessment year, particularly in circle 9(iv);

(c) whether the Government have issued any instructions or propose to issue such instructions to clear the cases according to their receipt and registration numbers; and

(d) If so, the reasons for delay in clearing the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Some cases of refund of excess Income Tax paid, are pending for the Assessment Years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in respect of the salaried taxpayers of Delhi. However, almost all the refunds due for the Assessment Year 1997-98 have been issued.

(b) The number of refund cases pending assessment year wise in Circle 9(4) is as below :-

Assessment Year	No. of refunds pending
1997-98	Nil
1998-99	496
1999-2000	859

(c) In addition to direction of the Government to clear all pending refunds within a given time frame, the Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Delhi has taken the following steps to streamline the processing of the returns and also to minimise the refund related grievances of taxpayers.

- (i) The assessing Officers have been directed to process the returns in a chronological order.
- (ii) They have also been directed to segregate the returns claiming refunds and process the same on priority as against non-refund cases so that no return received upto 31st March, 1999 claiming refund remains pending for issues of refund by the end of this financial year.
- (iii) In order to clear the processing of all the returns received at least upto 31st March, 1999, the officers who have already cleared their pendency have been given the concurrent charge to assist other officers to clear the backlog of pendency with them.

(d) The delay in processing of pending refund claims is mainly due to increase in number of salary returns during last two financial years [from 2,11,376 in 1997-98 to 4,44,648 in 1999-2000 (upto November, 1999)]. While all possible efforts are made for early and prompt disposal of refund claims, the assessing officers who process the refund claims manually, need some time to process and refund claims depending upon various factors namely; workload, available manpower, time taken for verification of payment challans etc. Because of these reasons there is some time lag between the date of filing of return and the date of issuance of refund. In some cases refunds are delayed because there is a deficiency in the return because of which refund cannot be issued unless the deficiency is rectified by the assessee.

MODVAT

2881. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Board of Excise and Customs has conducted research on its existing MODVAT law and found out major lacunae in it;

(b) If so, whether the Government are losing an estimated amount of Rs. 15000 crores annually due to this lacunae; and

(c) If so, the steps being taken to plug the loop-hole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Central Board of Excise and Customs has entrusted an organisation to conduct R & D studies of input/output ratios and other relevant aspects with a view to finding ways and means of checking misuse of MODVAT.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Amendments in the New Exim Policy

2882. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have made any request to the Union Government to make amendments in the recently announced Exim Policy;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) The reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No formal request appears to have been received recently for making amendments to the Exim Policy from Government of Bihar. However, the review of export promotion measures is an on going exercise and all suggestions received are considered before making any amendments.

[English]

Export of Tea

2883. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a sharp decline in tea export during the current year as compared to the corresponding period last year;

(b) If so, the total tea exported during the last three years as compared to the current year from January to September, 1999;

(c) the steps taken by the Govt. to push up exports as other global producers would rush too fast to meet the surging demands for both quality as well as value added tea;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to adopt innovative methods of fulfill the growing aspiration and changing requirements of not only overseas buyers but also the Indian consumers; and

(e) the steps taken by the Tea Board for sustainable and remunerative prices to the tea producers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Export of tea from India during January to September, 1999 has declined by 29.39 mn.kgs. as compared to the exports during the corresponding period of the previous year. Export of tea for the period January to September during the last three years has been as follows :-

Period	Quantity (in mn. kgs)	Value (in Rs. Crores)
Jan-Sept. 1997	140.16	1179.87
Jan-Sept. 1998	152.36	1726.57
Jan-Sept. 1999	122.97	1231.03

(c) Tea Board is in constant touch with the tea industry to increase production of tea of exportable quality during the current year. Tea Board is interacting with the Russian importers to expeditiously lift tea from India under Debt Repayment Route Protocol as agreed to between both the countries in December 1998.

In addition to the above Government and the Tea Board have been analysing country-wise exports 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. Certain other steps taken to increase exports of tea include :-

- (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad;
- (ii) field sampling at speciality stores and in principal markets;
- (iii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of the speciality of Indian teas and to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol which stands for pure Indian tea;
- (iv) exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries.

(d) The tea industry with the help of the Government/Tea Board has adopted innovative methods to fulfill the growing aspirations and changing requirements of the overseas buyers as well as the Indian consumers, the outcome of which include flavoured tea, quick brewing black tea, organic tea, ready to drink tea, promotion of South Indian tea as ideal base for iced tea etc.

(e) Prices of tea are not controlled by the Gov-

ernment/Tea Board. Prices are determined by the market depending on demand and supply factors. However, Tea Board has been taking various steps to boost export and consumption of tea with a view to increase the demand which will provide sustainable and remunerative prices to the tea producers. Some of these steps include financial assistance to the tea industry through development Schemes, compulsory sale of 75% of tea produced through auctions etc.

Coal Deposits

2884. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

- the deposits of coking and non-coking coal in the country;
- the time upto which this reserve is sufficient; and
- the details of contingency plan formulated by the Government which is likely to be implemented when the reserves would be finished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) The deposits of coking coal and non-coking coal in the country; in seam 0.5m and above in thickness as on 1.1.99 upto 12.00 m. depth as per Geological Survey of India are given below:-

Reserves in billion tones		
Coking Coal	Non-Coking Coal	Total
31.24	177.51	208.75

(b) and (c) Though exploration of coal is an on-going exercise for finding the new deposits, the coal reserves known till date are likely to last for more than 100 years even at an enhanced rate of production. As such the question of preparing any contingency plan does not arise presently. However potential alternative sources of energy are hydel, nuclear power plants. Non-conventional energy also need to be tapped.

Export of Leather Garments

2885. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :

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

- whether the export of leather garments have declined during the last two years;
- If so, the reasons therefor;
- whether the Government propose to appoint any expert committee to study and giving recommendations regarding export growth of leather garments; and
- If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The exports of leather garments during the last two years are as under :

Year	(in Rs. Crores)	(in millions US\$)
1996-97	1506.5	424.37
1997-98	1580.3	425.21
1998-99	1572.8	368.60

In rupees terms, the exports of leather garments increased by 4.40% from Rs. 1506.5 crores during 1996-97 to Rs. 1572.8 crores during 1998-99.

(b) Competitive prices offered by other countries, recession in the major markets and higher import costs of raw material/components as compared to competitor countries are the major factors for decline in exports in this commodity.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Council for Leather Exports has formed a "Panel on Leather Garments" to study the reasons for decline in the growth of export of Leather Garments.

IDRC, Canada

2886. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Development Research Centre, Canada provides funds for the Developmental projects with the interaction of the nodal Ministries in India;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of competent approving authority and agencies through which the projects are submitted;

(d) the amount of funds approved by IDRC and the sanctioned amount issued by IDRC; and

(e) the present status of all the projects funded by IDRC in India during 1992 to 1999, project-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The IDRC of Canada provides grant assistance to various institutions and organisations in India for implementation of research projects/studies. The recipient organisations seeking IDRC grants have to be either registered with the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1978 administered by Ministry of Home Affairs or obtain prior permission under the said Act from Ministry of Home Affairs before receiving the grants. Organisations normally submit their proposals to IDRC. IDRC seeks no objection from Department of Economic Affairs before approving the proposals.

(d) and (e) To date IDRC has provided assistance to about 240 research projects of various institutions with financial support of over 60 million Canadian dollars. A statement showing the project-wise and year-wise status of projects funded by IDRC in India during 1992 to November 1999 is enclosed.

Statement
Status of IDRC Projects since January 1992 till November 30, 1999

Date & Year	Name of the Project and brief Description	Recipient's Name/Address			Amount of Grant Canadian \$	Project Status
		1	2	3		
March 13, 1992	Coastal Agroforestry (India)—The project will develop natural resources management methodologies, which will help to link ecological stability of coastal areas and livelihood security of the coastal communities.			M.S. Swaminathan Research Institute	\$74,560	Closed
March 31, 1992	Training Scheme for Communication Researchers at the Mass Communication—This project will support a training programme for communication researchers to impart field work skills and create a reservoir of trained field workers.			Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	\$55,739	Closed
March 31, 1992	Nutrition Education for Young Women (India)—Phase II—This project will evaluate the effectiveness of the package and delivery system by measuring the change in the nutrition behaviour of families in certain critical areas.			Nutrition Foundation of India	\$176,750	Closed
June 4, 1992	Psychosocial Study of Child Health (India)—The project aimed at investigating the attitudes and behaviour of peripheral health workers, and community members which affect the delivery of these health interventions in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.			Centre for Research in Health	\$89,240	Closed
June 19, 1992	Fiscal Reform and Structural Change—In this project researchers 7 countries will analyze past and future fiscal reforms in their own countries.			Indian Statistical Institute	\$ 955,114	Closed
August 12, 1992	Social and natural resources use in West Bengal—to understand the initiatives and knowledge system.			Vishwa Bharti, Bolepur, Shantiniketan West Bengal	\$84,600	Closed
September 23, 1992	Evaluation of Intra-City Decentralization (India)—The project will evaluate the impact of decentralized administrative systems on delivery and citizen participation in five intermediate cities.			National Institute of Urban Affairs	\$62,000	Closed
October 12, 1992	Medicinal Plants (India) — The project will undertake a evaluation of some ten widely used medicinal plants; select their best stock; and develop sustainable techniques to propagate them.			Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakal	\$224,880	Active
November 27, 1992	Conjunctive use of Water for Irrigation in North Bihar (India)—The project will attempt to develop a conjunctive irrigation system in north Bihar to enhance agricultural productivity.			Centre for Water Resources, Patna University, Patna	\$245,173	Active
January 21, 1993	Himalayan Eco-Rehabilitation—The project will aim to locate and quantify damages caused by all common land uses, focus will be to develop socioeconomically viable and ecological stable technologies to rehabilitate land damaged by shifting cultivation and mining.			Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun	\$500,000	Active

1	2	3	4	5
January 21, 1993	Geographic Information System, Bihar—To demonstrate GIS techniques in mapping large volumes of data	Sone, Command Area Development Agency, Bihar, India	\$ 504,769	Closed
January 21, 1993	Leishmaniasis Control Network (Global)	Indian Council of Medical Research	\$ 147,240	Active
January 27, 1993	Environment and Rural Technology Awareness (India)-Phase II—This project will increase dissemination of appropriate environmentally sound rural technologies to the rural population of India through the reinforcement of information activities of the GDRT and the development of an information network.	Institute of Engineering and Rural Technology	\$ 183,950	Active
February 8, 1993	Research for Product design and Test Marketing of Marketing Information—The project will design and test market management information products and services to the target customers i.e. academics and executives in business and industry.	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad	\$ 234,880	Active
May 11, 1993	Neem India—Research the benefits of Neem and document	Vital Malaya Scientific Research Foundation and University of Alberta	\$ 498,813	Active
May 31, 1993	Resource Costs for Under Nutrition and Morbidity—The project endeavoured to develop a conceptual framework for the economic analysis of the health and nutritional problems of the people of Karnataka in a period of economic liberalization where concern about negative social consequences have increased.	Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research	\$ 136,090	Closed
June 11, 1993	Land Restoration Through Waste Management (UWO/India)—Researchers will study the technical, economic and social aspects of waste management as a method of retooling degraded lands.	State Pollution Control Board, Orissa	\$ 101,716	Closed
July 22, 1993	Development Alternatives Informatics Network—The project examined the feasibility and viability of an independent informatics network related to environment and with collaborative programs and active information exchange among many of them.	Development Alternatives International	\$ 330,082	Closed
August 3, 1993	Small Grants for Environmental Education—Phase III—This IIIrd Phase project will provide continued support for awards to provide support to small, innovative research projects that seek to stimulate learning and enhance environmental awareness and education.	South View Productions	\$ 200,000	Closed
August 13, 1993	Small Grants for Environmental Education—Phase II—This IIrd Phase project will provide continued support for awards to provide support to small, innovative research projects that seek to stimulate learning and enhance environmental awareness and education.	Institute of Economic Growth	\$ 200,000	Closed

1	2	3	4	5
August 24, 1993	Locale Specific Environmental Education (India)-Phase II- The project will further test and evaluate the Environmental Education Bank and exploration into how its scope can be expanded.	Centre for Environmental Education	\$ 130,860	Closed
September 2, 1993	Technology information systems - JPS India - The project will promote the introduction of new technology or the upgrading of existing technology in small and medium size manufacturing industries by enhancing the use of existing local and foreign technologies that are environmentally sound.	JPS Associates Management Consultants	\$257,000	Closed
September 30, 1993	Spatial Data Technologies for local level planning - The project will support a research program on the utilization of spatial technologies for decentralized development planning through on-site testing and implementation of these technologies at the district level in the Haryana state.	National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies.	\$478,460	Closed
October 6, 1993	Developing Modular Technology Kits for Farm Women (India)- This project will develop a kit with approximately 50 environmentally friendly appropriate and resource efficient farm technologies for rural women for long term use, and train the existing extension workers their usage.	International Federation for Women in Agriculture	\$91,310	Closed
November 3, 1993	Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation Network (Global)-The project will support SRISTI to establish a link between formal and reductionist science with holistic or informal science underlying local ecological knowledge system.	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad	\$ 247,170	Closed
November 26, 1993	Development of Rural Microenterprises (India) - The project will develop a model production and marketing facility at the national level for paper and other products that is demonstrably self-financing and environmentally sustainable.	Development Alternatives International	\$325,000	Closed
December 3, 1993	Development Displacement and Rehabilitation in Orissa-This project will provide an overview of four decades of development-related displacement, assembling a project related database on displacements, identify the implications and consequences of displacements on the people affected, review existing state policy on displacement, and recommend changes to current policy and procedures to break the links between displacement and improvement.	Institute for Socio-Economic Development	\$61,730	Closed
December 20, 1993	Community-based Mental Health Research (India) II-Phase II will develop and field test a mental health manual that can be used by lay volunteers and primary health care workers in identifying individuals suffering from psychosocial behavioural problems	Schizophrenia Research Foundation	\$99,560	Closed

1	2	3	4	5
January 19, 1994	Strategies Interventions for Accelerating the Pace of Decline in India—The study will design and implement a set of interventions based on the principles of information, education, and communication to be directed both at the consumers and local level providers of maternal and child health care services.	Population Foundation of India	\$194,570	Closed
January 26, 1994	Sustainable Land Use Options for Shifting Cultivation (Nagaland), 1994.	Office of the Agricultural Production Commissioner, Nagaland	\$490,000	Active
January 31, 1994	Strategies and Financing for human development in India—Exmin access and pricing of health and education.	UNDP, New Delhi, India	\$75,000	Active
January 31, 1994	Monitoring Human Development in India – the project will identify appropriate micro-level indicators of well being and conduct field surveys to monitor changes in these indicators over time.	National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi	\$530,000	Active
February 9, 1994	Wood Substitutes (India) –The project is to carry out further research to enlarge the wood substitution potential of bamboo mat board through development of new value-added products appropriate to a wider range of end users.	India Plywood Industries Research Institute, Bangalore	\$149,800	Active
February 24, 1994	Coastal Ecosystems (South Asia) – The project will address the issue of impoverishing coastal ecosystem and empower the local communities and governments of the participating countries with synthesized information on the state of typical segments of coasts as well as tested technologies to resuscitate the land surface and thus evolve strategy for integrated management of coastal zone.	Auroville Foundation, Budhan Chandra Viswa Vidyalyaya	\$193,457	Active
March 9, 1994	Urban Malaria in India	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, India	\$44,450	Closed
March 9, 1994	Policies for Industrial Competitiveness : What India can learn from As.—The project will examine circumstances and policies in select Asian countries , in four sectoral classifications: industrial policy, trade policy, financial sector policy and human resources policy.	Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research	\$248,000	Closed
March 18, 1994	CD-ROM of Asian Information on Health and the Environment— Eight institutions that are owners of major Asian databases and information resources relating to health and the environment have agreed to form a consortium to produce the region's earliest CD-ROM in a developmental area that is considered critical in the Agenda 21 program.	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi	\$650,000	Closure of the project was intimated to the recipient and the formalities will be completed after the financial reports are received and settled.

1	2	3	4	5
March 25, 1994	MINISIS Resource Centre (India) Phase II - Distribution of MINISIS and its application in India	Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thakensay Women's University, Maharashtra	\$177,780	Active
March 25, 1994	Sustainable development, environmental security and disarmament - Develop a paradigm of inter regional cooperation.	Society for Peace, security and Development Studies, Allahabad, U.P., India	\$150,000	Closed
April 5, 1994	Fiscal Instruments for Water Pollution Abatement (India) - This project will identify feasible fiscal instruments and institutional arrangements for water pollution arrangements.	Institute of Economic Growth,	\$37,517	Closed
June 1, 1994	Documentation of different medicinal plants found in the western ghats and develop propagation methods for the cultivation.	Action Research and Training Institute Pune	\$19,523	Closed
June 1, 1994	Documentation of different medicinal plants found in the western Himalayas and develop propagation methods for the cultivation.	ICFRE, Dehradun	\$20,000	Closed
June 1, 1994	Documentation of different therapeutic practice adopted by the tribals and developing their validation and safety.	SV Arts College, Tinupali, India	\$55,232	Closed
September 13, 1994	Poverty in India-Collaborative research for public policy	London school of Economics and Political Science, London, U.K.	\$100,000	Active
October 1, 1994	Bamboo agroforestry technology for degraded land	ICFRE, Dehradun	\$33,000	Closed
October 28, 1994	Manual for the Marketing of information Products and Services.-The objective is to prepare and publish a comprehensive and practical manual on marketing of information products and services in developing countries based on the actual experiences encountered by developing country institutions.	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad	\$114,310	Closed
November 21, 1994	An Export Marketing Strategy for Pace Attendance Terminal (PAT)	PACE Automation Limited	\$741,168	Closed
November 25, 1994	Industrial Relations and Human Resources Management-Phase - II - To examine companies in India which are exposed to competition.	Sri Ram Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources, New Delhi	\$58,650	Active
November 25, 1994	South Asian Preferential Agreement -This Project will identify products that could be negotiated both in respect of India's exports to and imports from the region.	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	\$13,935	Closed

1	2	3	4	5
December 1, 1994	Nagaland Environment Protection and Economic Development (NEPED) – The project will enable researchers in the state to work villages communities to develop options that permit a progressive intensification in the use of land-based resources, drawing on local innovations and genetic resources, as well as on useful ideas from outside the state.	Office of the Agricultural Commissioner, Nagaland	\$5,303,193	Active
December 6, 1994	Community Research and education Eco-health—identify the impact of environmental degradation	South South Solidarity	\$150,000	Active
January 19, 1995	Financial Liberalization Network (Global) – In this project a combination of country case studies and thematic studies will examine issues pertaining to the policy implications of the process of financial liberalization	Indira Gandhi Institute for Research	\$610,910	Active
February 17, 1995	Community based solid waste management in slums (India) – Designing and pilot testing of solid waste management in Slums in India	Shreemati Nat'l Women's Univ	\$175,000	Active
May 1, 1995	Analysis of natural forest based bamboos production to consumption system	IDRC-Inhouse	\$25,944	Closed
January 5, 1996	Survey of medicinal plants in Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh	Environment Research and action, Kangra, HP, India	\$14,507	Active
February 22, 1996	Sustainable Development Network (SDN) India – The project will be to promote the process of sustainable development in India through organised accessibility to and exchange of information among all concerned parties through the development of a Sustainable Development Network.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	\$281,620	Active
March 6, 1996	ST-Fly Ash Management – The result of the project will have a positive potential environmental and social impacts in India and in the region	Indian Institute of Technology	\$229,915	Active
March 6, 1996	Quality of life in urban Slums in India – strengthen and expand community based process	Shreemati Nathubai Demodkar Thakarsay Women's University, Maharashtra	\$102,750	Active
March 21, 1996	Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies, Health Sector Reform and Access to, Utilization and Quality of Health Care (Global) – The project will investigate the impact of MAPs on access to quality and utilization of health care in the South.	Centre for Development Studies	\$1,495,000	Active
March 29, 1996	Linkages between the SMEs and the Sources of sustainable Technologies	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry	\$240,000	Active

1	2	3	4	5
July 30, 1996	Using agricultural diversity Research Award program—Establish a program to provide research awards	Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India	\$322,600	Active
August 16, 1998	Economics of Shifting from Tobacco : A Micro Level Study and Action Program – The project will with the help of motivators, identity farmers who are willing to shift away from tobacco cultivation.	Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research	\$242,560	Active
August 28, 1996	Local Strategies for water supplies and conservation management	Institute of Development Studies, Madras and Nehru Foundation for Development	\$302,612	Active
December 13, 1997	Telework in India-Implication for employment, trade and social equity – to incorporate the findings of the pre-protect consultation and analysis of the implications teleworking in India and Malaysia	UNU Institute for New Technologies Netherland	\$233,320	Active
January 23, 1997	Desert margins initiative (Africa)	International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics	\$483,170	Active
February 1, 1997	Environmental/Social performance indicators and sustainability markers in mineral development – to develop ecosystem health indicators	Tata Energy Research Institute and University of Bath	\$207,460	Active
March 6, 1997	Generating incentives for Sustainable Natural Resource Management – the project has the potential to contribute to the development of approaches to the intellectual property and traditional resource rights of vulnerable social groups who do not normally receive an equitable share of the benefits of biodiversity	Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad	\$252,490	Active
May 1, 1997	Bamboo agroforestry technology for degraded land	UTTAN-Centre for sustainable development & poverty alleviation Allahabad, U.P., India	\$44,235	Closed
September 10, 1997	Impact of Information Technologies in Rural Areas – The project will provide Internet services such as e-mail and the world wide web and will include a study of how these more sophisticated tools can be used at village level.	M.S. Swaminathan Research Institute, Pune.	\$214,120	Active
October 10, 1997	CARE-BAIF MER System Test - 1997 : To test the project monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) system developed by CARE Canada on some of development projects	BAIF Development Research Institute Pune	\$92,493	Active
October 30, 1997	PAN- Pan Asia R & D Grants Program – It is to activate a scheme of 'small grants' funding for research and development into networking applications, policies, regulatory issues and technologies that aim at providing solutions to defined, specific developments problems in the Asia : Pacific region.	Foundation of Occupational Development	\$150,000	Active

1	2	3	4	5
January 1, 1998	MAP - Gender Network - This project will initiate a program of research of analysis and contextualize the dimension of economic reform in a coordinated and systematic manner in five south Asia countries.	Institute of Social Studies Trust, New Delhi	\$489,020	Active
January 29, 1998	Accountability and Governance - Support for a workshop on the accountability and Governance of the Indian System	Mr. Ravi Kalitpalia, New Delhi and IDRC, SARO, New Delhi	\$10,000	Closed
March 4, 1998	Virtual Information Centre for Management Development	Administrative Staff College of India	\$100,470	Active
March 10, 1998	Strengthening Rural Communities Through the Development of the Agrifood - To address issues related to the improvement of rural livelihoods through development of the agrifood sector.	BAIF Development Research Institute, Pune and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation.	\$462,260	Active
April 1, 1998	Development of 21st Century traditions program initiative	IDRC-Inhouse case study	\$15,500	Closed
October 1, 1998	Promotion of green health by training by Village Youth and women	MSSRF, Chennai, India	\$17,595	Closed
November 20, 1998	Monitoring of FICCI project on SME linkages	IDRC-Inhouse Project	\$5,500	Active
November 26, 1998	Women's health and empowerment - to design the CIDA project with BAIF	IDRC, IN house Project	\$10,850	Active
February 18, 1999	Regional policy seminar on women workers in the information sector in South Asia	IDRC-Inhouse project	\$34,500	Active
April 1, 1999	Conservation and cultivation of medicinal plants in mountain areas of Garhwal district	Society for Himalayan Environmental research SHER, Dehradun, U.P., India	\$23,775	Active
May 26, 1999	Community based sustainable management of medicinal plants Madhya Pradesh	Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, M.P.,	\$26,021	Active
May 31, 1999	Development of Production and Processing Technology of Malt Grass -The objective is to standardize the production Technology of malt grass for higher productivity.	Child and Social Welfare Society	\$19,600	Active
June 4, 1999	Production and Marketing of Pearl Millet Products	Academy of Development Science	\$21,500	Active
July 28, 1999	Micro-nutrient Initiative	Government of West Bengal	\$3,150,000	Active
July 29, 1999	Micro-nutrient Initiative	Government of Gujarat	\$3,000,000	Active
November 15, 1999	Strengthening the traditional health practices and training in cultivation of medicinal plants to the women and urban healers of District Chittoor.	People's Clinic Trust, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh	\$28,186	Active

Precious Stones Found in Orissa

2887. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the precious and semi-precious stones have been discovered in Orissa, particularly in Kalahandi district;

(b) if so, the kind of stones have been found there; and

(c) the steps taken to fully exploit these stones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Precious and Semi-precious stones are sporadically distributed in Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa. Occurrences of Garnet, Aquamarine, Sapphire, Ruby, Iolite and Crysoberyll have been reported from Kolahandi district.

(c) Any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder.

Loss to Urban Co-operative Banks

2888. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any early warning system have been instituted by the Reserve Bank of India to detect losses in an Urban Co-operative Bank;

(b) if so, the details of such an early warning system;

(c) whether the public has been encouraged to watch the activities of the management of such banks; and

(d) if so, the other sources of information does the RBI propose to access to properly monitor Urban Co-operative Banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no separate early warning system has been instituted by it to detect losses in urban co-operative banks. However, as per the present system, urban cooperative banks are required to submit to RBI certain statutory returns on their financial position which include a monthly Statement in Form IX showing the assets and liabilities of these urban co-operatives as on the last Friday of every month. This statement shows the movements in assets and liabilities and the position of profit/loss of the banks as on the date of the return. In addition, all the urban banks are required to classify their loan accounts into four categories viz. standard, sub-standard, doubtful and loss assets based on the

principle of income recognition. An annual statement of such classification of loans are to be furnished to the RBI by these banks certified by the statutory auditor.

(c) and (d) Urban co-operative banks are set up as co-operative societies as per the provisions of the Co-operative societies Acts of the concerned States. Boards of management of such banks are elected by the shareholders and the rights of members are defined in the Co-operative Societies Act. RBI does not make any effort to encourage the public to watch the management of urban co-operative banks since the managerial aspects of such banks come under the purview of the Registrars of Co-operative Societies. As per the present system of supervision, urban banks which have been classified as "weak" are covered by statutory inspection (in terms of Section 35 of the banking regulation Act, 1949) every year while the other banks are inspected once in two years. On-site inspection is a major source of information on the working of urban banks. In addition, RBI has also proposed to introduce a system of off-site surveillance for major urban banks.

Entrance of UTI in Insurance Sector

2889. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether UTI has proposed to float an insurance company in collaboration with UTI Bank;

(b) if so, the details of commercial imperatives for UTI to enter the insurance sector;

(c) whether assessment have been made of the profitability of the insurance sector by UTI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. UTI, at present, has no proposal to float an insurance company in collaboration with UTI Bank.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Kargil Impact

2890. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kargil operation have started impact on Government finances and will also affect in future years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure incurred due to the Kargil conflict; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the expenditure that has occurred in the Kargil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Government finances are affected by a large number of fiscal parameters which among other things include, growth in aggregate expenditure, total revenue receipts, capital receipts etc. and not on any one factor in particular.

(c) This will be reflected in the overall increase in Defence Budget.

(d) The trends in the Central Government finances are closely monitored and under constant review. Additional expenditure requirements are met by savings of the departments through economies in expenditure and better expenditure management and by enhanced receipts.

M. S. Verma Committee on Weak Banks

2891. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) the Umbrella Union of the nine bank unions had met the RBI Governor to discuss its reservations on the implementation of some of the recommendations of the M.S. Verma Committee on weak banks; and

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

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

(b) The details of the discussions are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Welcoming the representatives of the bank Unions, Governor Shri Jalan said that he was happy to meet with the national leaders of the bank unions and listen to their views on the recommendations of the Verma Committee. He said that the report had been published by the Reserve Bank with a view to having widest public debate. The report had also been submitted to the Government as on some of the crucial recommendations, the decisions would have to be taken by the Government. He also said that the Reserve Bank was studying the report and it had not yet taken a final view. The time was, therefore, opportune to hear the views of the union leaders.

The Governor further stated that the strengthening of the banking sector was an important priority for the country. A strong banking sector was an important for the employees as for the Government as the owner and the Reserve Bank as the regulator. It was, therefore, in the common interest to devise policies that project the employees and at the same time make weak banks viable.

The representatives of the bank employees, union agreed that it was necessary to further strengthen the banking system. They were, however, totally opposed to the approach adopted by the Verma Committee. They contended that the Committee had paid no attention to the core issue of recovering bad loans and reducing non-performing assets. That was the basic reason why the so-called weak banks had become weak, they argued. In this connection, they also pointed out that they were not in

favour of the asset reconstruction fund as also reduction in staff strength proposed by the Verma Committee. According to them it was essential to focus attention on recovering bad loans. In this context they emphasised that urgent steps need to be taken to strengthen the legal structure for speedy recovery of bad loans.

Instead of focussing on these issues, the Verma Committee had put the entire burden of reconstructing weak banks on bank employees who were in no way responsible for the weakness in banks. The bank unions also said that they were irrevocably committed to maintaining the public sector character of banks in and were not in favour of privatising them, as seemed to be the direction in which Verma Committee was wanting to take the banking sector. The unions, on their part, assured their full commitment towards better customer service, efficiency and accountability to improve the operations of the banking system.

In his concluding remarks, the Governor thanked the unions for their views and assured them that their views would be taken into account while finalising the Reserve Bank's views on the recommendations of the Verma Committee. He also urged the Unions to take an integrated view of all the recommendations made by the Committee in various aspects of strengthening the weak banks. A balanced package with co-operation of all concerned had to be worked out in the long term interest of these banks.

Export of Honey

2892. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are exporting Honey to some countries; and

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the quantity and value thereof during each of the last three years, countrywise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. Exports of honey are undertaken by exporters who are registered with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products, Export Development Authority (APEDA).

(b) The total quantity and value of honey exported during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Quantity (MTs)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
1996-97	580.8	329.9
1997-98	751.9	368.5
1998-99*	1413.0	747.5

*Provisional
Source : DGCI&S/APEDA

Honey has been exported mainly to Germany, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Singapore, UAE, UK and USA. The country-wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India Monthly/Annual bulletins published by the DGCI & S, Calcutta, copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library.

Nickel Plant in Orissa

2893. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Nickel Plant is being established in Orissa, particularly at Sukinda, in Jajpur district;

(b) If so, the details thereof indicating the other places of the State where such plants are likely to be established;

(c) whether viability report has been examined by the high power committee;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the share of the State Government of Orissa in this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to set up a Nickel extraction for plant at Sukinda in Jajpur district of Orissa. However, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed a process to extract Nickel metal from Chromite overburden accumulated as waste after extraction of Chrome ore. A Pilot Plant with the capacity to treat up to 10 tonnes of chrome overburden per day from Sukinda valley is being set up at the Regional Research Laboratory of CSIR at Bhubaneswar at a capital cost of Rs. 10 crores following signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hindustan Zinc Limited and CSIR. The techno-economic viability of Nickel extraction from the Chrome overburden waste in Sukinda valley can be assessed after operation of the Pilot Plant for two years when sufficient data has been generated.

Industrial Production

2894. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

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

(a) the total industrial production during the last three years and 1999, as on date, sector-wise;

(b) the target set and achieved during the said period;

(c) whether industrial output has been increased since May 1999 as compared to the previous year;

(d) If so, the details thereof, Sector-wise; and

(e) the expected industrial production during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The sector-wise growth rates of industrial production during the last three years and during April-October, 1999-2000 are indicated in the table below :

Year	(percentage growth rate)			
	Mining	Manufacturing	Electricity	Overall
1996-97 (FY)	-1.9	6.7	4.0	5.6
1997-98 (FY)	5.9	6.7	6.6	6.6
1998-99 (FY)	-1.8	4.4	6.4	4.0
1999-2000 (Apr.-Oct.)	0.2	7.5	8.1	6.9

(b) Year-wise targets of industrial growth rate are not set by the Government.

(c) and (d) The Sector-wise details of growth rate are given below:-

Period	1998-99				1999-2000			
	Mining	Manufacturing	Electricity	Overall	Mining	Manufacturing	Electricity	Overall
April	(-)-2.9	4.9	11.0	4.8	(-)-2.0	5.7	6.0	5.0
May	(-)-3.0	3.4	9.9	3.7	0.3	9.1	3.3	7.7
June	2.3	4.6	9.8	4.8	(-)-1.7	6.2	4.1	5.3
July	2.9	3.1	6.5	3.4	0.1	7.1	6.2	6.4
August	0.6	4.5	6.8	4.4	1.7	6.9	10.9	6.8
September	(-)-4.9	3.9	0.5	2.8	4.7	7.8	16.7	8.4
October	(-)-0.9	0.1	(-)-0.1	0.0	(-)-1.7	9.7	10.3	8.7

Loans to Tobacco Growers

(e) The Government have not made an estimate of industrial growth during 2000-2001.

2895. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has given loans to tobacco growers of Karnataka towards the supply of coal, fertilizers and other inputs;

(b) if so, the amount of loans given and the number of tobacco growers in the State availed of this facility;

(c) whether there is any demand from the tobacco growers to recover these loans in three instalments; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Staff in Bank Branches of Rural Areas

2896. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of staff in the branches located in the rural areas of nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to post adequate staff in the rural branches and other branches of these banks;

(c) whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for bank employees to work in rural areas for a fixed time period so as to prevent the shortage of staff in rural branches; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) There is no report of a general shortage of staff in branches located in the rural areas. Government have from time to time advised the banks that the branches located in the rural/semi-urban areas should be adequately staffed by implementation of rotational transfers as well as redeployment of manpower from surplus pockets to deficit pockets. Government have also issued guidelines making it compulsory for the officers of Nationalised banks to work for minimum three years in rural/semi-urban area before they are considered for promotion to Senior Management Grade Scale-IV.

Debt Trap

2897. SHRI J.S. BRAR :

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "UP Blames for Debt Trap" appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated August 17, 1999;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider to improve the existing Centre-State economic relations to help the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) According to the news items referred to in part (a) of the question, UP Government has referred to Central policies in the memorandum submitted by them to the Eleventh Finance Commission.

The Finance Commission is appointed by the President of India under Article 280 of the Constitution to make recommendations for distribution of resources between the Centre and the States within its term of reference. Central as well as State Governments are free to submit their views before the Finance Commission. Government of India does not consider it appropriate to comment on the submission made by any State Government before the Finance Commission.

(c) and (d) Government of India is committed to maintain healthy economic relations with the States. Centre State economic relations are reviewed periodically by the Finance Commission constituted under Article 280 of the Constitution and bodies like National Development Council, Inter-State Council etc. where both Centre and States are represented.

[English]

Lignite Reserves in Gujarat

2898. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge lignite reserves have been identified by the Geological experts in Gujarat, particularly in Kutch area;

(b) if so, the quality and quantity of reserves identified, indicating the location thereof; and

(c) the time by which mining activities are likely to be taken up there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) The quantity and quality of estimated lignite reserves in Gujarat are given below:-

Location	Quality					Quantity (In million tonnes)
	M(%)	A(%)	VM(%)	FC(%)	CV (KJ.Cal./Kg.)	
(Kutch Region)						
Panandhro	30-40	6-10	27-33	22-25	3300-3500	98
Akrimota	30-35	18-24	30-35	20-22	3000-3200	82
Umarsar	28	13	37	22	4084	11
Matanomadh	30-35	15-20	20-25	20-25	2000-2500	34
Lakhpat	18	29	33	20	3274	14
Kalyari	19	29	33	19	4312	45
Bhavnagar Region	13.56	23.98	37.41	26.90	3882	326
Surat Region	13.00	17.38	34.26	28.99	4488	219
Bharuch Region	6-25	5-37	28-46	10-37	2988-5500	644

M=Moisture, A=Ash, VM=Volatile Matter, FC=Fixed Carbon, CV = Calorific Value.

(c) Mining activities are likely to be taken up as soon as the deposits are found to be economically viable for exploitation, its end use firmed up, bankable project reports are prepared and necessary investments tied up.

Central Excise Office Running in Rental Building

2899. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of offices of Divisional Officers of Central Excise are running in the rental buildings at present, location-wise;

(b) the amount of rent being paid by the Government for these offices;

(c) whether the rent of Divisional Offices of Central Excise in various states, particularly at Poona in Maharashtra have not been paid to the concerned owner for the last one year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the outstanding rent amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) information is being collected from various field formations under C.B.E.C. and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Textiles

2900. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of textiles during the first half of 1999-2000 have increase by 7 per cent in comparison with the same period during the last year;

(b) whether the exports to the countries for which certain quota has been prescribed has fallen down by 13 per cent during the above period as compared to the last year;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the names of those countries;

(d) whether the value of exports to quota prescribed countries is higher than those countries where quota has not been prescribed;

(e) if so, the value of exports made to quota prescribed/not prescribed countries, separately during the first half of the current financial year; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export to the countries for which no quota has been prescribed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (e) The export of textiles during the first half of 1999-2000 (April-September) have increased by 2.5 per cent (in dollar terms) in comparison with the same period during the last year (in dollar terms). There is slight decrease in the exports to the quota countries namely USA and countries of European Union. The value of exports of textiles to quota countries and non-quota countries is as follows :-

	(figures in US Millions \$)	
	1998-99	1999-2000
	(Apr.-Sept.)	(Apr.-Sept.)
Quota Countries	2378.4	2248.2
Non-Quota Countries	1755.7	2010.3

Source : Apparel Export Promotion Council and The Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council

(f) The Government has Non Quota Entitlement System at present Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for promoting non-quota exports to non-quota countries and all textile exports to quota countries. Some of the other initiatives to promote exports in general one as follows :-

- (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) 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.
- (iii) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.
- (iv) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

V.D.J.S.

2901. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) implemented two years ago was a success;
- (b) If so, the extent of success;

- (c) the reasons for discontinuing this scheme;
- (d) whether the Government propose to introduce any such scheme again; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Income of over Rs. 33,289 crore was declared under the voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS), 1997. Tax and interest amounting to over Rs. 9,745 crore were collected on these disclosures.

(c) The Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997 was a part of the Finance Act, 1997. Under Section 64 of the Finance Act the Scheme was to be in operation for limited duration and to end on or before 31.12.97.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme

2902. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of allocation made under the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme;
- (b) the number of textile workers benefited, year-wise and region-wise;
- (c) the details of applications for compensation pending with the Textile Commissioner, region-wise; and
- (d) the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) On the basis of demand, the provisions are made in the Budget of Ministry of Textiles for the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) on a year to year basis. Presently, for the current year, there is a provision of Rs. 18 crore (B.E.) under the TWRFS Scheme.

(b) The year-wise and region-wise details of number of textile workers benefited under the scheme have been as follows :-

Year	Number of workers benefited region/state-wise					
	Gujarat	Maharashtra	Madhya Pradesh	Tamil Nadu	Delhi	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1988-89	1213	-	-	-	-	1213
1989-90	5278	-	-	741	-	6019
1990-91	5697	942	-	1045	4499	12183
1991-92	3940	422	-	-	331	4693
1992-93	7023	331	-	104	337	7795
1993-94	4686	540	-	-	-	5226

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1994-95	2531	11	—	—	—	2542
1995-96	1203	2	—	—	—	1205
1996-97	2316	3	—	—	2	2321
1997-98	2560	—	—	2287	—	4847
1998-99	2282	732	3297	276	—	6587
1999-2000	2573	—	74	1	—	2648
Total	41302	2983	3371	4454	5169	57279

(c) The region-wise number of applications for compensation/relief under TWRP Scheme pending with the Office of the Textile Commissioner are as follows :

Region	No. of applications pending as on 30.11.99
Gujarat	697
Maharashtra	1
Madhya Pradesh	187
Tamil Nadu	65
Total	950

(d) The Office of Textile Commissioner has been constantly liaising with the State Government, Official Liquidator, etc. for getting the pending applications and the requisite information as required under the scheme, to facilitate the disbursement of funds to the eligible workers.

Cess on Diesel

2903. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected so far on account of cess on diesel and petrol during the current year till date and the expected collection for the whole year 1999-2000;

(b) whether this amount is being utilised towards meeting fiscal deficit targets instead of using it for its intended purpose of road development; and

(c) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The amount of additional excise/customs duty on motor spirit and high speed diesel collected so far which is sought to be converted into cess is Rs. 2510 crore upto September, 1999. The estimated collection during the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 3377 crore.

(b) and (c) These receipts are credited into the Consolidated Fund of India and spent therefrom as per approval of Parliament.

Share Transfer Agent

2904. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of certificates of Registration as Category-II (Share Transfer Agent) given by SEBI (Delhi) during the last three years, till date;

(b) the total number of cases rejected by the Board with the reasons of rejection thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the functioning and efficiency of SEBI (Delhi Branch)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The total number of certificates of registration as Category II (Share Transfer Agent) granted by SEBI (Delhi) in the last three years is as follows:

New Registration	Renewals
1996-97	12 0
1997-98	8 7
1998-99	1 3
1999-2000 (Till date)	0 3

(b) The number of cases rejected by SEBI Delhi is as follows:

1996-97	—	20
1997-98	—	8
1998-99	—	Nil
1999-2000 (Till Date)	—	Nil

The rejections were made for non-compliance with Regulations 4, 6 and 7 of the SEBI (Registrars to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents) Rules and Regulations, 1993 by the applicants, that is, not furnishing of required information, not having adequate infrastructure and not fulfilling capital adequacy requirements.

(c) SEBI, including its Delhi Branch Constantly reviews its functioning with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness.

Multilateral and Bilateral Loans

2905. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received multilateral and bilateral loans for development activities in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise*and Project-wise;

(c) whether there has been regional imbalance in the inflow of such loans especially in reference with Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka; and

(d) If so, the reasons and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Projects are considered for external assistance after the State Government forwards adequately prepared proposals to Govt. of India incorporating necessary clearances. Difference in the Number of on-going projects in different States is thus, due to differences in the number of projects posed by the State Government and the acceptance of these projects by the funding agencies. Government of India, however, encourages the donors to assist in all States.

Statement

State-wise and Project-wise details of Multi-Lateral and Bilateral Loans

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Source	Currency	Loan/Grant Amount	Disbursement During 1996-97	Disbursement During 1997-98	Disbursement During 1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ANDHRA PRADESH							
1	AP Hazard Mitigation & Emergency Cyclone	IDA	US \$	100	—	8.595	19.719
2	AP Hazard Mitigation & Emergency	IBRD	US \$	50	—	—	0
3	Import of Irrigation Equipment for Rural Dev	Japan	Jap. Yen	195.6	—	—	195.6
4	UK/India Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihood	UK	UK Pound	40.176	—	—	—
5	AP Forestry	IDA	US \$	77.4	14.085	15.909	13.148
6	Import of Muriate of Potash & Services for EPTRI	Japan	Jap. Yen.	1.1	—	—	0
7	Import of Aquiring Equipments for Monitoring	Japan	Jap. Yen.	2.4	—	—	0
8	EPTRI Phase II	Sweaden	Sw. Kr.	16	—	0	—
9	Andhra Pradesh Power Sector	IBRD	US \$	210	—	—	10.169
10	Srisailem Left Bank Power Stn.Ph.I	Japan	Jap.Yen	26101	2733.5	3677.5	431.4
11	Srisailem Power Transmission Sys	Japan	Jap. Yen	3806	344.6	160.7	1345.7
12	Srisailem Left Bank Stn. Pjt. II	Japan	Jap. Yen	22567	3933.7	4814.7	2633.9
13	Srisailem Power Trm. Sys. Pjt. II	Japan	Jap. Yen	9548	8.9	328.5	2012.2
14	Kothagudem A Thermal Power Stn. Rehabilitation	Japan	Japy. Yen	5092	1546	1323	415.1
15	Simhadri and Vizag Trm. System	Japan	Jap. Yen	10629	—	0	0
16	Srisailem Left Bank Power Stn.	Japan	Jap Yen.	14499	—	688.9	1352.3
17	AP Engery Efficiency	UK	UK Pound	42.7	1.5	3	0.665
18	Royalseema Thermal Power	ADB	US \$	190	26.432	0.138	—
19	AP State Highway	IBRD	US \$	350	—	12.347	10.33
20	Hyderabad Water Supply and Sanitation	IDA	US \$	73.542	16.468	9.95	6.753
21	AP Irrigation-III	IDA	US \$	150	—	58.831	8.719
22	AP Irrigation	IBRD	US \$	175	—	—	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23	Kurnool Cuddeppah Canal	Japan	Jap. Yen	16049	0	0	103.9
24	AP Referral Health System	IDA	US \$	133	6.123	18.628	30.704
25	AP Economic Restructuring	IDA	US\$	241.9	-	-	29.108
26	AP Economic Restructuring	IBRD	US \$	301.3	-	-	32.384
27	AP Tribal Development	IFAD	US \$	21.933	2.486	4.279	1.85
28	AP Tribal Development	IFAD	US \$	7	-	0.182	1.602
29	AP Participatory Tribal Development	IFAD	US \$	26.71	1.799	1.874	2.637
30	Environment Training Project, Hyderabad	Sweden	Sw. Kr.	15	0.339	0	-
31	AP School Building	UK	UK Pound	27.9	0	0	-
32	UK/India AP Dist. Primary Education	UK	UK Pound	42.5	0	2.783	4.092
33	Hyderabad Habitat Phase III	UK	UK Pound	14.94	0.182	0	-
34	Vijayawada Habitat Improvement Project	UK	UK Pound	16.25	1.619	0.23	0.062
35	AP School Health	UK	UK Pound	6.69	0	0.266	-
36	Chinagadilli Area Improvement	UK	UK Pound	1.5	0	0	-
37	AP Urban Services Improvement for Poor	UK	UK Pound	68.086	-	-	0
ASSAM							
1	Assam Rural Infrastructure	IDA	US\$	126	-	1.628	6.935
BIHAR							
1	Bihar Plateau Development	IDA	US \$	117	5.847	13.597	23.694
2	Cooperative Rural Storage Centres in Bihar	EC	Euro	21.2	0.039	0.019	0
3	Eastern Gandak Canal Hydro	Japan	Jap. Yen	1630	9.1	-	-
4	DPEP-III	IDA	US \$	152	-	4.5	7.891
GUJARAT							
1	Gujarat Rural Roads	IDA	US \$	99.423	0.439	-	-
2	Training Women in Agriculture-Gujarat Ph II	Netherlands Dutch Gldr.		6.611	-	0	0.474
3	NABARD V Adivasi Programme Gujarat	Germany Deut. Mark		26	1.227	1.721	0
4	Environmental Management Capacity Building	IDA	US \$	50	0	3	0.858
5	Gujarat Forestry	Japan	Jap. Yen	15760	1285.2	3330.9	3215.5
6	Ship Breaking Dev. at Pipavav	Japan	Jap. Yen	7046	282.2	1771	2425.3
7	Water Resources Development Mgmt	Netherlands Dutch Gldr		1.45	-	0	-
8	Grant India 1996-06 Gogha Regional Water Sply	Netherlands Dutch Gldr		19.369	-	0	0
9	ORET Project for Gujarat Health Care	Netherlands Dutch Gldr		39.826	-	14.935	0
10	ORET Project for Gujarat Health Care	Netherlands Dutch Gldr		59.739	-	0	35.354
11	Netherlands Grant	Neth (IDA)	US \$	25.8	-	1.627	3.58

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	Gujarat Public Sector Resource Management	ADB	US \$	250	100	0	0
HARYANA							
1	Mewat Area Development	IFAD	US \$	15.08	0	0.417	1.404
2	Rehabilitation of common lands in Aravalli Hills	EC	Euro	23.2	3.372	1.889	1.768
3	Haryana Power Restructuring	IBRD	US \$	2	0	0	
4	Haryana Community Forestry	EC	Euro	23.3	—	—	0
5	Water Resources Consolidation	IDA	US \$	258	30.863	28.441	19.12
HIMACHAL PRADESH							
1	Pilot Project Trout farming in H.P.	Norway	Nor. Kr.	10	0	0.105	0.046
2.	HP Forestry Project	UK	UK Pound	3.03	0.387	0.497	0.666
3.	Import of Cable Percussion Type Drilling	Japan	Jap. Yen	457.8	—	—	451.5
4.	Shimla Swerage Project	OPEC	US \$	10	—	—	0.101
5	Environment Programme	Norway	Nor Kr.	12	5.179	2.485	1.049
KARNATAKA							
1	Indo-Danish Fisheries Project	Denmark	Danish Kr.	8.52	0	0	—
2	Karnataka Watershed Development	Denmark	Danish Kr	46.7		0	0.373
3	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation	Japan	Jap. Yen	15968		899.2	2273
4	Western Ghats Forestry	UK	UK Pound	18.074	2.136	3.587	2.935
5	Raichur Thermal Power Station Extn.	Japan	Jap. Yen	23142	676.1	221.9	—
6	Kalinadi Hydro Electric Pjt Stage-II	Kuwait	K. Dinar	7	1.463	0.755	0.201
7	Mysore Paper Mills Modernisation & Renovation	Japan	Jap.yen	2381	420.4	1183.5	515.9
8	Karnataka Sec. Level Hospital Development	Germany	Deut. Mark	23	0	0.776	0.441
9	Upper Krishna Phase.II	IDA	US \$	167.498	16.686	—	—
10	Upper Krishna Phase.III	IBRD	US \$	45	3.358	3.46	—
11	Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation	IDA	US \$	92	8.997	8.134	29.119
12	Watershed Development, Karnataka	Denmark	Danish Kr.	48.8	0.329	9.792	—
13	Indo-Swiss Participative Watershed Development	Switzerland	Indian Rs.	86.248	38.531	110.9	13.7
14	UK/India Karnataka Watershed Development	UK	UK Pound	4.488	0	0	0
15	Karnataka Watershed Development	Germany	Deut. Mark	20	0	0	0.172
16.	Women & Youth Trg. Extn. Ph. II	Denmark	Danish Kr.	48.5	2.989	0.848	1.349
17	Integrated Rural Water & Sanitation Karnataka	Denmark	Danish Kr	50	0	0	0.286
18	Rural Water & Sanitation Phase-II Karnataka	Denmark	Danish Kr	65.5	5.121	0	3.771
19	National Programme for Control of Blindness-II	Denmark	Danish Kr.	55		—	0
20	Raichur District Hospital	OPEC	US \$	9	0.191	0.672	1.754

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21	Bangalore Water Supply	Japan	Jap. Yen	28452	0	239.5	668.4
22	Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Dev.	ADB	US \$	85	3.729	2.747	5.264
KERALA							
1	Kerala Fisheries Prawn Culture Dev.	Kuwait	K. Dinar	7	0.418	0.003	0
2	Kerala Rainfed farming Development	OPEC	US \$	10	0.481	0.379	0.757
3	North Kerala Dairy Phase. II	Switzerland	Ind. Rs.	167.4	60	0	-
4	Coconut Programme	EC	Euro	45	0	0	-
5	Agriculture Markets in Kerala-Supply of fertilizer	EC	Euro	18.85	0	0	0
6	Kerala Horticulture Development	EC	Euro	28.7	1.94	0	0
7	Kerala Forestry	IDA	US \$	39	-	-	3.914
8	Attapady Wasteland Development	Japan	Jap. Yen	5112	0	21.9	6.6
9	Kerala Water Supply	Japan	Jap. yen	11997	-	0	0
10	Kerala Minor Irrigation	EC	Euro	11.8	1.42	0.144	0.664
11	Rural Drinking Water Supply	Denmark	Danish Kr.	132.5	0	0	-
12	UK India Cochin Urban Poverty Reduction	UK	UK Pound	11.469	0.161	0.169	0.431
MADHYA PRADESH							
1	MP Women in Agriculture	Denmark	Danish Kr.	12.61	0.985	0	1.937
2	Madhya Pradesh Forestry	IDA	US\$	58	7.089	10.467	14.445
3	Lake Bhopal Conservation & Mgt.	Japan	Jap. Yen	7055	219.1	340.8	540.6
4	Health Care Ph. II	Denmark	Danish Kr.	62.9	0	0.121	-
5	Culture Grant (Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal)	Japan	Jap. Yen	46	46	-	-
6	Madhya Pradesh Sericulture	Japan	Jap. Yen	2212	-	0	50.9
7	Rajghat Canal Irrigation	Japan	Jap. Yen	13222	0	-	-
8	Live Stock Development, Bastar	Denmark	Danish Kr.	28.3	1.971	0	0
9	Watershed Dev. in Western MP	Denmark	Danish Kr.	29.2	0	0.949	0.745
10	Rewa Hospital	OPEC	US \$	10	0	0.409	2.267
11	Indore Habitat	UK	UK Pd.	14.4	0	0.325	0
12	Rural Water Supply	Germany	Deut. Mrk.	45	0.233	0.169	-
MAHARASHTRA							
1	Saline Lands Reclamation	EC	Euro	15.5	-	-	0
2	Maharashtra Forestry	IDA	US \$	107.82	13.701	8.507	19.456
3	Maharashtra Power	IBRD	US \$	337.33	61.327	62.513	42.644
4	Second Maharashtra Power	IBRD	US\$	112.253	32.698	0	0
5	Ghatghar Pumped Storage	Japan	Jap. Yen	11414	124	209.7	856.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	Maharashtra Urban Combined Cycle Power	Germany	Deut. Mrk	310	10.81	0.376	—
7	Maharashtra State Elec. Board Uran	Germany	Deut. Mark	29.74	12.355	10.592	1.407
8	Industrial Project	IDA	US \$	5	0	0	0.405
9	Mumbai Port Trust	ADB	US \$	97.8			0.8
10	Maharashtra Irrigation	IDA	US \$	187.752	11.151	—	—
11	Third Bombay Water Supply	IDA	US \$	127.075	19.674	—	—
12	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply	IDA	US \$	99.84	26.69	13.024	19.908
13	Grant for Infrastructure Financing	IBRD-Japan	US \$	1.5	—	—	0.26
14	Bombay Sewage Disposal	IDA	US \$	22.884	17.824	0.07	—
15	Bombay Sewage Disposal	IBRD	US \$	167	4.911	26.803	15.397
16	Maharashtra Rural Drinking Water Supply	UK	UK Pound	16.46	2.271	1.31	0.793
17	Westershed Maharashtra II (NABARD)	Germany	Deut Mrk.	25	—	0	0
18	Minor Irrigation	Germany	Deut Mrk	35	—	28.52	6.48
19	Minor Irrigation	Germany	Deut Mrk	45	—	—	0
20	Water Control System for Development of Coop.	EC	Euro	15	1.633	4.045	1.635
21	Maharashtra Health System Dev.	IDA	US\$	134	—	—	3.09
22	Maharashtra Rural Credit	IFAD	US\$	29.442	2.295	3.144	2.215
23	Basic Health Maharashtra	Germany	Deut. Mark	20	0	0.741	0.89
24	Advasi Development Programme	Germany	Deut Mark	28	—	—	0
25	Bombay Resettlement & Rehabilitation -29399-IN	Japan	Jap. Yen	67	21.7	5.5	4.2
26	Bombay Resettlement & Rehabilitation-39300-IN	Japan	Jap. Yen	16.8	—	—	—
27	Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Recon.	IDA	US\$	216.814	68.645	44.686	23.408
28	Maharashtra Earthquake Rehabilitation	UK	UK Pound	10	0	0.059	—
29	Bombay Urban Transport - II	Japan	Jap. Yen	288	104.8	87.8	73
MANIPUR							
1.	Manipur Sericulture	Japan	Jap. Yen	3962	—		208.4
MEGHALAYA							
1.	Umiam Hydro Power Stn Renovation	Japan	Jap. Yen	1700	0	0	0.1
ORISSA							
1	Indo Danish Comp. Watershed Dev.	Denmark	Danish Kr.	46.3	0.985	2.554	1.49
2.	Integrated Livestock Dev.	Denmark	Danish kr.	19.9	0.981	1.017	1.5
3	TEWA Ph. II, Orissa	Denmark	Danish Kr.	23.69	2.657	3.183	3.096
4	Orissa Social Forestry Ph.II	Sweden	Sw Kr.	282.5	5.359	0	—
5	UK India Western Orissa Rural Livelihood	UK	UK Pound	23	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Orissa Power Sector Restructuring	IBRD	US \$	350	12.11	4.279	7.481
7.	UK India Orissa Power Sector Reforms	UK	UK Pound	42	7	—	12
8.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation		US \$	290.9	20.019	40.767	30.076
9	Upper Kolab Irrigation	Japan	Jap. Yen	3769	144.5	377.8	413
10	Upper Indrawati Irrigation	Japan	Jap Yen	3744	529.9	565.4	547
11	Rengali Irrigation	Japan	Jap Yen	7760	—	141.5	664.2
12	Lift Irrigation, Orissa	Germany	Deut. Mrk	55	4.955	8.45	8.996
13	Exploration and Mgmt of Ground Water Tranch. II	Australia	US \$	8.097	0.518	1.076	0.204
14.	Orissa Tribal Development	IFDA	US \$	12.2	1.336	3	1.406
15	Minor Irrigation in Orissa	EC	Euro	10.7	—	0.099	0.366
16	Orissa Health Systems Dev.	IDA	US \$	76.4	—	—	3.6
17	Revised National T.B. Control Prg. Orissa Ph.I	Denmark	Danish Kr.	54.8	2.124	0	0
18	Orissa Family Welfare	UK	UK Pd	18	1.71	0.141	—
19.	Orissa Health and Farm. Welfare, Ph.III	UK	UK Pd	1.748	—	—	0.046
20.	Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter, Orissa	Germany	Deut. Mrk	5	0.853	2.109	1.371
21.	UK/India Cuttack Urban Services Improvement	UK	UK Pd	11.49	—	0.849	0
22	Orissa Environmental Programme	Norway	Nor.Kr.	40	0	7.8	3.699
PUNJAB							
1	Punjab Afforestation	Japan	Jap.Yen	6193	—	63.3	567.5
2	Punjab Irrigation	IDA	US \$	145.285	29.175	16.402	21.551
3.	Punjab Water Resources MG	Jap Gr WB	US \$	2.225	0.29	0.189	0.067
RAJASTHAN							
1.	A.D.P. Rajasthan Agriculture Dev.	IDA	US \$	108	14.556	11.155	13.136
2.	PAWDI Project Rajasthan	Switzerland	Indian Re	77.84	11.5	0	6.55
3	Indira Gandhi Afforestation	Japan	Jap. Yen	7869	520.4	584.5	532.5
4	Afforestation Project Aravalli Hills	Japan	Jap. Yen	8095	1267.3	1213.8	1142
5.	Rajasthan Forestry Development	Japan	Jap. Yen	4219	602.9	866.8	878.3
6	Rajasthan Power Sector Restr. (IBRD)	WB	US \$	2	0	0.28	0
7	Rajasthan Agri. Drainage	Canada	Can. \$	14.988	1.345	2.5	2
8.	Dungarpur Integrated Waterland Dev.	Sweden	Sw. Kr.	80	16.842	5.517	10.592
9.	Rajasthan Minor Irrigation	Germany	Deut.Mrk	2.7	0.142	0.176	0.482
10.	Rajasthan Minor Irrigation-I	Germany	Deut Mrk	12.3	1.118	0.308	—
11	EEC Sidhmukh & Nohar Irrigation	EC	Euro	45	11.61	1.349	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	Non-Formal Education (Shikshakarmi)	Sweden	Sw Kr.	52	0	—	—
13	Shikshakarmi Project Ph. II	Sweden	Sw. Kr.	60	33.654	9.309	16
14	Rajasthan District Primary Education		US \$	81.9	—	—	—
15	Lok Jumbish Programme - Basic Education	Sweden	Sw. Kr.	21	—	0	—
16	Lok Jumbish Programme - Phase II	Sweden	Sw. Kr.	100	19.109	30.636	31.442
17	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply Ph.I	Germany	Deut. Mrk	40	1.766	10.383	7.682
18	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply Ph.I	Germany	Deut Mrk	95	3.382	10.369	8.677
19	Residential Schools Project, Raj.	Germany	Deut Mrk	18	—	0	0
TAMIL NADU							
1	Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development	IDA	US \$	92.8	15.84	11.094	5.767
2.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development	IBRD	US \$	20	0	0	9.25
3.	Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture TANWA Ph.II	Denmark	Dan. Kr.	58.051	3.822	6.281	7.314
4.	Comprehensive Watershed Dev, Ramanathapuram	Denmark	Dan.Kr.	26.42	0	2.027	3.223
5	Comprehensive Watershed Dev, Tirunelveli, Ph.II	Denmark	Dan.Kr.	68.47	2.956	9.136	4.707
6.	Sheep Development	EC	Euro	6	0.479	0	—
7	Tamilnadu Afforestation	Japan	Jap. Yen	13324	0	1072	1643
8	Tamilnadu Social Forestry Ph.I	Sweden	Sw.Kr.	278.3	5.693	0	—
9	NLC Study Expert	Germany	Deut. Mrk	1.5	0.654	0	—
10	Basin Bridge Gas Turbine II	Japan	Jap. Yen.	11450	639.5	577.4	0
11	Expansion of Lignite Mine & Power Stn.	Germany	Deut Mrk	375.2	—	18.804	104.972
12	North Madras Thermal Power	ADB	US \$	110.391	0.535	-7.168	-1.956
13	Second North Madras Thermal Power	ADB	US \$	170	9.124	7.331	7.047
14	Chennai Port Trust	ADB	US \$	15.2	—	—	0
15	TN Small Scale Ind Dev.	Japan	Jap. Yen.	3198	48.6	—	—
16	TN Water Resources Consolidation	IDA	US \$	282.9	2.064	1.939	19.263
17	Madras Water Supply and Sanitation	IBRD	US \$	48.259	12.545	—	—
18	Second Madras Water Supply	IBRD	US \$	86.5	0.939	9.713	13.265
19	Tank Irrigation System (Ph.II) TN	EC	Euro	24.5	1.964	1.723	0.222
20	Second TN Nutrition Project	IDA	US \$	72.844	13.355	4.552	—
21	Tamil Nadu Women's Development	IFAD	US \$	13.15	4.723	2.043	1.616
22	National Leprosy Eradication Ph. II	Denmark	Dan. Kr.	70	0.65	0	1.515
23.	Rural Water & Sanitation, Ph.II, TN	Denmark	Dan. Kr.	60	1.46	0	3.03
24.	Health Care Project Ph.II, TN	Denmark	Dan. Kr.	66.4	0.51	0	—
25.	Health Care Project Ph. III, TN	Denmark	Dan. Kr.	102.5	1.947	0	7.899
26.	Pudukottai Livestock Dev.	Denmark	Dan.Kr.	22	0	0	—
27.	Pudukottai Livestock Dev. Pjt. Ph.II	Denmark	Dan Kr.	51.48	0	0	0
28.	Integrated Rural Sanitation & Water Supply	Denmark	Dan Kr.	35	0	1.239	—
29	Improvement of Equipment	Japan	Jap Yen	667	—	652.2	9.9
30	Imports of Raw Materials	Japan	Jap. Yen	115.4	—	—	114.9
31.	I.C.D.S. Ph.II	Sweden	Sw. Kr.	55	2.888	0	—
32.	I.C.D.S. Ph.III	Sweden	Sw. Kr.	60	12.856	16.515	18.669

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.	Tamilnadu Urban Development	IDA	US \$	255.667	38.535	25.467	-
34.	Chennai Sewerage Reno & Funct. Improvement	Japan	Jap. Yen	17098	-	214.8	80.4
UTTAR PRADESH							
1.	UP Sodic Land	IDA	US \$	194.1	-	-	0
2.	UP Sodic Land Reclamation	IDA	US \$	54.7	10.503	8.076	12.227
3.	South Bhagirathi (Supply of Fert.) Ph.II	EC	Euro	8.4	0	0	-
4.	UP Diversified Agriculture Support	IDA	US \$	50	-	-	5.455
5.	UP Diversified Agriculture Support	IDA	US \$	79.9	-	-	0
6.	Usar Reclamation in UP-Grant India 1997-2003	Netherlands Ditch. Gldr		4	-	-	0
7.	Doon Valley Integrated Watershed Management	EC	Euro	22.5	2.369	0.853	5.154
8.	Revine Stabilization in UP	EC	Euro	7.9	-	0	0
9.	UP Forestry	IDA	US \$	52.94	-	0	7.425
10.	Gomti River Pollution Control, Ph.I, Env Grant 93	UK	UK Pound	2.133	0.166	0.067	0.12
11.	Anpara Power Transmission-I	Japan	Jap. Yen	19318	5605.9	5087.2	2233.9
12.	Anpara 'B'	Japan	Jap. Yen	13224	0	-	-
13.	Anpara 'B' Stage V	Japan	Jap. Yen	17638	4722.2	2861.5	1206.9
14.	Anpara Power Transmission-II	Japan	Jap. Yen	12020	700.9	3416.5	1437.2
15.	UP Power Sector	WB	US \$	2	0.135	0	0.063
16.	Supply of Fertilizer (Bhimtal int.)	EC	Euro	4.4	0	0	0
17.	UP Rural Water Supply & Env. San.	IBRD	US \$	59.6	2.403	0.703	6.258
18.	Grant India 1995-04, Bundelkhand Integ. Water	Netherlands Ditch. Gldr		13.388	1.352	0	0
19.	UP Primary Education	IDA	US \$	165	35.832	32.636	20.127
20.	UP Basic Education-II	IDA	US \$	59.4	-	7.5	20.55
21.	Basti Distt. Hospital	OPEC	US \$	6.5	0	1.436	0
22.	UP Urban Development	IDA	US \$	127.152	18.381	-	-
WEST BENGAL							
1.	West Bengal Forestry	IDA	US \$	34	8.097	3.474	1.03
2.	Industrial Pollution Control	Japan	Jap. Yen	1525	0	113	96
3.	Teesta Canal HEP-IDP-40	Japan	Jap. Yen	8025	210.4	467.1	441.5
4.	Teesta Canal HEP-IDP-72	Japan	Jap. Yen	6222	1620.1	1012.2	524.2
5.	Barkreshwar Thermal Power Unit-3 Extension	Japan	Jap. Yen	8659	31.1	2325.5	5283
6.	Purulia Pumped Storage	Japan	Jap. Yen	20520	373.7	485.5	384.1
7.	West Bengal Transmission System	Japan	Jap. Yen	11087	0	63.3	76.8
8.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power	Japan	Jap. Yen	27069	4220.8	12646.3	9907.9
9.	Kolaghat Thermal Power Stn. Fly-Ash	Japan	Jap. Yen	171	0	-	-
10.	Sterilization and Milk Packaging NDDB	France	Fr. Franc	147.7	0	3.94	-
11.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Project-II	Japan	Jap. Yen	34151	-	4.4	11127.1
12.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Unit-3	Japan	Jap. Yen	11537	-	-	0
13.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Unit-3 Extn.	Japan	Jap. Yen	8659	31.1	-	-
14.	Calcutta Transport Infrastructure	Japan	Jap. Yen	10679	0	345	81.5
15.	UK India West Bengal Primary Edn.	UK	UK Pound	37.706	0	0.118	1.5
16.	Cultural Grant for Indian Museum, Calcutta	Japan	Jap. Yen	50	-	0	50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17	Rural Water Supply	Germany	Deut. Mrk	50	2.784	5.187	2.966
18	Procurement of Medical & other Equipment	Germany	Deut. Mrk	60	—	—	—
19	Calcutta Slum Improvment	UK	UK Pound	16.944	1.291	0.248	0.325
20	West Bengal Municipal Dev TF-25472	IBRD	US \$	0.927	—	—	0
21	West Bengal Municipal Dev. TF-25573	IBRD	US \$	0.469	—	—	0

PONDICHERRY

1	Tank Rehabilitation Project		Euro	6.65	0	0	0
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DELHI

1	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System		Jap. Yen	14760	0	0	248
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Multistate Projects

Sl. No.	Participating States	Name of the project	Source	Currency	Loan/Grant Amount	Disbursement During 1996-97	Disbursement During 1997-98	Disbursement During 1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	GUJ, RAJ, OR	Integrated Water Shed Dev. Plains (R.F.) - 2131-IN	IDA	US\$	55	14.53	7.645	8.34
2.	HP, JK, PUN, HAR	Integrated Water Shed Dev. (Hills) (R.F.) - 2100-IN	IDA	US\$	75	8.208	7.121	11.931
3.	AP, BR, OR, UP, WB	Shrimp & Fish Culture	IDA	US\$	36.487	4.049	0	8.022
4.	AP, HAR, TN	Agriculture & Human Resources	IDA	US\$	59.5	3.281	6.988	7.808
5.	AP, JK, KTK, TN, WB	National Sericulture	IDA	US\$	134.39	6.262	4.069	—
6.	AP, TN	Sericulture Promotion in AP & TN	Switzerland	Ind. Rs.	41.055	0	0	—
7.	AP, WB, TN, KER	National Sericulture	Switzerland	Swiss Fr.	40	4.422	2.394	—
8.	HP, KTK	Indoa Norwegian Environment Programme	Norway	Nor. Kroner	24	—	0	3.114
9.	HAR, OR, PUN, TN	Second National Highway	IDA	US\$	153	28.168	41.805	36.236
10.	BR, MAH, UP, RJ	States Road	IBRD	US\$	103.375	15.281	4.725	0.039
11.	AP, GUJ, HAR, RAJ, TN	Road Infrastructure Dev. Tech. Asstt. Pr. - 4114-IN	IBRD	US\$	51.5	3	6.403	8.281
12.	AP, KTK, TN	Road Improvement	ADB	US\$	172.862	19.231	18.052	2.555
13.	AP, UP, OR, WB, RAJ, KTK, KER	Second Road Project-1041-IND	ADB	US\$	250	40.828	40.705	10.865
14.	AP	Second Port	ADB	US\$	122.69	18.139	6.864	—
15.	BR, UP	Tourism Infrastructure Development	Japan	Jap. Yen	9244	1815.5	277.4	1085.8
16.	UP, RAJ, OR, TN, WB	Dam Safety Project (R.F.)	IDA	US\$	92.973	10.659	16.144	18.226
17.	AP, GUJ, HAR, MAH, KER, OR, TN	Hydrology in India	IDA	US\$	142	1.609	6.113	16.368
18.	AP, ASM, HAR, HP, MAH, WB, TN, PUN PO	Tech Education-II (R.F.)- 2223-IN	IDA	US\$	255.734	35.356	30.046	26.907
19.	BI, GUJ, KTK, KER, MP, RJ, UP OR, GOA, WB	Tech Education (R.F.)-2130-IN	IDA	US\$	210.735	39.476	25.742	36.114
20.	MAH, TN	5th Bombay & Madras Population	IDA	US\$	51.174	9.177	—	—
21.	AP, OR, MP	Integrated Child Development Services	IDA	US\$	74.348	11.333	19.916	1.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
22.	ASM, KTK, RAJ	Family Welfare	IDA	US \$	88.6	6.648	13.942	9.714
23.	ASM, GLJ, HAR, HP, KTK, KER, MAH, MP.	Ind Distt. Primary Education	IDA	US \$	425.2	8.491	16.114	64.006
24.	ASM, GLJ, HAR, HP, KTK, KER, MAH, MP, OR, UP, TN	T.B. Control	IDA	US \$	142.4	0	4.967	0
25.	BR, GLJ, HAR, KTK, MP, UP	Rural Women's Development	IDA	US \$	19.5	-	-	0
26.	ASM, MNPR, MEGH	North Eastern Regional Community Resources	IFAD	US \$	27.123	-	-	0
27.		Ajanta Ellora Conservation & Tourism Dev.	Japan	Jap. Yen.	3745	644.1	441.7	503.4
28.	MP, MAH, RAJ	Social Marketing by PSS & PSI	Germany	Deut Mark	15	0	1.044	2.682
29.	GLJ, KTK, KER, MP, RAJ, WB, DEL	Eco Dev. Project Global Envi. Fac.	WB	US\$	20	-	0.454	1.811
30.		District Poverty Alleviation	Japan	Jap. Yen	88.3	-	43.3	4.4
31.	OR, WB	Feasibility study for solid waste treatment	France	Fren. France	3.3	0	-	0

Improvement in the Export Share

2906. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any new decisions to improve the export share of plantation, agricultural and allied products, leather and manufactured leather products, Ores and Minerals, Gems and Jewellery which are steadily on decline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any pilot schemes to provide thrust to the export of agri-Horticulture and plantation products which are predominantly come from rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the export of Mango pulp and Mango products will be given priority in coming years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Government and the Commodity Boards/Export Promotion Councils are taking various measures in consultation with the concerned industries to promote export of these commodities. Financial assistance is being provided to improve the quality of products, processing and packaging to suit the requirements of overseas buyers; main importing countries as well as the countries having potential markets are identified and targeted in order to sort out country specific problems and boost demand; special attention is paid for participation in international fairs/exhibitions/seminars; buyer-seller meets are being organised; problems concerning individual exporters are being sorted out.

As regards natural rubber which is a plantation crop, traditionally India has been a net importing country. The

quantity of natural rubber exported during the last few years has been insignificant on account of lower international prices compared to prevailing domestic prices.

(c) to (f) The Government has been taking various steps to boost the production and export of agriculture and horticulture products including fruits such as mango and its products.

Some of the measures taken to increase exports inter alia include providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for producing good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers, rejuvenation of old orchards and area expansion; provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment; providing financial assistance to exporters/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; grant of air-freight subsidy on export of selected fresh fruits and vegetables; establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of mangoes in overseas markets; setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various international airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits, vegetables and floriculture products.

Weight System in CIL

2907. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether losses of lacs of rupees is being incurred by the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited by showing the weight of Coal produced as under weight in the present system;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this act is being done by some self-motivated agencies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to rectify this system of under weight and computerise the weight in order to register its records in the Headquarters of Coal India Limited simultaneously; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (e) There is no system of weighment at the time of production. However, there is an established system for weighment of coal at the time of despatch to the consumers.

To make the weighing system efficient, weighbridges are being converted/replaced by electric weighbridges with printout system. Coal companies have planned to install more weighbridges with electronic system to cover all despatches of coal.

Indian Tyres in Pakistan

2908. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand of Indian tyres in Pakistan;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There is a significant demand for Indian Tyres and Tubes in Pakistan.

(b) No Indian delegation has visited Pakistan specifically to explore avenues of joint ventures in the field of Tyres and Tubes.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mineral Reserves

2909. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether abundant mineral reserves are available in the country, particularly in the tribal and scheduled castes dominated areas;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of these reserves, particularly with regard to the aforesaid areas and the names of various mineral available therein;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to explore the mineral reserves lying hidden in the above areas;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any definite policy and the programme for exploration of minerals, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(e) 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) Mineral deposits generally occur in remote and backward areas which are generally inhabited by the socially and economically vulnerable sections of society including the tribals. A statement on mineral reserves of important minerals in the country as on 1.1.96 and the States where these have been identified is given in enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The National Mineral Policy was announced in 1993 for development of minerals for the whole country including Maharashtra. One of the basic objectives of the National Mineral Policy, 1993 is to expedite exploration and identification of mineral wealth. Under this Policy, guidelines have been laid down for inviting private investment (including foreign direct investment) and also undertaking prospecting over large areas. So far 65 applications for prospecting licences over large areas covering more than 90,142 square kilometers have been approved. Further 57 proposals involving foreign direct investment amounting to Rs. 3367 crores have been approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board in the mining sector.

Statement

(In Million Tonnes)

Minerals	Reserves	States
1	2	3
1. Hematite	10052	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan
2. Magnetite	3408	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu,
3. Manganese Ore	176,477	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

1	2	3
4. Chromite	88,351	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.
5. Lead-Zinc Ore	189.55	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
6. Copper Ore	431.046	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
7. Gold Ore	17.696	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.
8. Diamond	1,065,056 Carats	Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh
9. Tin Ore	28.907	Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.
10. Tungsten Ore	25.868	Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal.
11. Rock Phosphate	146.95	Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
12. Apatite	13.236	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal
13. Asbestos	2.295	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
14. Bauxite	2.525	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
15. Dolomite	4,967.47	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
16. Graphite	3.109	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
17. Gypsum	239.312	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
18. Limestone	76,446	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Sikkim, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
19. Magnesite	233.329	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
20. Coal	196,029.88	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
21. Lignite	26,150	Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

*[English]***Import and Export of Cotton**

2910. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of import and export of cotton in the country during the last three years and in 1999, upto November; and

(b) the incentives are likely to be given to the farmers in the country, particularly in Haryana for increasing the export of fine cotton during the years 1999 and 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The quantum of cotton import and export during the last three years are as under:-

(In lakhs bales of 170 Kgs. each)

Cotton Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Import	Export
1996-97	0.30	16.82
1997-98	4.13	3.50
1998-99	7.87	0.9872
1999-2000	Nil	Nil

(as on 26.11.1999)

(b) Government of India allocate quota for export of cotton every year. Haryana State Co-operative Supply Marketing Federation Ltd. has been allotted an export quota of 10,000 bales (each of 170 kgs.) of raw cotton during the current cotton season 1999-2000 (Oct.-Sept.) The Haryana Co-operative Supply Marketing Federation Ltd. was also allotted 10,000 bales (each of 170 Kgs) for the cotton season 1998-99, however, the actual export was Nil.

Assistance to Gujarat

2911. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance given by public sector financial institutions like LIC, IFCI, IDBI, NABARD to Gujarat during each of the last two years;

(b) whether the assistance is very low in comparison to the other States; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As per information provided by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the details of financial assistance given by public financial institutions in Gujarat during the last two years is as under:

(Rs. crore)

Institutions	Disbursements	
	1997-98	1998-99
IDBI	3186.0	2345.4
IFCI	1344.7	698.8
SIDBI	548.2	323.3
IIBI	131.3	256.6
LIC	394.6	169.8
UTI	44.8	142.0
GIC	196.3	122.4
NABARD	56.9	45.2
Total	5902.8	4103.5
Per cent share of Gujarat to All India	16.9	12.0

(b) and (c) IDBI has reported that assistance disbursed by public financial institutions to State of Gujarat is quite high as compared to other States, and ranks second in terms of financial assistance sanctioned to different States.

Joint Bipartite Committee in Coal Industry

2912. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the decision of the Board of Directors of Coal India Limited to wind up the Joint Bipartite Committee in Coal Industry;

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

(c) whether the unions in coal industry have objected to the decision of the Coal India Management; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) The Board of Directors of Coal India Limited has passed a resolution on 16.7.1999 that a recommendation be made to the Department of Coal to wind up the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI) and that wage negotiations may be held at the subsidiary company level in accordance with the capacity of the subsidiary to pay.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) JBCCI is still in position and negotiations are in progress. No proposal has been received from CIL for winding up of JBCCI so far.

Export to SAARC Countries

2913. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any fresh initiatives to promote development and accelerate exports with SAARC member countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the details of review of trade with SAARC countries for the last three years and the details of the action plan with projections for 1999-2000; and

(d) the number of trade delegations visited among those countries during the last three years and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) To promote regional growth in SAARC member countries and to increase export within the region, common initiatives are taken by the member countries. The initiatives are reviewed from time to time. Such measures are removal of non-tariff barriers for intra-regional trade, co-operation in matters relating to customs procedures and regulations, promotion and protection of investments in the region, avoidance of double taxation, regional approach for standardisation and quality control, visa facilitation to promote trade related intra-regional movement, and trade fairs under SAARC umbrella. Further, there are bilateral institutional arrangements for discussions on trade related matters with countries in the SAARC region namely Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Maldives. With effect from 1.8.1998, restrictions on import of around 2000 items have been lifted in the case of their import from the SAARC member countries.

(c) and (d) The details of delegations exchanged with some of the SAARC member countries during the last three years for review of matters relating to trade are given below year-wise:-

1996-97

- (i) Commerce Secretary level talks were held on July 4, 1996 in Kathmandu for review of matters relating to India-Nepal Trade, Transit facilities for land-locked Nepal and Co-operation to control unauthorised trade.
- (ii) Meeting of the Third Session of India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission was held in Colombo on January 20-22, 1997 for discussions, inter-alia, on issues relating to bilateral trade and commerce.
- (iii) Fifth meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission was held in New Delhi on March 10.11.1997, for review, inter-alia, of bilateral co-operation in trade and commerce.

1997-98

Commerce Secretary level talks were held in New Delhi on March 30-31, 1998, for review of matters relating to bilateral trade, transit facilities for Nepal and cooperation to control unauthorised trade.

1998-99

- (i) Second SAARC Trade Fair was held at Sri

Lanka on September 8-15, 1998. Commerce Minister visited Colombo on September 9, 1998 to inaugurate the India Day at this Trade Fair.

- (ii) Committee Secretary level talks were held at Kathmandu on September 17-20, 1998 for review of matters relating to bilateral trade, transit facilities for Nepal and co-operation to control unauthorised trade.
- (iii) Commerce Secretary level talks were held in New Delhi on November, 10, 1998 for review of bilateral trade between India and Pakistan.
- (iv) Commerce Secretary level talks were held at New Delhi on November, 17-18, 1998 for review of matters relating to bilateral trade between Indian and Nepal transit facilities for Nepal through the Indian territory and co-operation to control unauthorised trade.
- (v) Bilateral trade review talks were held at Commerce Secretary level on December 7-9, 1998 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- (vi) Fourth Session of India-Sri Lanka Sub-Commission on Trade Finance and Investment was held at New Delhi on December 14-15, 1998.
- (vii) Commerce Minister visited Kathmandu on January, 5, 1999 for signing the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Transit.
- (viii) Commerce Minister visited Dhaka, on March 8-10, 1998 to inaugurate the Indian Trade Exhibition.

In addition to the trade delegations mentioned above, three rounds of negotiations have also been conducted by the officials concerned of the SAARC member countries under the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) to bring down the tariffs on Intra-regional trade.

Because of these measures, the export of India with SAARC countries has gone up. The figures are given below:-

(Rupees in Crores)		
Year	Export from India to the SAARC Region	Percentage of Increase
1996-97	5841.22	2.32
1997-98	6987.10	19.62
1998-99	7186.64	2.86

Projections for 1999-2000:-

Export performance depends on many factors like export surplus in the country of export and import requirements in other countries in the region. However, based on average growth during the previous years, a growth rate of around 8% may be projected for 1999-2000 and exports to the region during this period may be worth around Rs. 7,800 Crores.

Production of Opium

2914. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of opium in the country has declined;

(b) If so, the comparative figure of the opium production during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have identified the reasons for the shortfall in the opium production;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, during the crop year 1997-98, the production of opium had fallen as compared to the crop year 1996-97. The comparative figures for last three years are as follows:-

Crop Year	Production of opium at 70° consistency (in tonnes)
1996-97	1271
1997-98	335
1998-99	1248 (provisional)

(c) to (e) The reasons for the shortfall in the production of opium during the crop year 1997-98 were inclement weather, unseasonal rains and hail storms, which are beyond human control.

Heroin Manufacturing Laboratory in the Capital

2915. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Revealed : Heroin now cottage industry in city" appearing in the Express Newline dated December, 2 1999.

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the owner of the heroin manufacturing laboratory;

(d) whether the Government propose to assess the income and the tax paid by the owner of the laboratory; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Officers of Narcotics Control Bureau, Chennai seized 18.830 kg. of heroin from a hotel in Bangalore on 28.11.99. Syed Abu Ala of Delhi who had reportedly carried heroin from Delhi to Bangalore was arrested. In the follow-up investigations, search of his business and residential premises on 29.11.99 led to the recovery of 32.500 kg. of heroin and 70 litres of Acetic Anhydride alongwith some other chemicals and equipments. Three others including the son and wife of Syed Abu Ala have also been arrested.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Financial investigation has been taken up to assess the income and property of the accused persons and to ascertain the tax paid by them.

Inspection of Banks by RBI

2916. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which comments of the banks on the inspection reports were obtained by RBI during each of the last three years upon the follow-up action on the findings of inspection of banks by auditors; and

(b) the action taken by RBI thereon, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) RBI conducts inspection of banks under Section 35 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949. Findings of the inspection are discussed with the Chief Executives of the banks. RBI inspection report is also placed before the Board of Directors and the action taken report is sent by the bank to RBI. RBI follows up with the bank for corrective action till the deficiencies has been rectified to the satisfaction of RBI. This is a continuous process and as such it is not possible to list the details of cases as asked for.

VAT in States

2917. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an autonomous apex body to resolve various contentious issues for implementing Value Added Tax (VAT) in States;

(b) if so, the manner in which the individual State would resolve the problem of ensuring uniformity in classification of all goods for the purposes of export and inter-State trade; and

(c) the steps/action being proposed to implement VAT in the States?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the Conference of Chief Ministers and Finance Ministers convened by Union Finance Minister on 16.11.1999, it was decided that VAT will be implemented by all the States and Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2001. The interim period shall be used for preparatory steps, training including computerisation and publicity. A committee of Finance Ministers of the States has been set up in this regard.

[Translation]

Exploration of Mineral Reserves

2918. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to explore the possibility of mineral Wealth in Bihar during the last four years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the outcome; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) are carrying out exploration for minerals in the State. The investigation has resulted in establishing the resources of coal (474 mt.) and copper ores (6.04 mt.). The results achieved are satisfactory.

[English]

Development of New Silkwork-Bed

2919. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Silkworm Seed Technology Laboratory of the Central Silk Board has developed a new silkwork-bed disinfectant to prevent spread of disease in silkworm crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the Government for manufacture and marketing of this disinfectant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Silkworm Seed Technology Laboratory (SSTL) under Central Silk Board has evolved a wide spectrum new bed disinfectant viz., "Resham Jyothi" which is effective against grasserie, bacterial & infectious flacherie and muscardine diseases of silkworm.

(c) The Central Silk Board has initiated action to commercialize the said bed-disinfectant through National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) established by Government of India and engaged in commercial exploitation of indigenous technology. NRDC have entered into an agreement with M/s. Durga Biotech, Bangalore on behalf of Central Silk Board for taking up production of this bed disinfectant. The licence is being granted by Central Silk Board to this firm on payment of lumpsum premium of Rs. 6.00 lakhs on non-exclusive basis for a period of 10 years. The production is expected to commence in January, 2000.

Threat from Regional Trade Pacts

2920. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn the newswitem captioned "threat from regional trade pacts" appearing in the Times of India dated the November 14, 1999;

(b) if so, whether many Indian exporters complained that protectionism is a rising threat in western markets;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d) All WTO members are allowed to provide protection to their domestic industry within the framework of the commitments undertaken by them under various Agreements of the WTO. The Dispute Settlement Mechanism of WTO provides for remedial measures if any action or policy of a member is considered to be violative of the obligations of the member concerned or is likely to adversely affect the local industry. On receipt of complaints from Indian exporters regarding protectionism in the Western markets, Government have taken up the matter with the concerned countries on a bilateral basis. Till date, India has appointed the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in 9 cases so far. All these cases relate to denial of market access for Indian products. The countries/regions involved are European Union (3 cases), U S A (3 cases), Poland (1case), Turkey (1 case) and South Africa (1 case). In 4 cases, the DSB has ruled in India's favour, one has been dropped, one amicably settled while 3 cases are continuing.

Financing Through RIDF

2921. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether indigenous breeds of cattle are not entitled to financing (cow and bullocks) by NABARD whereas cross breed cattle can only be financed;

(b) If so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken by NABARD to provide credit for indigenous breeds of cattle also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) extends refinance assistance to Co-operatives, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Commercial Banks for providing credit facilities to farmers for agriculture and allied activities in the country. Animal Husbandry is an activity under thrust area for availing of refinance from NABARD. The type of cattle eligible for NABARD refinance is given below:

The animal to be financed should be of a distinct breed, coming from an identifiable breed, which among buffaloes includes Murrah, Surti, Mehsana, Dharwar, Nagpuri, Bhadawari or any other *descript local breed* or upgraded variety obtained by crossing a *descript local breed* with superior bull. Among cows, it can be Sahiwal, Red Sindhi, Tharparkar, Rath, Gir, Ongole, Deoni or a cross-breed from an improved or exotic bull.

Closure of Bank Branches

2922. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of branches of nationalized banks have been closed in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per the information available with Andhra Bank, the Convenor Bank for State Level Bankers' Committee for Andhra Pradesh, two bank branches located in urban areas were closed as they were found to be non-viable.

Net Asset Value of UTI

2923. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UTI had changed its net asset value (NAV);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which this change is likely to help the small investors in UTI;

(d) whether benefits from UTI are not being passed on to small investors; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that UTI should adopt an "Investor Friendly Price Mechanism"?

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

(b) and (c) With a view to enable the existing as well as new investors to realise the actual market worth of their investments, UTI has switched over from historical NAV to prospective NAV for its 20 equity schemes which are available for sale and/or repurchase on a continuous basis, effective from 29th November, 1999. Under the new method, sale and repurchase of the units is effected on the basis of the NAV of the date on which the application is accepted. This step is in line with international practice and has thus been taken to benefit all investors i.e. existing, exiting and prospective.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. All benefits, net of costs of operation under each UTI scheme are passed on to the investors of the respective schemes.

Comprehensive Plan for Development of Sericulture

2924. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any specific scheme/comprehensive plan for the development of sericulture, mulberry and upliftment of tasar silk work in the tribal sub-plan areas in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds provided during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 till date, State-wise; and

(d) the details of achievements made so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Ninth Plan envisages an increase in the production of mulberry raw silk by 6000 tonnes and 540 tonnes of non-mulberry silk through research and development, transfer of technology, seed support and assistance to States. Apart from the North East Action Plan and the Poorvanchal Sericulture Project which are continuing from the VIIIth Plan, the Govt. of India has sanctioned implementation of 36 Catalytic Development Schemes during IXth plan through Central Silk Board. Besides, the States of Madhya Pradesh and Manipur have undertaken implementation of the Project with financial assistance from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan in respect of tasar and mulberry sericulture respectively. In addition, under the Fibres and Handicrafts Programme with UNDP assistance development programmes are being implemented in the non-mulberry sector. The Government of India have sanctioned 36 Catalytic Development Schemes involving an outlay of Rs. 89.27 crores during the Ninth Five Year Plan, in collaboration with the States. In case of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, the Central Silk Board has offered all the

38 Catalytic Development Schemes and requested them to projectise and send the proposals. The Government of Madhya Pradesh posed 21 schemes with a total outlay of Rs. 429.54 lakhs which have been approved for implementation and the Central Silk Board has released a sum of Rs. 90 lakhs till September, 1999.

In Maharashtra the Central Silk Board has approved implementation of the 10 Catalytic Development Schemes posed by Maharashtra Government at a total outlay of Rs. 124.79 lakhs and the Central Silk Board has released Rs. 41.46 lakhs till September, 1999. Besides, an Integrated Tropical Tasar Development Project covering 6 major tasar silk producing States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa, is under preparation.

(c) The State-wise details of funds released by Central Silk Board during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (till September, 1999) are given in enclosed statement-I.

(d) As a result of the implementation of the developmental programmes, the overall production raw silk has increased from 14126 MT in 1996-97 to 15444 MT by the end of 1998-99. The State-wise details of achievement are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Funds released by CSB during			
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 Upto Sept.
1	2	3	4	5	6
A. Traditional States					
1.	Karnataka	19.63	13.88	119.95	67.18
2.	Tamil Nadu	13.12	1.19	137.92	21.00
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.72	11.56	67.36	6.96
4.	Andhra Pradesh	5.41	0.14	91.22	44.82
5.	West-Bengal	2.44	0.37	64.74	1.14
Sub-Total-A		41.32	27.14	481.19	141.10
B. Non Traditional States					
6.	Maharashtra	5.47	9.19	32.08	0.19
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3.09	1.90	77.03	10.95
8.	Orissa	4.04	2.16	75.54	3.95
9.	Bihar	2.58	0.39	7.49	1.62
10.	Uttar Pradesh	64.45	4.63	24.68	1.22

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Kerala	0.16	0.18	8.18	0.33
12.	Gujarat	0.13	-	2.67	0.12
13.	Punjab	0	-	0.58	-
14.	Haryana	0.57	-	0.75	-
15.	Himachal Pradesh	0	-	1.05	-
16.	Rajasthan	0.09	0.14	3.24	-
17.	Sikkim	0	-	2.72	-
Sub Total-B		80.58	18.59	236.01	18.38

C. North Eastern States

18.	Assam	92.48	6.31	62.41	3.87
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	24.98	-	2.91	-
20.	Manipur	17.63	0.31	0.17	-
21.	Meghalaya	90.00	-	3.62	0.27
22.	Mizoram	12.20	-	54.42	5.01
23.	Nagaland	8.95	0.40	13.16	-
24.	Tripura	47.81	-	4.88	2.41
Sub Total-C		293.55	7.02	141.57	11.56
Grand Total A + B + C		415.45	52.75	858.77	171.04

Apart from the above Catalytic Developmental Programmes, CSB has been implementing certain Joint Projects (which are continued from VIII Plan). The details of amount released/spend by CSB upto Sept., 99 under these projects are as follows :-

Rs. Lakhs

Sl. No.	Joint Projects	Total releases till 1999-2000 (Upto Sept.)
1.	Project for development of sericulture in Eastern U.P. (Poorvanchal Project)	0
2.	Action Plan for sericulture development in N.E. States.	0
3.	Development of nature grown tasar cocoons in Madhya Pradesh	0.00
Total for Joint Project		0.00

Statement-II
Catalytic Developmental Schemes being implemented by CSB during IX Plan (1997-98 to 2001-2002)
[(Scheme-wise and State-wise Physical achievements from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 (Upto Sept. 99)]

[[Scheme-wise and State-wise Physical achievements from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 (C/o Dept. Ser)]]

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project Programme	Traditional States (5#)					Non-Traditional States other than North Eastern States (12#)												North Eastern States (7#)							Total
		Kar- nataka	T. Nadu	J. Andhra & K. P.	W. Bengal	Maha- Rashtra	M.P.	Orissa	Bihar	UP	Kerala	Goa- rat	Pun- jab	Har- yana	H.P.	Rajas- than	Sikkim	Assam	Ar. Pradesh	Mizor- am	Naga- land	Tri- pura				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
I.	Catalytic Development Assistance to Industry																									
1.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of mulberry reeling units.	.								.														.	109	
	Physical (No. of units)	53	18	6	8		10	1		13																
2.	Installation of Common Facility Centres for handloom silk processing.																		1						10	
	Physical (No. of units)	1	3	3			1	1																		
3.	Enterprise Development Programmes.																		2		1				30	
	Physical (No. of units)	14	4	1	4	3		1				1														
4.	Creation of Growth Centres for production of quality silk.																								6	
	Physical No. of units	2		2						2																
5.	Support for quality enhancement for the silk sector																									
	Physical (No. of SSI units)																									
6.	Support to Reeling Units.																								5+28 bene	
	Physical i) Working Capital assistance (No. of units)	1		4						28 bene.															70	
	ii) Incentive provided (quantity of raw silk-MT)			39				1		30																

* 49 units covered during 1996-97

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
7. Demonstration of backward integration in the reeling sector																											
Physical (No. of units)																											
8. Promotion of Resource conservation Technology through Economic Ovens.																											
Physical (No. of ovens)			300	20			280																				600
9. By-product use development projects																											
Physical (No. projects)									5	4																	9
10. Assistance to ISEPC for the project on silk fashion garments																											
Physical (No. of projects)								1																			1
11. Catalytic Development Assistance to States.																											
Mulberry																											
12. Creation of improved mulberry variety banks in states																											
Physical (Qty. of seed/cutting-Lah nos.)			7.14	1.35	-	4.50	0.18	0.90	3.99	1.20	0.39	1.50	1.20					0.80		0.50				1.20	0.12	24.97	
13. On farm training and supply of start up tools to new Mulberry sericulturists																											
Physical (No. of tool kits)				600	1000	1000	354	1809	1000			550						80						1100	266	7759	
14. Support for equipment upgradation of existing State/Parasutal/Co-operative infrastructure in seed and reeling in non traditional States.																											
Physical (No. of units)									5															10	1		16

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
15. Promotion of resource conservation technologies through drip irrigation.																											
Physical (Hectares)			225	220	200																						
16. Master Reeler assistance to states Physical (No. of master reellers)								3	1	1	1	2											1				
17. Crop Insurance Support for Mulberry																											
Physical (Lakh Dfls)							0.70																				
18. Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure																											
Physical (No. of units)										1																	1
19. Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-operative Societies) for upgradation and popularisation of improved reeling/spinning devices for tropical tasar.																											
Physical (No. of Devices)					2		52	10	126	82	46	9															
20. Crop Insurance Support for Tassar																											
Physical (Lakh Dfls)							1.20																				
21. Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start up tools																											
Physical (No. of half acre units)																				362	30		102	142	96		762
22. Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure.																											
Physical (No. of centres/grainages)																				3				2	1		6

₹. In addition, indents received for 69 units during 1999-2000.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
31	Support for Installation of quality linked cocoon purchase systems in non traditional States.																											
	Physical (cocoons-MT)								350	471																	821	
32	Support for installation of quality linked yarn purchase systems																											
	Physical (Not Quantifiable)																											
33	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of a demonstrative kind adopted by States.																											
	Physical (No. of beneficiaries)	200		3600	20	50		110			18 CRCs	150							Equipments						100		4230+ 18 CRCs	
34	Support for Studies, Consultancies and Surveys																											
	Physical (Not Quantifiable)																											
35	Support for data base development																											
	Physical (Not Quantifiable)																											
36	Support for preparation of extension and publicity material in local languages																											
	Physical (Not Quantifiable)																											
37	Support for product development, diversification and buyer awareness programmes.																											
	Physical (No. of projects)							1	1															5			7	
Joint Projects **																												
1.	Project for development of sericulture in Eastern U.P. (Poorvanchal Project)																										1051	
	Physical (Area-acres)											1051																
2.	Action Plan for sericulture development in N.E. States																											
	Physical (Area-acres)																				792	331	341	-	302	270	435	2471

Damage of Pots in Aluminium Plant

2925. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5346 dated July 23, 1998 and Unstarred Question No. 191 dated December 3, 1998 regarding the damage or pots in NALCO at Angul, Orissa and state :

(a) the action taken so far, after the submission of report by the high level enquiry committee;

(b) whether any particular person or persons have been held responsible for the damage and loss;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) The recommendations made by the high-level committee have been implemented in Aluminium Smelter of NALCO at Angul and as a result thereof, the position has normalised. The number of pots in operation before the crisis was 430, it had gone down to 238 pots during the crisis, and has now increased to 455 (as on 30.11.1999).

(b) and (c) Three functional Directors of the Company were found lacking in managerial ability and leadership quality leading to the crisis in the pot lines and consequent loss in production. Out of them, two functional Directors, including the then Chairman-cum-Managing Director, have been retired at the age of 58 years. The third functional Director, has been issued a charge sheet.

(d) In order to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future, critical operating parameters are closely monitored at the Company level and the position is reviewed by the Government periodically.

Agreement with Australia

2926. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Australia have signed pacts to promote the investment;

(b) if so, whether India have also signed such pacts with other countries like France and Germany recently; and

(c) if so, the extent to which India's trade with these countries has further improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) was signed with Australia on 26.2.99.

(b) BIPAs, with Germany and France were signed on 10.7.95 and 2.9.97 respectively.

(c) Trade figures in respect of Australia, France and Germany are given below :-

Country	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (April-August)	
	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
Australia	438.27	1485.56	389.79	1493.08	166.30	465.47
France	759.66	797.74	842.51	726.311	353.23	235.83
German	1925.30	2528.84	1884.61	2138.73	735.02	692.73
F. Rep.						

Export Promotion Industrial Parks

2927. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought Central assistance for the implementation of Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) at Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka had sought approval of the Central Government for setting up of a second Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) in the State, at Mangalore. As per the scheme, a second EPIP in a State could be considered only after the first one has been established and is found to be operating successfully. Subject to this, the Inter Ministerial Steering Committee on EPIP in the Ministry of Commerce has decided, in principle, to recommended proposal for setting up of a second Park at Mangalore but has not made any financial commitment.

Assistant to Weaving Mills in Cooperative Sector

2928. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme for providing assistance to the weaving mills in Co-operative Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Union Government have not formulated have any specific scheme for providing financial assistance to the weaving mills in the cooperative sector. However, government have launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textile and jute industry, including weaving mills in co-operative sector. Under this scheme, a reimbursement of five percent in the interest chargeable will be made by the government to the borrowers through financial institutions in respect of projects approved by such institutions.

Release of Fund for Panchayat Institutions

2929. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to release Rs. 100 crores for Panchayat Institutions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Tenth Finance Commission has recommended a total grant of Rs. 221.77 crores to the Panchayati Raj Institutions of Karnataka. A sum of Rs. 110.88 crores has already been released to the State Government. The State Government have requested for the release of the balance of Rs. 110.89 crores. The same will be released after they have fulfilled the requirements of the guidelines prescribed in this regard.

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

2930. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C & AG has criticised the Government for disinvestment of PSUs shares at prices lower than real prices;

(b) if so, the details in the regard;

(c) the names of PSUs for which C & AG criticised the Government; and

(d) the reasons for which the Government had dealt with MNCs like British Gas, Templeton, Enron and Fidelity who has purchased 20% of GAIL's equity through global GDRs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) CAG in its Report No. 14 for the year ended 31st March, 1992 had stated that the method adopted for sale of share in bundles depressed value realisation of "Very Good/Good" PSUs as a result of their being clubbed with "Average" PSUs. The report indicated cases of eight PSUs viz IRCON, HMT, HCL, RCFL, NFL, HPF, CMC & DCL in which the average realisation was less than the reserve price.

(d) The pricing of GAIL GDRs is based on Book Building process. This process essentially means market driven price i.e. the price, which the investors are prepared to pay for a particular share at a given point of time. This process is being followed for deciding the issue price for GDR markets. During the GAIL GDR issue 78 investment companies (both Indian and Foreign) bought GDRs. Absence of these investment companies like British Gas, Templeton, Enron etc. from the GDR offering transaction would have meant a weaker book. Even otherwise denying these corporates from participating in the GDR offering could not have prevented them from acquiring the same shares in the secondary market.

[Translation]

Handloom Sector in Jammu and Kashmir

2931. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by the handicrafts and handloom sectors in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that due to prevalent corruption in the Handicrafts Board and Handloom Board, these sectors did not get benefits and the achievements were not made; and

(c) If so, the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) For the promotion and development of handicrafts and handloom during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 a sum of Rs. 144.43 lakhs, Rs. 410.22 and Rs. 120.14 lakhs has been released to the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) All India Handicrafts Board and All India Handloom Board are advisory bodies and no instance of corruption relating to them has been brought to the attention of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Entrance of SBI in Insurance Sector

2932. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has expressed its intention to enter into the insurance business alongwith a foreign partner;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Bank of India has also expressed to the Government for lowering the Government's stake in SBI to below 51 per cent and increasing the quantum of equity to 30 per cent; and

(d) If so, the steps taken by the SBI to raise funds to meet its growth objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India had expressed its intention to enter into insurance business. Towards this end, SBI has initiated steps to firm up a potential partner to enter into life insurance and pension related business through its subsidiary with due regard to the provisions of the legislation.

(c) and (d) Government of India does not hold equity in SBI. The Reserve bank of India (RBI) holds 59.73% of the equity in SBI. Under the existing statutory provisions, RBI share-holding in SBI cannot go below 55%. As such, SBI can raise more capital upto the level where RBI holdings is at a minimum statutory level. SBI can also raise tier II capital as per the guidelines issued by RBI, by issue of bonds to meet increasing needs of capital. However, as informed by SBI, there is no specific proposal presently under consideration of SBI for immediately increasing the capital of the bank.

Top Fifty I.T. Payee

2933. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the detail of top fifty companies/persons who have paid the highest amount of the Central Excise and Income Tax during the last two years including this year, so far;

(b) the name of the fifty companies/persons against whom the highest amount of Central Excise Tax/Income Tax outstanding; and

(c) the list of those who are in red and who are in black, both public and private sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Sir, Details of top 50 companies/persons who have paid the highest amount of Central excise and income tax during assessment years 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in enclosed statement-I and II respectively.

(b) Names of 50 companies/persons against whom the highest amount of income tax is outstanding are given in enclosed statement-III. Names of 50 major companies against whom central excise is outstanding, is given in enclosed statement-IV.

(c) There is no such classification of companies by the income tax and excise authorities.

Statement-I

*Top 50 Companies/Persons who have paid the Highest amount of
Central Excise and Income Tax during 1997-98*

(Rupees in Crores) CENTRAL EXCISE			(Rupees in Crores) INCOME TAX		
Sl. No.	Name	Amount Paid	Sl. No.	Name	Amount Paid
1.	ITC Ltd. Bangalore	1418.90	1.	LIC of India	520.82
2.	IOC Vadodara	749.54	2.	State Bank of India Mumbai	1139.89
3.	Maruti Udyog Ltd. Gurgaon	690.10	3.	MTNL Ltd. New Delhi	496.77
4.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	659.10	4.	ONGC Ltd.	540.77
5.	SAIL B.S. City Jamshedpur	590.70	5.	Tata Iron & Steel Ltd.	74.76
6.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	542.25	6.	IDBI Mumbai	396.19
7.	ITC Ltd. Meerut	530.04	7.	BHEL New Delhi	364.85
8.	ITC Ltd. Munger	519.17	8.	Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	716.52
9.	Tisco Ltd. Jamshedpur	490.24	9.	Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.	337.58
10.	SAIL BSP Bhilai	471.00	10.	Videsh Samachar Nigam Ltd.	402.37
11.	Godfrey Phillips (I) Ltd.	396.00	11.	Indian Oil Corp. Ltd.	367.39
12.	VST Industries Ltd.	386.10	12.	Maruti Udyog Ltd. N. Delhi	297.77
13.	Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	383.95	13.	South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.	251.02
14.	BPC Ltd. Refinery Dvn	374.42	14.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	244.00
15.	IOC Mathrua Refinery	369.88	15.	Telco Mumbai	245.11
16.	ITC Ltd. Calcutta	349.08	16.	Bajaj Auto Ltd. Mumbai	242.19
17.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	302.80	17.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	206.72
18.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	298.83	18.	Hindustan Lever Ltd.	183.02
19.	IPCL Ltd. Raigad	298.41	19.	Ingersollrand (I) Ltd. Mumbai	16.84
20.	Oil India Ltd. Shillong	277.97	20.	Western Coal Fields Ltd.	178.83
21.	IPCL Vadodara	260.45	21.	ITC Ltd. Calcutta	137.00
22.	IOC Ltd., Sabarmati	259.00	22.	CITI Bank Mumbai	141.00
23.	BPCL, Sewree Mumbai	236.36	23.	Canara Bank Bangalore	178.37
24.	HPCL, Mumbai	223.95	24.	TATA Electric Co. Mumbai	131.43
25.	Telco Pimpri	223.21	25.	Hindalco Ind. Ltd. Mumbai	122.98
26.	IOC Haldia, Calcutta	217.70	26.	GIC of India Mumbai	118.13
27.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	195.47	27.	Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	111.07
28.	SAIL RSE Rourkela	191.17	28.	Punjab National Bank N. Delhi	118.39
29.	M & M Ltd. Nasik	184.45	29.	State Bank of Saurashtra	46.22
30.	HPCL (POL) Mangalore	178.15	30.	Excel Industries Ltd. Mumbai	10.08
31.	Esser Steel Ltd. Surat	175.67	31.	Union Bank of India Mumbai	99.36
32.	IOC Ltd. Ambala Cantt	170.45	32.	Bank of America	127.58
33.	HPCL Mumbai	170.00	33.	Tata Power Co. Ltd. Mumbai	74.27
34.	ONGC Sibsagar, Shillong	167.53	34.	Hongkong & Shanghai Bank. Ltd.	111.17
35.	Bajaj Auto Ltd. Aurangabad	164.12	35.	Corporation Bank Mangalore	82.79
36.	ITC Ltd. Ghaziabad	159.98	36.	ANZ Grindlays Bank N. Delhi	115.11
37.	Indian Oil Corp. Ltd. Madras	159.28	37.	IFCI Ltd. New Delhi	104.75
38.	Indian Oil Corp. Ltd. Jalandhar	158.75	38.	Deutsche Bank AG Mumbai	121.70
39.	Cairn Engery Pvt. Ltd. Vizag	154.32	39.	SBOP Patiala	78.63
40.	Durgapur Steel Plant	153.33	40.	Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. Ahmedabad.	97.61
41.	Hindustan Motor Ltd. Calcutta	145.85	41.	NTPC New Delhi	86.83
42.	IOC Ltd. Bijwasan Delhi	145.76	42.	Bannet & Coleman & Co.Ltd.	77.08
43.	GTC Industries Ltd. Mumbai	143.94	43.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	127.12
44.	Grasim Industries Ltd., Indore	141.58	44.	National Aluminium Co.	65.55
45.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	133.71	45.	Oil India Ltd. Shillong	117.79
46.	Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	126.38	46.	New India Assurance Co. Ltd.	151.57
47.	Bajaj Auto Ltd. Pune	124.53	47.	Power Finance Corp. N. Delhi	98.80
48.	IOC Baruanl Patna	124.48	48.	HDFC Ltd. Mumbai	50.50
49.	Asia Tobacco Co. Chennai	122.33	49.	Colgate Palmolive (I) Ltd. Mumbai	61.41
50.	Luxmi Tobacco Bhilai	120.66	50.	Bank of Baroda Mumbai	95.33

Statement-II

*Top 50 Companies/Persons who have paid the highest amount of
Central Excise and Income Tax During 1998-99*

(Rupees in Crores) CENTRAL EXCISE			(Rupees in Crores) INCOME TAX		
Sl. No.	Name	Amount Paid	Sl. No.	Name	Amount Paid
1.	ITC Ltd. Bangalore	1641.30	1.	Northern Coal Field Ltd.	305.49
2.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.	1192.50	2.	LIC of India	637.79
3.	Reliance Ind. Ltd.	1000.60	3.	State Bank of India	1197.79
4.	I.O.C. Vadodara	749.54	4.	ONGC Dehradun Co.	608.48
5.	ITC Ltd. Sre (Meerut)	626.23	5.	MTNL	517.44
6.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	594.10	6.	NTPC Ltd.	953.85
7.	SAIL B.S. City (Jamshedpur)	590.70	7.	BHEL	396.68
8.	TISCO Ltd. Jamshedpur	490.24	8.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.	221.89
9.	SAIL BSP Bhilai	484.40	9.	Gas Authority of India	340.67
10.	Hindustan Petroleum Corp.Ltd.	471.06	10.	IDBI	414.42
11.	ITC Ltd. Munger	465.67	11.	Punjab National Bank	268.63
12.	IOC Mathura Refinery	423.17	12.	ITC Ltd.	250.11
13.	BPC Ltd. Refinery Dvn. Mahul	413.35	13.	South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.	285.00
14.	VST Industries Ltd.	407.62	14.	Western Coal Fields Ltd.	235.63
15.	ITC Ltd. Calcutta	400.89	15.	Mahandi Coal Fields	220.00
16.	Godfrey Phillips (I) Ltd.	353.29	16.	Bank of Baroda	169.00
17.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	346.69	17.	Neyvellignite Corpn.Ltd.	185.41
18.	IOC Ltd. Sabarmati	322.67	18.	India Assurance Co. Ltd.	161.48
19.	BPCL, East Mumbai	282.22	19.	ANZ Grindlays Bank	200.84
20.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	260.74	20.	NALCO Ltd.	87.41
21.	IPCL Vadodara	260.45	21.	CITI Bank	189.16
22.	India Oil Corporation Ltd.	251.18	22.	Corporation Bank	97.71
23.	IPCL Ltd. Raigad	237.90	23.	Bank of America	157.82
24.	Telco Pimpri	232.09	24.	Deutsche Bank AG	126.41
25.	Reliance Industries Ltd. Mumbai	223.84	25.	GIC of India	99.73
26.	I.O.C. Haldia Midnapur	219.84	26.	Oil India Ltd.	118.29
27.	HPCL (POL) Mangalore	218.82	27.	Hongkong & Shanghai Banking	119.22
28.	HDFC (P) Ltd. Musheerabad	200.55	28.	Hindalco India Ltd.	102.50
29.	IOC Ltd. Bijwasan	200.24	29.	ICICI Ltd.	75.00
30.	Durgapur Steel Plant Durgapur	196.36	30.	State Bank of Saurashtra	46.19
31.	IOC Ltd. Ambala Cantt.	194.04	31.	Union Bank of India	106.01
32.	Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	191.99	32.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.	75.01
33.	ITC Ltd. Ghaziabad	191.70	33.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	77.08
34.	Bajaj Auto Ltd. Aurangabad	185.99	34.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	71.88
35.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	183.98	35.	Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	137.32
36.	M & M Ltd. Nasik	175.86	36.	SBI Trivandrum	5.37
37.	IOC Baranny	168.35	37.	Canara Bank Bangalore	98.50
38.	Esser Steel Ltd. Surat	165.62	38.	MCD & Company	6.48
39.	GTC Industries Ltd.	157.05	39.	NMDC Ltd.	41.80
40.	Indian Oil Corporation	156.24	40.	Container Corpn. of India	63.81
41.	BPCL Bijewasan Delhi	154.74	41.	M/s. State Bank of Patiala	34.62
42.	ONGC Shillong	153.18	42.	State Bank of Hyderabad	61.28
43.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	151.07	43.	Airport Authority of India	126.30
44.	HPCL Mumbai	150.27	44.	Gujarat Mineral Dev. Corp.	54.55
45.	IOC Corpn. Panipat	140.57	45.	Securities Trading Corp. Ltd.	54.21
46.	SAIL RSE Rourkela	140.14	46.	HDFC Ltd.	69.49
47.	Asia Tobacco Co. Chennai	136.51	47.	BEL Bangalore	51.77
48.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn.	135.23	48.	Bennet Coloman & Co. Ltd.	51.75
49.	Hero Honda Motor Ltd.	135.00	49.	Grasim Ind. Ltd.	53.03
50.	ONGC Hazira, Surat	132.82	50.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	52.03

Statement-III

Top 50 Companies/Persons against whom the highest amount of Income Tax is outstanding

Sl. No.	Name	States Paid
1.	Harshad S. Mehta	Indl.*
2.	Hitan P. and Dalal	Indl.
3.	Sahara India Savings & Inv. Corporation Ltd.	Co.**
4.	Oil and Natural Gas Commission	Co.
5.	Bhupendra C. Dalal	Indl.
6.	The Peerless General Finance & Inv. Co. Ltd.	Co.
7.	Ashwin S. Mehta	Indl.
8.	S. Ramaswamy	Indl.
9.	A.D. Narottam	Indl.
10.	Jyoti H. Mehta	Indl.
11.	Grow more Research & Assets Management Ltd.	Co.
12.	Rolex Holding Ltd.	Co.
13.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Co.
14.	Sudhir S. Mehta	Indl.
15.	Surendra M. Khandar	Indl.
16.	Essar Steel Ltd.	Co.
17.	I.D.B.I.	Co.
18.	GTC Industries Ltd.	Co.
19.	Larson & Toubro Ltd.	Co.
20.	Canara Bank	Co.
21.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	Co.
22.	Cascade Holding P. Ltd.	Co.
23.	Dhanraj Mills P. Ltd.	Co.
24.	Shaw Wallace & Co. Ltd.	Co.
25.	Harshad S. Mehta (W.T.)	Indl.
26.	Kedia Castle Delon Industries Ltd.	Co.
27.	East West Travel & Trade Links Ltd.	Co.
28.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.	Co.
29.	Tata Sons Ltd.	Co.
30.	Ganpati Combines Ltd.	Co.
31.	Bajaj Auto Ltd.	Co.
32.	Growmore Leasing & Invest P. Ltd.	Co.
33.	Tata Chemicals Ltd.	Co.
34.	Sahara India	Co.
35.	J.P. Gandhi	Indl.
36.	Niranjan J. Shah	Indl.
37.	Sabre Group	Co.
38.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	Co.
39.	Grasim Industries Ltd.	Co.
40.	I.F.C.I. Ltd.	Co.
41.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.	Co.
42.	N.E.P.C. Micon Ltd.	Co.
43.	Tata Engg. & Locomotive Co. Ltd.	Co.
44.	Metropolitan Co-op Bank Ltd.	Co.
45.	Premier Auto Electric Ltd.	Co.
46.	The Premier Automobiles Ltd.	Co.
47.	Arvind Mills Ltd.	Co.
48.	PCI Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Co.
49.	Bombay Burmah Trading Corp. Ltd.	Co.
50.	C.R.B. Capital Market Co. Ltd.	Co.

* Indl.-Individual

**Co.-Company

Statement-IV

Names of 50 Major Companies against whom Central Excise is Outstanding

Sl. No.	Name
1.	ITC Calcutta
2.	ITC Saharanpur
3.	ITC Bangalore
4.	ITC Munger Patna
5.	ITC Mumbai
6.	IOC Vadodara
7.	IOC Chennai
8.	GTC Vadodara
9.	GTC Mumbai
10.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.
11.	Mahindra & Mahindra
12.	Godfrey Phillips
13.	TISCO
14.	TELCO
15.	BHEL
16.	HPCL
17.	IPCL
18.	Oil India Ltd., Calcutta
19.	Shahraj Ayurved
20.	Sympax
21.	CEAT
22.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.
23.	Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd.
24.	Eternit Euerent
25.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.
26.	Essar Steel
27.	Bharat Electronics
28.	Mangalore Refineries & Petro-Chemicals
29.	National Fertilizers & Chemicals
30.	Ispat Industries Ltd.
31.	SAIL, BSP, Bhilai
32.	NOCIL
33.	Asia Tobacco Co. Ltd.
34.	NTC, Bikavolu
35.	Bharat Seats
36.	Godrej
37.	Reliable Cigarettes
38.	Goodyear Industries
39.	Reliance Industries
40.	Hyderabad Deccan Cigarette Factory
41.	Suvarna Filters
42.	Burn Standard
43.	Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd.
44.	Pepsico India, Chennai
45.	M/s. Dharampal Satyapal, Delhi-I
46.	IOC, Chandigarh
47.	Srichandra Tobacco Hyderabad
48.	Auto Pvt. Ltd. Delhi-II
49.	Samtel Electric Devices, Meerut-I
50.	Super-Tex Industries, Surat-II

Revival of Sick Mills

2934. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP :

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :

SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of public and private sector textile mills operating in the country;

(b) the number of mills out of these are lying closed at present State-wise;

(c) the number of workers affected due to closure of these mills;

(d) the profit and loss of NTC mills during the last three years, mill-wise;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to revamp the closed textile mills; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) There are 192 and 1487 mills in public and private sector besides 154 mills in the co-operative sector.

(b) and (C) A statement-I indicating State-wise number of cotton/manmade fibre mills closed as on 30.9.99 and the number of workers affected is enclosed.

(d) A statement-II giving profit/loss of NTC mills for the last three years is enclosed.

(e) and (f) So far NTC is concerned, 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 revive plan.

As far as Elgin Mills Co. Ltd., and Cawnpore Textiles Ltd., are concerned the BIFR/AAIFR have passed orders for winding up the liquidation proceedings are pending before the High Court, Allahabad.

The Government of India has 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.

A Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to protect the interest of the workers of the closed mills has also been set up.

The Expert Committee on Textile Policy constituted in 1998 has submitted its report which has addressed the problem of sickness in textile sector and has made some recommendations.

Statement-I

State-wise number of cotton/manmade fibre textile mills closed as on 30.9.99

State	No. of 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
Rajasthan	10
Tamil Nadu	80
Uttar Pradesh	26
West Bengal	15
Delhi	3
Pondicherry	1
Total	331

A total of 326447 workers have been affected due to closure of these mills.

Statement-II

Net Profit/Loss of NTC Mills for the last three years

(Rs. Crs)

S.No.	Name of the Mills	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
NTC (DPR) LTD.				
PUNJAB				
1.	Dayalbagh SPG & WVG. Mills	-3.63	-4.28	-5.40
2.	Kharar Textile Mills	-1.46	-1.84	-3.89
3.	Paripat Woolen Mills	-3.91	-4.67	-7.30
4.	Suraj Textile Mills	-1.88	-2.24	-4.66

1	2	3	4	5
RAJASTHAN				
5.	Edward Mills	-2.46	-3.46	-4.99
6.	Maha Lakshmi Mills	-2.05	-3.07	-4.30
7.	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	-2.69	-2.90	-3.74
8.	Udaipur Cotton Mills	-1.69	-2.12	-3.81
NTC (MADHYA PRADESH) LTD.				
9.	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills	-12.06	-13.34	-16.34
10.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	-7.71	-9.90	-11.00
11.	Hira Mills	-8.04	-10.74	-10.00
12.	Indore Malwa United Mills	-12.33	-13.51	-15.35
13.	Kalyanmal Mills	-10.26	-12.57	-13.71
14.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	-7.67	-8.65	-10.86
15.	Swadeshi Textile Mills	-6.90	-7.83	-8.84
NTC (UTTAR PRADESH) LTD.				
16.	Atherton Mills	-5.72	-8.81	-10.40
17.	Bijli Cotton Mills	-1.76	-2.50	-2.66
18.	Laxmirattan Cotton Mills	-8.72	-12.23	-13.71
19.	Lord Krishna Textile Mills	-5.57	-6.89	-7.33
20.	Muir Mills	-12.22	-17.64	-16.30
21.	New Victoria Mills	-12.58	-15.60	-17.54
22.	Raebareli Textile Mills	-2.48	-2.37	-3.25
23.	Shri Vikram Cotton Mills	-2.78	-3.01	-4.15
24.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Mau	-2.76	-3.17	-4.27
25.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	-14.91	-17.89	-19.72
26.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	-9.92	-11.11	-14.95
NTC (SOUTH MAHARASHTRA) LTD.				
27.	Apollo Textile Mills	-5.34	-8.12	-9.79
28.	Aurangabad Textile Mills	-1.21	-1.57	-2.82
29.	Bardi Textile Mills	-0.09	-0.41	-1.33
30.	Bharat Textile Mills	-6.66	-8.86	-10.93
31.	Chalisgaon Textile Mills	-1.37	-3.23	-5.19
32.	Dhule Textile Mills	-3.97	-6.08	-7.93
33.	Digvijay Textile Mills	-10.25	-14.13	-16.86
34.	Elphinstone SPG. & WVG. Mills	-6.54	-9.09	-10.08
35.	Finlay Mills	-6.16	-10.34	-13.73
36.	Gold Mohur Mills	-4.64	-8.59	9.76
37.	Jupiter Textile Mills	-9.82	-11.80	-13.92
38.	Mumbai Textile Mills	-8.90	-10.32	-13.07
39.	Nanded Textile Mills	-4.01	-5.99	-7.28

1	2	3	4	5
40.	New city of Bombay Mfg. Mills	-4.68	-7.97	-11.55
41.	New Hind Textile Mills	-10.41	-11.80	-13.26
42.	Podar Processors	-5.06	-7.35	-6.71
43.	Shri Madhu Sudan Mills	-4.72	-5.78	-7.01
NTC (MAHARASHTRA NORTH) LTD.				
44.	India United Mills No. 1	-11.93	-18.20	-19.48
45.	India United Mills No. 2	-9.04	-10.70	-13.45
46.	India United Mills	-14.42	-15.29	-21.07
47.	No. 3 & 4			
48.	India United Mills No. 5	-6.51	-8.44	-10.94
49.	India United Mills Dye Works	-6.03	-7.55	-8.66
50.	Jam Mfg. Mills	-5.27	-7.02	-9.16
51.	Kohinoor Mills No.1, 2&3	-18.07	-22.91	-13.51
52.	53.			
54.	Podar Mills	-5.58	-8.91	-12.96
55.	Model Mills	-12.77	-15.58	-18.44
56.	R.B.B.A. Mills	-3.36	-5.13	-7.29
57.	R.S.R.G. Mills	-4.26	5.34	-6.30
58.	Savatram Ramprasad Mills	-3.30	-3.93	-4.57
59.	Shri Sitaram Mills	-5.56	-7.38	-9.53
60.	Tata Mills	-8.46	-12.23	-18.15
61.	Vidharbha Mills	-4.84	-6.72	-6.37
N.T.C. (GUJARAT) LTD.				
62.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Textile Mills	-7.64	-10.48	-12.56
63.	Ahmedabad New Textile Mills	-8.21	-9.88	-12.49
64.	Himadri Textile Mills	-6.86	-7.33	-8.33
65.	Jehangir Textile Mills	-10.45	-13.14	-14.97
66.	Mahalaxmi Textile Mills	-6.89	-7.83	-9.55
67.	New Manekchowk Textile Mills	-7.11	-8.59	-10.01
68.	Petlad Textile Mills	-3.09	-4.23	-5.10
69.	Rajkot Textile Mills	-2.36	-3.05	-3.49
70.	Rajnagar Textile Mills 1&2	-9.38	-11.69	-15.22
71.	Viramgam Textile Mills	-5.47	-6.61	-7.96

1	2	3	4	5
NTC (APKK & M) LTD.				
ANDHRA PRADESH				
73.	Adoni Cotton Mills	-1.41	-1.50	-1.44
74.	Ananthapur Cotton Mills	-2.75	-4.32	-3.77
75.	Azam Jahi Mills	-4.08	-5.63	-7.32
76.	Natraj Spinning Mills	-2.44	-3.25	-3.58
77.	Netha Spinning & Weaving Mills	-1.72	-1.72	-1.77
78.	Tirupati Cotton Mills	-2.84	-3.30	-2.99
KARNATAKA				
79.	M.S.K. Mills	-5.78	-7.12	-9.51
80.	Minerva Mills	-8.18	-9.10	-11.61
81.	Mysore SPG. & Mfg. Mills	-5.93	-5.63	-7.33
82.	Sree Yallamma Cotton Mills	-2.78	-3.70	-4.24
KERALA				
83.	Alagappa Textile Mills	-2.90	-2.50	-4.43
84.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Can	-1.13	-0.76	-0.58
85.	Kerala Lakshmi Mills	-2.69	-2.19	-3.09
86.	Parvathi Mills	-4.35	-7.89	-10.25
87.	Vijaya Mohini Mills	-1.59	1.72	-2.73
PONDICHERY				
88.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Mahe	-1.76	-1.83	-1.82
N.T.C. (TN & P) LTD.				
TAMIL NADU				
89.	Balaramavarma Textile Mills	-0.57	-1.51	-2.58
90.	Cambodia Mills	-0.05	0.03	-3.60
91.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	-0.10	-0.52	-3.49
92.	Kishanveni Textile Mills	-1.05	-1.23	-3.00
93.	Om Prakashthi Mills	-0.37	-1.08	-2.74
94.	Pankaja Mills	-0.37	-0.10	-2.57
95.	Pioneer Spineers Mills	-0.03	0.32	-1.37
96.	Sri Rangavilas S & W. Mills	-0.07	0.10	-2.60

1	2	3	4	5
97.	Somasundaram Mills	-1.50	-1.64	-4.13
98.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit	-0.02	0.18	-1.89
N.T.C. (WBAB & O) LTD.				
ASSAM				
99.	Associated Industries	-7.39	-6.13	-4.26
BIHAR				
100.	Bihar Co-Op. Weavers Spg. Mills	-2.26	-3.23	-3.39
101.	Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills	-3.64	-4.91	-5.40
ORISSA				
102.	Orissa Cotton Mills	-2.77	-5.98	-3.87
WEST BENGAL				
103.	Arati Cotton Mills	-2.56	-4.78	-3.42
104.	Bangasri Cotton Mills	-2.26	-2.78	-3.04
105.	Bengal Fine S & W. Mills No. I	-4.32	-9.28	-6.60
106.	Bengal Fine S & W. Mills No. II	-1.79	-2.26	-1.78
107.	Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills	-4.38	-7.31	-7.94
108.	Manindra B.T. Mills	-3.05	-5.12	-4.94
109.	Jyoti Wvg. Factory	-1.86	-2.80	-3.06
110.	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	-3.15	-6.18	-4.82
111.	Rampooria Cotton Mills	-5.20	-8.61	-8.12
112.	Central Cotton Mills	-5.59	-9.97	-10.55
113.	Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills	-4.68	-6.93	-8.16
114.	Sodepur Cotton Mills	-1.68	-3.07	-2.66
NTC (HOLDING COMPANY) PONDICHERY				
115.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills	-5.21	-7.33	-6.98
116.	Shri Bharati Mills	-4.88	-8.89	-6.95
COIMBATORE				
117.	Sri Sarda Mills	-1.42	-4.21	-6.41
118.	Coimbatore Spg & Wvg. Mills	-6.40	-13.17	-12.48
119.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'A' Unit	-4.97	-6.52	-9.08

Import/Export of Cotton

2935. CH. TEJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cotton exported during 1998-99, country-wise;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the quantity of cotton imported during the period and the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Country-wise details of the export of raw cotton during the cotton season 1998-99 (Oct.-Sept.) are as under:

Country	Quantity	Value (in Metric tonnes) (in Rupees Crore)
Japan	6210.56	28.77
France	1711.66	7.33
Germany	1033.07	4.54
U.K.	612.60	2.42
Nepal	623.45	2.32
Canada	129.32	0.83
Vietnam	96.53	0.40
Italy	71.58	0.33
Pakistan	25.00	0.10
Bangladesh	316.41	205.77
Indonesia	150.71	0.63
Singapore	60.01	0.43

(c)

Year	Quantity Imported (in lakhs bales of 170 Kgs. each)	Cif Value (in Rs. lakhs)
1998-99	7.87	89545.60

Debt Service Payments

2936. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the debt-service payments have been increasing over the year;

(b) If so, the details of these debt-service payments and external receipts during the last three years;

(c) whether the money released through disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is proposed to be utilised for debt-service payments;

(d) If so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(e) the percentage of amount released through disinvestment to be diverted for this purpose;

(f) the primary objectives behind disinvestment in PSUs; and

(g) the details of utilisation of funds thus received?

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

(b) Details of repayment of debt, interest payment thereon and external receipts are as follows:-

	(Rs. Crore)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 RE
Repayment of debt	222525	391979	429497
Interest Payment	59478	65637	77248
External receipts	9535	7859	8485

(c) to (e) and (g) Moneys realised through disinvestment are credited into the Consolidated Fund of India from which disbursements for various purposes are approved by Parliament every year.

(f) The primary objectives behind disinvestment were clarified by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 1999-2000 vide para 40 and 41.

Safeguard the Interest of Investors

2937. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Companies are changing their name by adding computer tag to their names and trying to attract the investors;

(b) If so, the steps contemplated by the Government to safeguard the interests of the investors;

(c) whether this is another kind of scam taking place in the market; and

(d) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) According to information received from the Department of Company Affairs, in recent times some companies whose

principal activity was not computer software and who have been involved in financing activities have changed their names to indicate as if they were in the business of computer software. In order that investors are not misled by the strategy adopted by a few companies. Registrars of Companies have been advised, through a circular issued by Department of Company Affairs that in the future they should allow change of name to companies to reflect the business of software only if a substantial portion of their income (as reflected from their audited accounts or accounts certified by a Chartered Accountant) is derived from software business. If this is not proved then such change of name should not be allowed.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have informed that they have alerted the investors by issuing a press release advising them to be cautious in trading, asked Stock Exchanges to closely monitor the trading and other developments in respect of shares of such companies; made it mandatory for such companies to separately show the performance and results of software activity in quarterly/annual report; and further tightened entry norms for public rights issued by such companies by way of requirement of 3 years track record of profitability in the sector of information technology.

Investment Through RIDF

2938. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance extended by the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD), particularly in Cuttack, Jaipur, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara areas of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, district-wise

(b) the areas in which investment has been made by the NABARD and the quantum thereof; and

(c) the policies being formulated by the NABARD

to boost their investment in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance facilities to commercial banks, co-operative banks and regional rural banks. It provides short-term credit by way of refinance to State Cooperative Banks on behalf of Central Cooperative Banks and regional rural banks and long-term credit to all banks. The details of such refinance provided during the year 1999-2000 (upto 10th December, 1999 in the various districts of the State of Andhra Pradesh and the four districts of Orissa are given in enclosed statement-I. NABARD also provides loans under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to the State Governments. Details of the cumulative loans sanctioned and disbursed under RIDF I to V are given in enclosed statement-II. In addition, NABARD has provided medium term limits to the extent of Rs. 271.21 crore to State Cooperative Bank (SCB) and regional rural banks in Andhra Pradesh for conversion of short term loans into medium term loans on account of natural calamity during 1998-99. Similar medium term limits sanctioned to SCB in Orissa during 1997-98 was Rs. 28.10 crore and Rs. 8.58 crore during 1998-99. In so far as RRBs are concerned, Rs. 17 lakhs were sanctioned as medium term conversion limit during 1997-98 in Orissa.

(c) NABARD has taken major policy initiatives in respect of investment credit (long term credit) for agriculture and rural development which includes upward revision in the quantum of refinance, increase in the ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs on automatic refinance to banks for lending to a single borrower/unit to Rs. 15 lakhs, rationalizing of interest rates on refinance to commercial banks on minor irrigation activities to increase their lending to the sector, enlarging of the scope of RIDF to cover new activities like lending to Panchayat Raj institutions, Self-Help Groups, etc.

Statement-I

Details of refinance provided by NABARD during 1999-2000 (upto 10th December, 1999) in the various districts of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of District	Short Term Refinance (SCBs)- Total Limit sanctioned during 1999-2000	Short Term Refinance (RRBs)- Limit Sanctioned during 1999-2000	Investment Credit Refinance disbursed for all banks during 1999-2000 (upto 10th December, 1999)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
Adilabad	3034.37	1230.00	508.54
Ananthapur	7498.14	1992.00	1105.79

1	2	3	4
Chittoor	4311.04	1497.00	1904.00
Kuddapah	1750.00	3983.00 ***	632.98
Eluru	11075.00	—	—
Guntur	11951.30	1658.00	839.26
Hyderabad	1684.23	—	—
Kakinada	14009.57	—	—
Karimnagar	4499.11	700.00	535.11
Khammam	—	—	266.89
Krishna	14764	780.00	831.82
Kurnool	3192.37	—	611.83
Mehboobnagar	2338.90	1248.00	815.10
Medak	3265.44	244.00	562.39
Nalagonda	5883.45	1850.00 *	1690.35
Nellore	1742.62	1780.00 **	949.98
Nizamabad	5835.00	810.00	850.56
Prakasam	5742.82	—	451.22
Srikakulam	1650.43	2900.00 *****	169.30
Visakhapatnam	5055.27	—	243.22
Vizianagaram	2108.01	—	95.63
Warangal	3741.87	825.00	1579.13
Rangareddy	—	255.00	873.60
East Godavari	—	—	933.19
West Godavari	—	970.00 ****	794.31
Girijan Cooperative Corporation	280.00	—	—
Orissa			
Cuttack	—	—	433.53
Jajpur	—	—	133.26
Jagatsinghpur	6307.30 @	210.00	237.29
Kendrapara	—	—	170.08

Figures relate to :

*Khammam and Nalagonda districts

** Nellore and part of Prakasam districts

*** Cuddapah, Kurnool and part of Prakasam districts

**** East and West Godavari districts

***** Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts

@ Limit sanctioned to Bank CCB and Cuttack CCB in respect of all 4 districts

Statement-II**Sanctions and Disbursement by NABARD under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)
(Upto 10 December 1999)**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the District	Sanction under RIDF I to V	Disbursement under RIDF I to V
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
Adilabad	11367.66	7368.92
Ananthapur	7767.61	3726.82
Chittoor	7366.41	2221.67
Cuddapah	5034.57	2774.42
Eluru	—	—
Guntur	6257.78	2294.00
Hyderabad	—	—
Kakinada	—	—
Karimnagar	2573.16	1353.53
Khammam	6858.82	4204.33
Krishna	5861.37	1977.04
Kurnool	5225.71	2326.75
Mehboobnagar	7633.53	3800.95
Medak	2898.51	1041.31
Nalagonda	4106.05	2003.12
Nellore	2449.47	1281.22
Nizamabad	4954.17	3665.42
Prakasam	7662.95	3437.04
Srikakulam	6919.16	2894.13
Vaishakpatnam	4088.97	1302.25
Vizianagaram	7171.40	4779.33
Warangal	3097.06	1348.20
Rangareddy	2502.95	937.04

1	2	3
East Godavari	8748.78	4085.93
West Godavari	5167.95	2556.43
GCC		
Total	1257014.04	61380.15
Orissa		
Cuttack	3345.27	2127.53
Jaipur	1151.73	547.06
Jagatsinghpur	2560.99	1468.01
Kendrapara	2733.52	1059.27

VRS Scheme in NTC Mills

2939. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) scheme of National Textile Corporation (NTC);

(b) the present total number of employees in the NTC mills in the country; and

(c) the number of employee proposed to be covered under the VRS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N.RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in operation in NTC is as per guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises and the salient features are as follows :-

(i) Ex-gratia payment equivalent to one and a half month's emoluments (Pay+DA/VDA and IR, wherever admissible) for each completed year of service of the monthly emoluments at the time of voluntary retirement multiplied by the remaining months of service before normal date of retirement, whichever is lower.

(ii) Gratuity as per Payment of Gratuity Act or the Gratuity Scheme applicable to the employees.

(iii) Cash equivalent of accumulated earned leave/ privilege leave as per the rules.

(iv) The balance in the Provident Funds Account payable as per Employee Provident Fund Act and rules made thereunder.

(b) There are 86,432 employees in the NTC Mills,

as on 30.9.99, excluding the employees in the Corporate Offices and Retail Marketing Divisions.

(c) VRS is being offered to employees of NTC every year. A sum of Rs. 50 crores has been released to NTC so far this year and 60583 employees have taken VRS upto 31.10.99 since the inception of the scheme. The total number of employees to be covered under VRS will depend upon the package approved by BIFR.

Textile Yarn Export

2940. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have taken any decision to provide more sops to Export Oriented Cotton Spinning Units to boost textile yarn exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of cotton yarn exports during each of last three years and the projection for the current year, State-wise;

(d) the details of export projects for the next three years; and

(e) the details of action plan formulated for boosting up, reviving and restructuring of spinning mills in general and Maharashtra in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Government of India has decided to extend the flexibility to the new 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) Export Promotion Zone (EPZ) units, to export cotton yarn without any count restriction or restriction on sourcing of domestic cotton condition. In view of the same, 100% EOUs/EPZ units that are manufacturing and exporting cotton yarn and are subject to the count restrictions, are being allowed to export cotton yarn in count groups 1s to 40s. They are also now allowed to export their cotton waste generated in the process of manufacturing yarn.

(c) Export statistics are not maintained State-wise. However, total quantum of cotton yarn exported during the last three years were as follows :-

Year	Quantity in Million Kgs.
1996	403.81
1997	514.47
1998	473.09

For the current year, i.e. 1999 the projected figure of exports of cotton yarn is 535 million kgs. approximately.

(d) Government of India, Ministry of Textiles announces the cotton yarn export policy on a year to year basis.

(e) 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. There is no cap on funding under the scheme. It is an open-ended scheme depending on the capacity of the industry to absorb funds in bankable and techno-economically feasible proposals. Loans under the scheme are extended by the nodal agencies IDBI, SIDBI & IFCI/co-opted institutions to the identified segments of the industry for the projects in conformity with the scheme from their own resources. The scheme is formulated in general to the industry and not specifically for any particular State. The spinning units can avail of the scheme as per the conditions to upgrade their technology, which may also include facilities, viz., captive power production, effluent treatment plant, water treatment plant, information technology facilitating etc. which facilitate improvement of production processes and quality of output.

Gold Deposit Scheme

2941. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of gold collected under the Gold Deposit Scheme so far, in the form of bars, biscuits and ornaments;

(b) the *modus operandi* and other details of operating and propagating the scheme; and

(c) the extent to which the objectives of the schemes are likely to be achieved during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Gold Deposit Scheme which was notified by the Government on 14th September 1999, is to be operated by designated banks authorized by the Reserve Bank of India and is open to persons resident in India. The gold can be tendered in the form of bars, coins and gold jewellery. The certificates issued under the scheme are transferable by endorsement and delivery. 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. The amount of gold collected under the Gold Deposit Scheme in the form of bars, biscuits and ornaments upto 14.12.1999 is 425 kgs.

(c) This is a new scheme and the response so far has been encouraging.

Central Sponsored Schemes

2942. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transfer of huge amount of Centrally sponsored schemes and State plan schemes to Personal Ledger Accounts by the Gujarat Government has come to the notice of the Union Government;

(b) If so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) In so far as State Plan schemes are concerned, diversion, if any, of funds to the Personal Ledger Accounts is to be commented upon by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C & AG) of India in the State Audit Reports presented before the State Legislature under Article 151 (2) of the Constitution. These are discussed and examined in detail by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and Committee on Public Undertakings of the State. These Committees submit their reports to the State Legislature.

In so far as Centrally Sponsored Schemes are concerned, such diversion of funds are pointed out in the Audit Reports of C & AG on the accounts of the Union Government. The Central Audit Reports are considered by the PAC of Parliament. Some isolated instances of diversion of funds of Personal Ledger Accounts have been brought out by C & AG and these are required to be looked into by the concerned Ministers, who should thereafter apprise PAC of the action taken to remedy the situation.

**Long Term Coal Linkage for
Thermal Power Projects**

2943. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government for arranging long term coal linkage for Kothagudem and Vijayawada Thermal Power projects by allocating mining block in Singareni Collieries Company Limited or to consider restoration of Gopalprasad West Mining Block for A.P. State Electricity Board for taking up power projects in the State:

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the time by which the request of the State Government is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Both Kothagudem TPS State-VI (2x250 MW) and Vijayawada TPS Stage-IV (1x500 MW) have been granted long term coal linkage of 2.04 mtpa each from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in November, 1998.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution—

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 1 of 1999) (Commercial) for the year ended the 31st March, 1998—Review of Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 852/99]

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 2 of 1999) (Commercial) for the year ended the 31st March, 1998—Comments on Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 853/99]

(iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 3 of 1999) (Commercial) for the year ended the 31st March, 1998—Transaction Audit Observations.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 854/99]

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : 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 National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 855/99]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Aluminium Company 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 856/99]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Coal India Limited, Burdwan, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Coal India Limited, Burdwan, (Volumes I and II) for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 857/99]
- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 858/99]
- (2) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Commercial) (No. 4 of 1999) for the year ended March 1998—Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, under article 151 of the Constitution.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 859/99]
- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Zinc Limited and the Department of Mines, Ministry of Steel and Mines for the year 1999-2000.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-860/99]
- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited and the Department of Mines for the year 1999-2000.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 861/99]
- (5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Aluminium Company Limited and the Ministry of Steel and Mines, Department of Mines for the year 1999-2000.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 862/99]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur, 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 Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur, for the year 1998-99.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 863/99]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar Gold Fields 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 National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar Gold Fields, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 864/99]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, 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 National Centre for Jute Diversification, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 865/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet 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 Carpet 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 866/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Jute Industries' Research Association, 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 Indian Jute Industries' Research Association, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) show-

ing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 867/99]

- (7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Birds Jute and Export Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Birds Jute and Export Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 868/99]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jute Manufactures Development 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 Jute Manufactures Development Council, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 869/99]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : On behalf of Dr. Vallabhkhair Kathiria, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (i) 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 Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 1998-99.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Instrumen-

tation Limited, Kota, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 870/99]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the H.M.T. Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the H.M.T. Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 871/99]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the H.M.T. Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the H.M.T. 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 872/99]

- (d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Scooter India Limited, Lucknow for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 873/99]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National

Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 874/99]

- (f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation 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 875/99]

- (g) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Heavy Electricals 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 876/99]

- (h) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited, 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 877/99]

- (i) (i) Statement regarding Review by

the Government of the working of the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 878/99]

- (j) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cycle Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Cycle Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a), (h) and (i) of Item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 879/99]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the HMT Limited and the Ministry of Industry, Department of Heavy Industries for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 880/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) 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 Central Excise (Seventeenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 709(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd October, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ii) The Central Excise (Nineteenth Amen-

dment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 778 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (iii) G.S.R. 787 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt tea from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 881/99]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) The Customs (Settlement of Cases) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 710(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd October, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ii) The Customs (Appeals) (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 777 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 882/99]

- (3) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Bank for the year ended on the 31st March, 1999, together with Auditor's Report thereon:-

- (i) Mizoram Rural Bank, Aizwal.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 883/99]

- (ii) Bardhaman Gramin Bank Burdman.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 884/99]

- (iii) Kamraz Rural Bank Sapore.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 885/99]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and Eng-

lish versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 886/99]

- (5) 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 National Insurance Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Insurance Company 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 887/99]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 888/99]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oriental Insurance Company, 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 889/99]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the New India Insurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the New India Insurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 890/99]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Investment Centre, 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 Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 891/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :
I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 1997-98.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 892/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 893/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 894/99]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 895/99]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, 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 Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 896/99]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Arbitration, 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 Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 897/99]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, 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 India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 898/99]
- (11) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:-
- (i) The Export of Raw Meat (Chilled/Frozen) (Quality Control and Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. S.O. 572 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 1999.
- (ii) The Export of Raw Meat (Chilled/Frozen) (Quality Control and Inspection) Second Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 583 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 1999.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 899/99]
- (12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 9 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:-
- (i) S.O. 573 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 1999 notifying that all the exporters of raw meat (Chilled/Frozen) shall submit a declaration in the form annexed regarding the place where the animal from which the meat is being sourced was slaughtered.
- (ii) S.O. 584 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 1999 rescinding the notification No. S.O. 573 (E) dated the 9th July, 1999.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 900/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : On behalf of Dr. Raman, I beg to lay on the Table:-

A copy of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks for the year 1998-99, under section 155 of the Patents Act, 1970.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 901/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of 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 Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India 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. 902/99]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 903/99]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 904/99]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India 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 905/99]

(2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 906/99]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, 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 Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 907/99]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles 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 Synthetic and Rayon

Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 908/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur, 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 Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 909/99]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Research Association, Thane, 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 Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 910/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : 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 819A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 911/99]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Karnataka, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Gold Mine Limited, Karnataka,

for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 912/99]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudem, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudem, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 913/99]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Coal Mines Family Pension and Coal Mines Deposit Linked Insurance Schemes, Dhanbad, 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 Coal Mines Provident Fund, Coal Mines Family Pension and Coal Mines Deposit Linked Insurance Schemes, Dhanbad, for the year 1997-98.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 914/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) The State Bank of India General (Amendment) Regulations, 1999, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 45 in Gazette of India dated the 6th November, 1999 under sub-section (4) of section 50 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 915/99]

12.04 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 remaining part of the current Session will consist of :-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Further consideration and passing of the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1999 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
3. Consideration and passing of the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha :-
 - (a) The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999
 - (b) The Trade Marks Bill, 1999
 - (c) The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Bill, 1999
5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:-
 - (a) The Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 1999
 - (b) The Designs Bill, 1999
 - (c) The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Bill, 1999
 - (d) The Constitution (Eighty-seventh Amendment) Bill, 1999
6. Consideration and passing of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1999.
7. Introduction, consideration and passing of the Electricity Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1999.
8. Consideration and passing of the Mizoram University Bill, 1999.
9. Patents Bill, 1999.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : What about the Women's Reservation Bill? I would like to know about it

from the Government. The Government has made a firm commitment that they will introduce the Women's Reservation Bill. But the Bill has not been given top priority.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (JADAVPUR) : What about the Women's Reservation Bill?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What about the Women's Reservation Bill?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : A Bill to give 33 per cent reservation for women was to be introduced in this session. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. The Prime Minister had also made a firm commitment a day before the commencement of the session that this Bill would be introduced here. I would like to point out that we have only four days left in current session. The woman participation in policy making....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is Submission only, Shri Pandiyan. You can submit whatever you want. This is not a discussion.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I will complete in a minute. It is mandatory in some countries that woman participation should be there. Here, Shri Pramod Mahajan has read out that so many Bills would be taken up for consideration and passing next week. But this Bill was not given top priority. The AIADMK has made a firm commitment to the people of Tamil Nadu and also its leader Puratchi Talavai was given a firm assurance when she was in alliance with BJP. This Bill should be introduced. The Chair may direct the Government to introduce the Bill. What is the use of passing other Bills? We are not bothered about Designs Bill, we are not bothered about the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, we are not bothered about any other Bill....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : These are Submissions only. Please take your seats. I am appealing to you to take your seats.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : 50 per cent of woman population are voters. We all get votes of women. All the parties secure their votes.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Minister wants to give reply. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When the Minister is giving reply, you are not allowing him to speak. You have raised a matter. The Minister is giving reply. Please take your seat.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : This Bill should have been given top priority.

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing the Minister to give reply. What is this? You are creating a new precedent in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I do not understand your logic. When the Minister was giving reply, you did not allow him to speak. Is it the proper way? Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat. Please understand that you are also on the Panel of Chairman.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Do you want to make a speech? You were the Speaker in the State Assembly. Let me answer your question. You have to listen also.

Sir, the Women's Reservation Bill has already been circulated to the Members.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have not received it.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI P. H. PANDIYAN : Is it the way the Minister should mislead the Members of this House? This is absolute misleading.

MR. SPEAKER : When the Minister is giving reply, you are obstructing him. This is not good. The Minister is giving reply.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : The Bill has not been circulated to us...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. H. PANDIYAN : This Bill should be passed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the reply of the Minister.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Government has the intention to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill in this very Session and we will introduce it....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. H. PANDIYAN : It should be given top priority...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : The Minister has chosen his words. He is entitled to but he has chosen his words. He has said 'intention'. Only four days of this Session are left ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I said 'intention' and we will introduce the Bill in this very Session....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hannan Mollah may make his submission.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If it is done on the last day, then it is not for passing. Is it for passing? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I said that we will introduce the Bill in this very session ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hannan Mollah.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the submission of Shri Hannan Mollah. Now, Shri Hannan Mollah.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

(i) The proposal of Foreign Direct Investment in retail trading will adversely affect more than half-a-crore retail business people of the country. If multinational companies are allowed to open their chains of retail shop, it will destroy our retailers and small businessmen. A wide and in-depth discussion is needed.

(ii) Casteism is the worst social sin and we cannot enter the next millennium with increasing caste violence. This social crime should be discussed and an all-out fight has to be taken up against casteism.

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM) : I request that following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

There is an urgent need to set up a Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of the concerned Member of Parliament with powers to take suitable action in case of delay in the implementation of the projects and plans recommended through MPLAD Scheme and make the concerned officials accountable and responsible for such delays.

The amount of Rs. 2 crore provided under MPLAD Scheme should be increased to Rs. 5 crore.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards incidents of atrocities against women in Rajasthan which have increased rapidly of late. A few days ago, Some anti-social elements abducted a Tibetan girl in a government vehicle from Ramnivas Bagh, Jaipur. Later on that girl was molested, raped and then let off....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Rawat, what is your submission?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This should not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Rawat, this is not 'Zero Hour'. Please take your seat. Now, Shri Vilas Muttemwar to make his submission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This should not form part of the record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. The serious crisis of drinking water in rural areas in the country and the need to evolve a national policy on drinking water; and

2. The increasing number of railway accidents in the country resulting in heavy toll of human lives and the need to set up a Committee of experts to suggest ways and means to prevent such accidents in future.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (GHOSI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that following two items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is requested to formulate an action plan to provide employment to increasing number of educated and uneducated unemployed persons in the country or provide unemployment allowance to them.

2. The benefit of reservation policy is being availed of by well off people among the backward classes. The issue of dividing backward community into two sub-section i.e. backward classes and most backward classes should be taken up for discussion, so that really backwards among the backward class people should get benefit of reservation policy.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (SIRSA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda :-

The Government has implemented several developmental schemes and several such schemes are being taken up but the actually needy persons are not getting benefit of these schemes and there is need to make improvement in administrative structure and its system of functioning.

It is my submission that the Government should take action at the earliest to improve the administrative structure and its system of functioning.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Immediate steps to appoint a Chairman and Managing Director of Mumbai Railway Vikas Nigam and start its functioning to implement MSTP-2; and

2. Discussion on Aids detection, prevention, steps taken by the States and Union Government, and programme to educate the people.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. The move of the Government to allow investment by Foreign Print Media and to lift the ban which was imposed in 1955; and

2. The allotment of only Rs. 29 crore for flood affected 15 districts of West Bengal from the National Calamity Relief Fund which is less than five per cent of the original amount.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) : Sir, I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:-

About 1 lakh industries of Delhi would be closed down by December 1999, due to which around 12 lakh families and 60 lakh persons will face starvation. Delhi Government has passed a proposal to close down all the industrial units running in non-conforming Areas and shift them from there.

I, therefore request the Central Government to make amendments in the Master Plan of Delhi to save these industries.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I have got it reconfirmed with the Lok Sabha Secretariat that the Women's Reservation Bill has been circulated somewhere in the third week of November and you will find it in your agenda any fine morning, next week.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the women's Reservation Bill should not be brought in Lok Sabha without conducting a referendum on it....(Interruptions) The whole country should be taken into confidence on this Bill....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call all the Members to speak. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (NAINITAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission. I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue which relates to our economy and is in the interest of the country. Only thirteen days have been left for entering new century and millennium. The whole world is concerned about the Y2K problem of computers. It has been widely discussed in our country too and the concerned Departments have given information about this problem, but what is being done on this important issue shows that our administration is not vigilant to the desired extent in this regard. I have with me a copy of the appeal issued by the hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard which was released through an advertisement. It should have been announced in this House. I am sorry to say that such an important appeal was issued by the hon'ble Prime Minister through advertisement instead of Parliament. It has been written in it that—

[English]

"Fellow Indians,

It is time to unite against a common enemy, the Y2K bug. It is much more than a computer and microchip problem. It can affect our business, our industry and the essential services we depend on in our daily life. Remember, this is one deadline we cannot afford to miss."

[Translation]

This deadline is 31st December 1999. Administration has issued several statements in this regard but so far no detailed debate has been held or any comprehensive statement made in this House on such an important issue which is related to economic future of the country. It is really sad and surprising. Sir, you will find that the Government has constituted several committees for the purpose.

[English]

'High Level Empowered Action Force Impact of year 2000 Problem'.

[Translation]

A committee has been constituted on this subject under the chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : They have appointed a sub-committee.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Perhaps they might announce this today.

[Translation]

This commission has made two important recommendations—the first is that a law should be enacted with regard to Y2K. Large number of Computers are there in the country and expansion of their use is being done in various fields. Eleven Sectors such as Private sector, personal computers, companies and banking which are related to our day-to-day life are likely to be affected by this Y2K problem. Finance and banking, non-banking Finance Companies, Mutual Fund, Insurance, Electricity, Civil Aviation, Railway Board, Space, Defence, Petroleum and Communications sectors are the eleven sectors, that are likely to be affected more. Health and other sectors will also be affected but we do not have any separate information about them. A meeting of Chief Ministers should have been convened for this purpose. As per my information hon'ble Prime Minister was to write letters to Chief Ministers about it. I do not know whether this letter has been written or not. Very few Chief Ministers may be doing something about it on their own. So far several Chief Ministers have not set up even control rooms for it. This House knows very well about the relations between centre and State Governments on the issue of electricity. If we take power sector of our country, we will find that 31708 Megawatt power capacity is being managed on digital control. The Public, Industry, trade and routine work of people will be affected badly and country will have to face lot of problems if this digital control is affected by Y2K problem in any State.

Besides, this is not clear whether any interaction with us has taken place on this issue on international level. The world community's faith in our country has been eroded. I have seen two reports in this regard. A survey has been conducted by 'Credit Swiss' of Swiss Bank which has rated us at number 8 for our preparedness or awareness on this matter for which hon'ble Prime Minister has made a poignant appeal. The second survey has been conducted by Gartner Group which has expressed apprehension of 50 per cent failure in India due to Y2K problem. It has rated us at par with Argentina, Columbia Egypt and Venezuela. Our preparedness is far below the requirement. The Government should assure the House in this regard. A working group had recommended to close down banks around 1st January 2000 and make special arrangements for power stations.

I have with me the complete figures and information given by the Government in this regard. But I feel that these efforts are insufficient and point to inability of the Government if required measures are not taken by the Government now that only 13 days are left crisis control. I would like to say that the Government should constitute a cabinet monitoring cell to deal with the problem. This is very much needed.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari for raising this important issue here. On behalf of the Government I am ready to make a statement after Lunch about the efforts made by the Government to tackle the Y2K problem if you permit me to do so. Right now I would like to say that Government of India and people of this country are fully prepared to tackle the Y2K problem. The apprehensions expressed by Narayan Datt. Tiwariji may create panic that is not the correct position.

MR. SPEAKER : Statement will be made on this issue after 1½ hours.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : There is no such situation as messages can be conveyed to people through the press in 1½ hours.

[English]

We have complied with everything about Y2K. And we are confident in dealing with this.

[[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA, U.P.) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an alarming situation.

Various sections of our society have expressed their concern that 21st century might turn as a century of economic crisis for us. I would like to draw your attention towards this issue because this issue has been raised time and again by Shri Vasant Sathe who had been a Member of this House for a long time and held several important offices. He has also made several comments on this issue during the last five years. He says that in India 30 crore people belong to middle class but only one per cent people pay taxes. As a result of it less amount is collected in exchequer and we have to depend on foreign exchange and debt. Our debt burden is increasing day by day. Today situation has become so grave that 40 per cent revenue is spent on repayment of loan and interest thereon. Thus dependence on foreign exchange is against self respect, self-reliance and entrepreneurial skills of the country. Shri Vasant Sathe had written a book titled 'Tax without Fear' during the period of Narasimha Rao Government. Manmohan Singhji presented this book to Shri Narasimha

Rao. He had given some suggestions in it. He has discussed this issue with experts in the field and common man and given some suggestions. I do not want to discuss them here in detail but would like to say that the income of the country will increase five or six times if 10 per cent people are brought under tax net. He has given some suggestions and he feels that discussion should be held on it. Vasant Satheji is an expert in the field of political and economic matters relating to India. I know him since the time of freedom struggle and worked with him in congress party. He is well versed in our cultural traditions. With a heavy heart he has taken a decision to go on fast unto death from 4th March 2000 if discussion is not held on this issue. I demand that the Government and Members of the ruling party should hold discussion on this matter to avoid this situation. He has discussed this issue with others and have welcomed their suggestions. Sir, through you I would like to request the Government to discuss this issue. He has sent his book to all the Members, to the hon'ble Prime Minister and Leader of Opposition. I request you to discuss this issue because the country is being trapped in a debt trap. It is not possible for any Government to run a country of 100 crores, efficiently exclusively on foreign assistance. The issue of self-reliance, hard work and control on expenditure are not relevant now a days and it is really a matter of grave concern for a person who had taken part in freedom struggle. It is really sad that a person who has participated in freedom struggle and played vital role in building the nation has to take recourse to such a hard decision to express his views. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to ask the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and I, my self also request him to discuss this issue with the hon'ble Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, Leaders of Other political parties and Shri Somnath, so that his views could be known. A debate should also be held on these points to find out as to how far his suggestions can be implemented. Our Minister of Finance will also get assistance by it in preparation of budget which is a tough job. I feel that it is easy to talk about taking stringent measures but in place of stringent measures if ordinary steps are taken, the progress of the country can be ensured.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Chandra Shekharji has raised a very important issue. Several Members including myself have received the letter of Shri Vasant Sathe I would certainly draw the attention of the hon'ble Prime Minister towards it. I would also ask the hon'ble Minister of Finance to discuss these issues personally with Shri Vasant Sathe before preparation of budget. So far as the issue of holding debate on it is concerned, I would like to say that the Government will welcome it if it is debated in this House during the next session under some rules.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD) : Sir, at the outset, I thank you for the opportunity given to me. I would like to draw the attention of the Government about the difficult conditions being faced by the fishermen community of Kerala because of reduction of kerosene quota for their boats. Thousands of boats of fishermen to Kerala are engaged in fishing and other purposes. So, I request the Government to increase the kerosene quota of fishermen of Kerala. Thank you Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, very humbly, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you. Hon'ble Prime Minister has repeatedly appealed to maintain harmony. A feeling of 'Sarvatham Sambhav' should be inculcated. Feelings of Jains and Hindus should be respected and feeling of no community should be hurt. We have some issues in Directive Principles of State Policy in our Constitution which have been the matter of debate from the very beginning and for which we have been negotiating for consensus. Some States have achieved success on certain issues.

It has been the tradition of our country to respect all the religions and their feelings should not be hurt. The people belonging to minority community of the country should regard the feelings of Hindus and Jains and their feelings towards the sacred should not be hurt. Through you, I submit to the Government that the month of 'Ramzan' has started. It will end on the day of 'Id' i.e. on 10th January. On that day the whole country will celebrate the festival of Id.

Sir, a conference will be held on 1st January at Red Fort. I would not like to comment on the conference workers because everyone has the right to express one's views publicly and hold meeting. My only request to the hon'ble Minister is that the issue of ban on cow slaughter will be discussed in the conference going to be held during the period of Ramzan at Red Fort on January 1st. A collective effort should be made by the Government as well as by the House to make those people understand to have patience so that a cordial atmosphere is maintained throughout the period of the Ramzan till Id and any apprehension should not arise in the minds of people belonging to minority community. We do not want to blame anyone regarding this issue. Hon'ble Prime Minister has called upon to maintain peace and harmony and hon'ble Home Minister has given assurance to provide protection to all the religions. It would have been better had the conference been held after the festival of Id in due consultation with the Government. My submission is that

Government should pay full attention towards this issue at the time of Ramzan(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : It has been mentioned in our constitution. When we got independence, Mahatma Gandhi had said that his first priority would be to ban cow slaughter in Independent India. To say that merely talking about ban on cow slaughter will vitiate the atmosphere is not good. Talking like this itself vitiate the atmosphere. Does talk about ban on cow slaughter created animosity? Mahatma Gandhi has also mentioned it....(Interruptions) One should not like this in the House....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I did not say so.

[Translation]

I may not be good at Hindi but I have not stated anything against our Constitution or against anyone's rights....(Interruptions) I have stated so for the people who have some apprehensions in their minds(Interruptions) I have stated that attention should be paid towards the timings of the proposed conference....

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : They are taking it against some particular community, however, it is not against anyone. It is a general programme. It will not be good to highlight it with the intention that it should have some impact on the minds of the people....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nearly 52 hon. Members have given notice. Since today is the last day of this week, please sit down.

Shri Singh Deo, today you have not given any notice before ten O' Clock on this subject.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : I have been giving the notice for the last five days. I did not give notice today but yesterday I had given it.

Sir, for the last 35 years, about three-and-a-half crore of Indian people who live in Orissa and Srikakulam, a part of your State, as well as Midnapore district have been subjected to various weather related natural calamities like flood. A Shri Basu Deb Acharia has mentioned, 15 districts of West Bengal have been flooded from 1965 onwards. These districts have been subjected to drought, famine, starvation, floods and cyclone. Therefore, I demand that the House should use their combined wisdom because

the Government of India, the Planning Commission and the Finance Commissions have failed to arrest the downward slides of States like Orissa and portions of the agency area of Andhra Pradesh as well as some portions of West Bengal from coming up to the all India national level. The gap filling methods which have been pursued by either the Planning Commission or the Finance Commissions or the modified formulae or the Five Year Plans have not been able to stop the downward trend. There is regional disparity. I am not saying this has happened because of the super cyclone. But that was the culminating point of 35 years of devastation or destruction which has eroded the capacity of the States to mobilize resources.

Particularly in Orissa, 58 per cent of the people are below the poverty line—22 per cent of them are tribals and 19 per cent of them are Schedule Castes. This time, after the super-cyclone, God alone knows how many people are below the poverty line! Therefore, the status of a special category State must be given to these areas, particularly Orissa, because it is not in the Constitution and we do not belong to the States under the Seventh Schedule. It is not also in the Himalayan hill region.

Therefore, some special consideration must be given in this matter. I appeal to Parliament to use their combined wisdom because the Planning Commission, the Government of India and the Finance Commissions have failed in this respect.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI) : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir. We have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I will call everyone.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Defence Ministry towards a very important issue related to defence. Army personnel get the facility on Canteen during their service tenure and even after retirement. It is under the rules of the army. A large number of in-service and retired army personnels are living in my Parliamentary Constituency. One or two soldiers are there in every house. At some places the people of entire village are in defence service. Unfortunately, the canteen service is not available to those people. They have to go to far away places from their villages to avail of this facility which leads to wastage of time and money. The facility is available only at one or two places in the entire district. Time and again I have been requesting for the extension of this facility. A mobile canteen can be started there if it is not possible to set up a permanent canteen. My submission is that more and more mobile canteens should be started in my area to fulfil the basic requirement of soldiers of my Constituency.

SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI (BANSGAON) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a cooperative sugar mill was set up in my Parliamentary Constituency Bansgaon. It was closed down even before the completion of one year. Now, the Government of Uttar Pradesh intends to sell it. Through you, I would like to request the central Government to issue directions to Uttar Pradesh Government not to sell the mill. This mill should be run only under cooperative sector.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (MONGHYR) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to raise a very serious and an important issue. Besides, I would like the Government to make a statement on this issue. A news item has appeared in various newspaper on 13th December that the Supreme Court has rejected the Judgement given by the Kerala High Court which relates to the creamy layer among the backward classes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware that a judgement was given by the Supreme Court on 16 January, 1992 in which it had directed the Central and State Governments and also Union Territories to identify the creamy layer among the backward classes. However, the same has not been done, so far, some State Governments are still unable to identify it.

The Central Government has not done it till now. There are some States like Bihar where Mungheri Lal Commission had divided the backward people into two classes. On the basis of that most backward people are getting 15% reservation in State Government services in Bihar. The same percentage is prevailing in Karnataka. However, Central Government, some State Governments and Union Territories are still not able to identify the creamy layer on the basis of social and economic factors. This work has not been completed even after the judgement given by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has rejected the verdict given by the Kerala High Court.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mandal, please take your seat now. There are other Members also who want to raise important matters. Please try to understand.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether it is ready to implement the judgement of the Supreme Court. At present, the population of most backward people in the country is about 32 to 34 crores. Influential among the backward people are not availing of the benefit of reservation. ... (Interruptions) Whether I am present here or not, it does not matter. I will keep on struggling for the cause of backward people. This question pertains to the whole country. It is the question of 32% people. An act was passed in Kerala in which it has been stated that there

is no creamy layer in Kerala. The Supreme Court had ordered the Central Government for implementing it. Will the Central Government implement it or not? The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should make a statement in this regard. The most backward people among the backwards should be identified in every State on the basis of social and economic factors.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (NASIK) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards cotton crop....(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : A statement has been given recently and earlier also similar statement was there Jats should also be included in backward classes....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please do not provoke him. Shri Mandal, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : I am talking about the judgement given by the Kerala High Court...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Shri Mandal. I have called Shri Uttamrao Dhikale.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir two days ago the farmers of Maharashtra organised a march and demanded to fix the procurement price of cotton. As all of you are aware that monopoly scheme is in force in Maharashtra. According to this scheme the farmers of Maharashtra can not sell their cotton out of State. All the farmers of the State are worried over it. There are no customer for their produce. I am ashamed of narrating the miserable condition of the farmers. The farmers of Kinwat and Khamgaon villages of Maharashtra took their cotton to the market and they remained there for seven to eight days to sell their produce but they could not get any customers for their produce and one farmer died and his cotton remained unsold in the market. Therefore, I would like to request you to kindly issue direction to the State Government to give remunerative price of cotton to the farmers. Second thing which I want to say to the government is that we are importing cotton, sugar and vegetables etc. We are importing pomegranate from Afghanistan....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Babban Rajbhar to speak.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Hon'ble Speaker, what price is being paid by the Maharashtra Government? The price fixed by the Union Government is not being paid by the Maharashtra Government....(Interruptions) The former Shiv-Sena-BJP coalition Government in Maharashtra paid Rs. 2300 for cotton to the farmers in the State. The Union Government should give directions to the State Government to pay this price to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Babban Rajbhar to speak.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The Maharashtra Government are committing atrocities on farmers due to which a number of farmers have died in the State. The Congress Government in Maharashtra are committing atrocities on the farmers. I would request the Union Government to issue directions to the Government of Maharashtra to give remunerative price of cotton to the farmers. The price of Soyabean was fixed at Rs. 544 ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Sir, I will complete in one minute...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed you. You are again disturbing the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not understand this type of behaviour. You are again disturbing the House.

[Translation]

It can not be allowed. When are you thinking?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The farmers held a "Morchha" there.... (Interruptions) The Minister of Textiles is present here....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Varanasi, the cultural capital of India, is the centre of tourists from all over the world. This is not only the centre of Hindu religion but it is also centre of the followers of the Buddhism and Jainism. The world famous Banaras Hindu University has five universities under it. Carpets, Silk and Silk Sarees are exported to all over the world from Varanasi. A large number of tourists visit Varanasi. Toys and artificial pearls are exported to all over the world from here. I demand from the Union Government that there is need to construct an air strip of international standard there and it should be constructed there as early as possible.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Shri Tiwariji has said that after thirteen days we are going to usher into the new Millennium. Today I would like to raise a point in the House whether we should enter the new Millennium with light of darkness.

Last week an incident came into light in Jatali village in Haryana in which a boy belonging to so called lower caste had love affair with an upper caste girl and the girl was killed by her family members seven months ago and after seven months, last week the so called upper caste people, the relatives an influential minister in the Haryana Government till recent past, killed four members of the family of the boy for daring to have an affair with the girl of the so called upper caste. How can we enter the new millennium with such a narrow approach? This is the brutality of castism. This is brutal like apartheid in South Africa. This is uncivilisation. India cannot usher into the new millennium in a civilised manner unless this brutality and casteism is abolished. This is a stigma on the face of civilisation. It is imperative to rise above this brutality of mind. In this incident relatives of an MLA killed four people.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (PHULPUR) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the gross injustice being done to the candidates belonging to other backward classes.

The Union Public Service Commission had invited applications for total 621 vacancies for the civil services examination 1997 and written examination was conducted in November-December 1997 and the Union Public Service Commission interviewed the candidates during April-May 1998. On the basis of examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission 621 candidates were declared successful. Out of the successful candidates total 215 candidates belonging to other backward classes were recommended for appointment by the Union Public Service Commission to the Department of Personnel. Out of these 49 had qualified in the general category and 166 had qualified under the reserved category. But so far the Union Government (Department of Personnel) had not issued appointment letters to 47 candidates belonging to other backward classes. By ignoring the recommendations of Union Public Service Commission and thus they have been deprived of from being appointed in the service whereas according to the Gazette notification of the Government of India that candidates belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes who had qualified examination with general candidates cannot be adjusted against the quota reserved for the scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. Thus the decision of Department of Personnel of the Government of India to deprive the 47 candidates of the All India Services is an open violation of the Constitution.

I demand from the Government to furnish information to the House in this regard and issues appointment letters to remaining all the 47 successful candidates and action should be taken to penalise the guilty officer in this regard...
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR) : Mr. Speaker Sir, thousands of cashew workers in Kerala are not getting the benefit of Provident Fund Family Pension Scheme introduced by the Central Government in 1993. Unfortunately, this scheme covers only those employees who have retired after 1993, but the employees who have retired before 1993 are devoid of the benefits of this scheme. So, I request the Government of India to give pension benefits also to the workers who have retired before 1993 in order to avoid the delay or denial of benefits to them.

Sir, by the time of retirement, most of the workers fall prey to many ailments and are unable to live without anybody's help. After that day, they are not able to support themselves for their sustenance. Another problem being faced by the unfortunate workers is that the pension under Provident Fund Family Pension Scheme is distributed through Canara Bank only. May I request the Government, through you, that the pension should be distributed through all the nationalised banks?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : I had given a privilege notice. I want to know as to what happened to that? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is 'Zero hour'.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am giving notices for the last fifteen days.... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST) : Sir, it is always glorious for any newspaper which steps into 75th year of its service to the nation. *The Hindustan Times*, a leading daily newspaper of the country, has stepped into 75th year. We all should congratulate, on behalf of the House, the management, the employees, the workers and the journalists of the newspaper. We should believe that *The Hindustan Times* will continue to proceed forward with their commitment to objective journalism.

I believe, Sir, you can move a proposal from the Chair and we all can agree to it.

[Translation]

MR. VIJAY GOEL : I also agree with it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can associate yourself with him.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is need for the intervention of the Government in a very important matter. It is most unfortunate that justice falls victim to the double standards of Governments. Cases were filed against eight accused for the massacre of 17 Muslims in Nigar Cinema in Meerut in U.P., but the U.P. Government has, in a very objectionable manner, withdrawn all these cases. This is flouting of the rule of law. This is an assault and a shameful action; an assault on secular democracy. This withdrawal of cases against those accused of murder of 17 Muslims by the U.P. Government, I would say is, in fact, an encouragement to such communal elements which are out to destroy communal atmosphere and amity in our country.

I have, therefore to request the Central Government to intervene in the matter, to see that Justice does not fall victim to the double standards and the cases are duly restored. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, in 1960 population of Delhi was 20 lakhs. In search of employment people from every nook and corner of the country came to Delhi. As they were not in a position to purchase houses in posh colonies they purchased land in the villages of Delhi at cheaper rates and as a result unauthorised colonies mushroomed in Delhi. As on date there are around two thousand unauthorised colonies in Delhi in which twenty lakhs people are living in inhuman conditions as these colonies have not been authorised. The previous BJP Government of national capital Region of Delhi passed 1071 colonies and sent the list of these colonies to the Union Government for its approval. United Front Government was in power at Centre and Congress was supporting it but consent was not accorded to same. I would request the Union Government to pass these colonies immediately so that civic amenities could be provided in these colonies and people of these colonies could lead a better life. I expect that the hon'ble Minister would intervene in this matter and declare as to when these colonies would be passed so that living condition of twenty lakhs people could be improved.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I also support this.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, I have been continuously giving notices for the last three days.

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling everybody.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : I am grateful to the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to express my gratitude for the protection given to me by the Chair against the allegations levelled upon me and injustice done to me. Alongwith it, I would also like to express my gratitude to the hon'ble Prime Minister with whom I met.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Delkar, you have given the notice on some other matter, but now you are raising another matter. This is not proper. Whatever notice you have given, you have to speak only on that subject. Otherwise, I will disallow it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Sir, I will conclude in two minutes after expressing my gratitude. The injustice done to me is being probed. I am grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister who has given an assurance that justice will be done to me.

MR. SPEAKER : This will not to be allowed.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Sir, I would like to express gratitude to hon'ble Members for supporting me. I would like to express gratitude toward the Hon'ble Prime Minister and all the Members who have provided me support and protection. I would like to demand from the Government that this matter should be fully probed by the vigilance department... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a problem of Kanpur... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is disallowed

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last 40 years, the Ganga river has changed its course and gradually left the ghats of Kanpur. A demand in this regard was made in these last 40 years by the people of Kanpur city, which has now been met... (Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Delkar, Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Delkar, this is too much. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

Please take your seat, what is this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ganga river has drifted away from ghats. There was a 20 years old demand of the people of Kanpur city, which has been met now. We are fortunate that Pandit Narayan Datt Tiwari is present here. The Government of Uttar Pradesh as well as the Union Government approved the project of Ganga Barrage. The Union Government also contributed its share and the work on Ganga-barrage began in Kanpur but for the last three years, the construction work of Ganga-barrage has come to standstill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, existence and development of Kanpur city are closely linked with the Ganga-barrage. Until the construction of Ganga-barrage is completed, the people of Kanpur will neither get clean potable water nor the problem of shortage of electricity can be solved.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you to draw the attention of the Central Government towards this issue of urgent public importance of Kanpur city. The construction work of Ganga-barrage which is at a standstill for last 2 years, should be immediately started...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.05 P.M.

13.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till five Minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

14.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fourteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA in the Chair)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Pramod Mahajan to make Statement.

14.14 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Y2K Problem in Computers and Computer Based Systems and Readiness of the Country

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, the Y2K (Year 2000) problem has been receiving the attention of the Government during the years 1998 and 1999. This problem is associated with computer and computer based systems and results from an industry-wide practice of representing the years with only two digits instead of four (for example, specifying 96 instead of 1996). This practice was widespread from 1960 to 1980, to save disc and memory space when these resources were relatively expensive.

When used, these two digits representations can cause the system to interpret the Year 2000 as 1900 and years 2001 and 2002 as 1901 and 1902 respectively. The miscalculation could create serious problems in those date sensitive applications such as reservation systems, ticketing, banking operation and insurance. The Y2K problem is all pervasive for it affects the hardware, software, communications subsystems and all digital systems having embedded system.

The Government has sensitized all the concerned Ministers/ Departments, agencies and organisations in public and private sector about Y2K problem and the need for remedial measures necessary for achieving Y2K readiness. The awareness campaign includes advertisement in newspapers, magazines, television, radio and direct mailers highlighting the impact of Y2K. A facilitation desk and website has been created to disseminate the information about Y2K problem.

An important incentive granted by the Government was provision to provide for deduction in computing the profits and gains of business or profession, of any expenditure incurred, wholly and exclusively to make the existing computer systems Y2K complaint for the year, 1999-2000. The Government also permitted the various Ministries, Departments and agencies to spend up to three per cent of their budget for Y2K preparedness. The Government further mandated that all companies must declare their status of Y2K preparedness in their quarterly and annual reports.

The Committee of Secretaries has also been reviewing the status of Y2K readiness of eleven critical sectors, namely, banking and finance, insurance, telecommunications, power, civil aviation, railways, petroleum and natural gas, ports, space, atomic energy and defence. The overall assessment is that a high degree of Y2K readiness has been achieved by these sectors and third party audit has also been carried out. The contingency plan is also in place. Two of the priority sectors, namely, civil aviation and power have been reviewed by foreign consultants through International Civil Aviation Organisation and World Bank. These experts have completed the audit and their draft report certified the Y2K readiness of these two sectors at par with international standard.

The Government of India has set up a high level action Force on managing the impact of Y2K problem in India with representatives from Government, industry associations, banks and financial institutions, railways, defence services, utility and other public service organisations as members. The Action Force in October, 1999 submitted its Report which was widely disseminated. The Action Force has also been closely monitoring the progress of Y2K readiness in all the sectors at the national level.

The State Governments also have an important role to play at this critical stage of Y2K readiness process because many of the sectors involving a direct interface with the public are in the purview of State Governments. The Prime Minister has addressed letters to Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories advising them of the importance of Y2K readiness and to initiate necessary remedial action.

The Ministry of Information Technology is setting up a National Control Room at the headquarter of National Informatics Centre at New Delhi. They will closely coordinate and work with the sectoral control rooms of the various Ministries of the Government of India and will operate from 28th December, 1999 to 3rd January, 2000. All the State Governments have also been requested to set up Control Rooms in State capitals and district headquarters to provide information and technical support.

I want to reassure all the hon. Members of this august House that the Government has spared no effort to ensure the Y2K readiness of all the sectors so that the public is not put to inconvenience on account of this manmade problem. We are watching the situation closely and all the concerned sectors are continuously monitoring, checking and rechecking their state of preparedness so that the roll over to the New Millennium is smooth.

14.20 hrs.

**SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BANK
OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Yashwant Sinha, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I introduce the Bill.

14.21 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Disinvestment Policy of Government - contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will not continue the discussion under rule 193. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST) : Sir, today, while initiating the discussion under rule 193 on 'Disinvestment policy of Government', I would rather propose to consider the economic and humanitarian aspects of the problem. Unemployment has reached skyrocketing heights. In addition to that, if disinvestment and closure of public sector units take place, it will be a real challenge and a difficulty for those employed in the various Central public sector units, the number of which has been mentioned by hon. Members who spoke before me; and the problem of unemployment will not only be acute but will also cross all limits of tolerance.

What are the main reasons for sickness? The basic reasons for sickness were investigated by the Committee on Public Undertakings last time and I was a Member of that Committee and a few reasons were detected. Those were low capacity utilization, frequent equipment breakdown, ageing of plants, power shortages, industrial relations problems and lack of competitiveness. Some proposals for remedial action were also mentioned in the last Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings like induction of new

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technology, budgetary support and rationalization of management.

We urge the Government to consider on the top most priority the disinvestment proposals and the proposals declared for closure and VRS and announce its ideas and attitude. We feel that the Government is in total confusion and that it has failed to project its views and ideas. What are their ideas so far as the disinvestment policy is concerned?

I congratulate the new Minister. I think, he has his own dynamism, he has his own imagination and he has his farsightedness and managerial efficiency. I believe that with all these qualities, he would try to go into the details and realize the problems which have been mentioned here in a very broad-based under.

A Disinvestment Commission was formed on 23.08, 1996. This Commission submitted its 12th report and the United Front Government could not do anything about that report. Now, the BJP-led Government in which we are also a partner also did not do anything and this Commission's report is gathering dust only. That Commission, after three long years of its tenure, submitted its report and what is the fate of that report? How far are the recommendations being considered? What are the views expressed on it? May I know whether the Government is going to accept it or not? Some positive announcement and some positive ideas are to be placed before the House.

We are also concerned with a few of the Central Public Sector Units in the State of West Bengal. Hon. Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee made an appeal to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Prime Minister categorically assured that some alternative revival packages would be considered before declaring closure of a few Central Public Sector Units. Some such Public Sector Undertakings are : Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC), National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited (NBCIL), Cycle Corporation of India, Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, National Instruments Limited, Welgheord India Limited, Tannery and Footwear Corporation Limited (TAFCO)—of course, this is in Lucknow which is hon. Prime Minister's constituency— and Rehabilitation industries Corporation of India.

The Prime Minister assured that so far as these Central Public Sector Units are concerned, before their declared closure, they will be kept under consideration. Hon. Minister Shri Pramod Mahajan also, on behalf of the Central Government, in a rally at the Brigade Parade Ground categorically assured that the Cabinet will hold a meeting to consider the proposal about which the hon. Prime Minister made us aware. We will have to enquire whether it is a fact at all. An amount of Rs. 517 crore is required for discharging workers' liabilities on account of VRS and an amount of

Rs. 300 crore is required for rehabilitation. If an amount of Rs. 300 crore is allotted, then they can reconsider it. The Government is running fast now behind the VRS Scheme.

Coming to PESB, it was set on 30.08.1974; in PESB senior level postings are taken away by the retired bureaucrats. The PESB has now become a heaven for the retired bureaucrats who are heading the Central Public Sector Units either as the Chairman or as the Managing Directors. We would appeal to the hon. Minister that instead of making the Central Public Sector Units as the heaven for the retired bureaucrats, they should ensure participation of the workers in management. If we find that representation of workers is there in the management, then we firmly believe that there will be a sense of higher production and a good environment. The management is to be managed in the managerial way and not to be managed by the bureaucracy only. We have very well established Central Public Sector Units in our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : They are called as *Navarathnas*. Some of the very well run Public Sector Undertakings are : BHEL, SAIL, NTPC, NHPC, ITI, IOC, VSNL, NFL, RCF, Indian Airlines, GAIL, etc. They have established their command and credibility.

So far as the Central PSUs are concerned — about which Shri Basu Deb Acharia was mentioning the other day— there are 246 Central PSUs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sudip Bhandyopadhyay, please conclude now.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : I have just started. Please give me five minutes more.

Out of that, we have 11 excellently run CPSUs. 97 profit-making PSUs are there which are known as *minirathnas*. And 108 Central PSUs have been offered strategic buyers. What does the strategic sale imply? Is it a fact that the strategic sale implies sale of a substantial block of government holding to a single party which will acquire substantial equity holding of 60 per cent? If it is a fact then gradually this strategic buyer will automatically become the key holder of the company. So, the Government should come out categorically what does it want to say.

Public Sector Modernisation Fund should be immediately established. This will provide financial assistance to the PSUs. This will help in restructuring as well as modernisation of the PSUs. What role does this fund play, we would like to know. Standing Conference of Public Enterprises have proposed to set up a Restructuring Commission to plan a long term strategy for PSUs. This Commission would evolve an overall strategy for PSUs and would not look at sale to bridge fiscal deficit.

We are positively opposed to the idea of disinvestment. From the very beginning it appeared that Shri Yashwant Sinha, the hon. Finance Minister was not looking after the problems seriously as he was over-burdened with his ministerial job. We firmly believed that, when a separate Ministry had been announced, a person like Shri Arun Jaitley will definitely look into the problems. If necessary, he will call tripartite meetings, take the unions into confidence or consult those who are really capable of giving goods ideas. The Committee on Public Undertakings went in great detail about restructuring of sick units, modernisation of the units or making sick units viable. Such reports need to be looked into. The Government should act in a bias way as this will not only result into unemployment but also may create other social problems. We feel that these disinvestment proposals are to be dealt with very firmly. Top priority should be given to give relief to the working class of our country.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion under rule 193 on disinvestment policy has been initiated by the Father of the House, Shri Indrajit Gupta. In the course of discussion, we come to know that a separate department has been set up in this regard. Another Department for Information Technology has also been set up. Shri Pramod Mahajan has been designated as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information Technology. Shri Arun Jaitley, who was a brilliant student leader of the movement launched by Shri Jaiprakash Narayan and is also an eminent lawyer, has been designated as the Minister of State of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. But there is a rumour in the country that the hon'ble Prime Minister gives 'juicy' departments to the people close to him. I do not know, whether this will make country progress or not.

14.35 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

The rumour is very strong, that he has done so to collect funds for election campaign. He is a very good friend of mine, and had also participated in the J.P. movement. However, we have to be vigilant, when the question is of welfare of rural areas particularly of poor labour class in the country. Why no study is being done to assess the improvement made or setback caused after the implementation of W.T.O. and liberalisation policy? The entrepreneurs of small scale industries are facing a lot of difficulties. A Commission was set up after framing of disinvestment policy. With the inception of public sector undertakings, mixed economy emerged in the country. Since then, a conspiracy is

going on somehow to cause harm to the public sector, so that private sector can get complete hold over the economy. Though everybody accepts the fact that the country had benefited with the rise of public sector. The rise in private sector will invite the multinationals, and they will become multi-millionaires. There are problems of poverty, inequality and unemployment in our country. Public undertakings have achieved expertise in various fields. They have contributed a lot in our country's economy. It has provided employment to many people. However, due to some reasons, their condition deteriorated and they became sick. This is a matter of concern. The commission has said in its report that Government should try to sell the shares of sick industrial units. Why does the Government want to sell the shares of those public undertakings which are in good position and are earning profit. The Chairman of Rama-krishna Committee too asked as to why the Government is doing so? We want clarification from the Government in this regard. The share of GAIL was to be sold at the rate of Rs. 127, but why it was sold at the rate of Rs. 70? Rs. 600 crores were misappropriated in this process. The kind of sales shares amounts to sale of country itself... (Interruptions). We want a reply from the hon'ble Minister in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon'ble Minister will give a reply on this issue.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Many high ranking officials of Public Undertakings have discussed the issue and everyone was of the opinion that the Government is not working properly in this regard. The country has incurred a loss of 85 per cent. The Government have earned only 15 per cent profit in this regard. The Government is leading the disinvestment policy towards the path of destruction. It will only give rise to unemployment. We oppose this policy. A parliamentary inquiry committee should be set up for this. This has caused a lot of suspicion in the entire country. The country is incurring loss due to their policy in regard to sale of shares. They are considering the country as a big joint shop and everybody is selling his share...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvansh ji, please cooperate with the Chair.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Selling of shares in this way has created suspicion in our minds. It should be probed by a Parliamentary Committee. The issue raised by Shri Acharia should be probed. We support it.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Sir, it is unfair that you are not giving me an opportunity. I have given notice to speak on this discussion under Rule 193...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have discussed it with Leaders of

all Parties. We have to complete this discussion under Rule 193 and at 3 p.m., we have to take up the Private Member's Business. So, please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to the hon. Members to please cooperate with the Chair today. Now, the Minister may reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is the importance that this should continue for three days? I am appealing to you all to please cooperate with the Chair. More than eight Members have spoken on this subject. So, I am appealing to you to please cooperate with the Chair today.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for this opportunity to respond to some very valuable opinions which have been expressed by several hon. Members yesterday and today.

There had been two broad arguments made on the disinvestment policy. The first argument had been on the desirability of the disinvestment policy itself and the second, on the manner in which it has been implemented, if at all. I must confess that I was a little surprised that this question of desirability of having such a policy is raised eight years after it has been implemented by three successive Governments. The policy is not a creation since 1998. The thinking process on disinvestment in PSUs started in 1991-92. In fact, in the Industrial Policy Statement and in the Budget speech of 1991 itself, Dr. Manmohan Singh categorically said :

"In the case of selected enterprises, a part of Government's holding in equity share capital of these enterprises will be disinvestment in order to provide further market discipline to the performance of the public sector enterprises."

The process started in 1991. Yesterday, when Shri Dasmuni was accusing the Government of liquidating public assets, I merely wanted to remind him, through you Sir, of what the Finance Minister had said in his Budget speech of 1991 in this regard. He was belonging to Shri Dasmuni's own party. Dr. Manmohan Singh had said in this Budget speech of 1991 like this:

"For the founding fathers of our Republic, a public sector that would be vibrant, modern competitive and capable of generating large surpluses was a vital element in the strategy of development. The public sector has made an important contribution to the

diversification of our industrial economy but there have been a number of shortcomings. In particular, the public sector has not been able to generate internal surpluses on a large enough scale. At this critical juncture, it has therefore become necessary to take effective measures so as to make the public sector an engine of growth rather than (and I emphasise) an absorbent of national savings without adequate return. This has been widely accepted but the thought and action in this regard are still far apart. To bridge this gap, the portfolio of public sector investment would be reviewed so as to concentrate future operations of the public sector in areas that are strategic for our nation, require high technology for our economy and are essential for infrastructure. In order to raise resources, encourage wider participation and promote greater accountability upto 20 per cent of the Government equity in selected public sector undertakings would be offered to mutual funds and investments in institutions in the public sector undertakings as also to the workers of these funds".

In fact, if I may mention, the argument of the then Finance Minister was that it is not really bridge the fiscal deficit; the public sector is absorbing a part of the national savings and thereby creating, at times, a fiscal deficit. That was the argument advanced in 1991...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH) : What happened to the Rs. 18,000 crore?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I will come to the Rs. 18,000 crore also. I would tell you how much of it has been ploughed back into the public sector. I will give you all the figures.

In 1996, when the United Front Government took over, the Common Minimum Programme was framed. Today, Shri Indrajit Gupta, one of our senior-most Members, said that he is, in principle, opposed to disinvestment. But the CMP did not say that it was opposed to disinvestment. In 1996, the CMP mentioned – to which the Left Parties were also a party – that the question of withdrawing the public sector from the non-core, non-strategic areas would be carefully examined subject, however, to assuring the workers and the employees of job security or, in the alternative, opportunities for retaining and redeployment.

What happened during the period 1991 to 1996? Shri Dasmuni asked us: "Why are you selling the shares of Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum?" I just wish to correct him that not one share of the Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum has been sold since 1996. But it was certainly sold when the Congress Party was in power. The first share to be sold was in 1991 when the Congress Party was in power and that party implemented this disinvestment. They also asked us: "Why do you sell the shares of the Navratnas? Since 1991-92, it was the shares of the BHEL, Bharat Petroleum, the Hindustan Petroleum, the Steel Authority of India, GAIL, MTNL, Indian Oil and, ONGC which

were sold when Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

Therefore, they merely get up and ask why are the shares of the Navratnas sold, why are the shares of the Bharat Petroleum and the Hindustan Petroleum being sold. Since 1998, not one share of these companies has been sold. But, it was certainly sold when the Congress Party was in power.

Sir, I read in the newspapers some days ago that in one of their party meetings, the then Finance Minister was criticised for some of this economic policies. I do not know whether this submission was a carry forward of that inner party debate into this House. I say this because the disinvestment took place when the Congress Party itself was in power. The same argument was raised with regard to the Navratnas as to why their shares are being sold. But even when the United Front Government was in power, the proposal of the VSNL and the MTNL to disinvest the shares of Indian Oil was, in principle, accepted during that period.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : We were opposed to that.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I am sorry. Shri Indrajit Gupta was a senior Minister in that Government. The actual disinvestment of VSNL and the MTNL took place when the United Front Government was in power, in which Government you were active, supporting members and participants. Shri Indrajit Gupta said that he is, in principle, opposed to disinvestment. It was that Government, that Cabinet which decided to disinvest this.

About the shares of Indian Oil Corporation, you said that it should never be disinvested. In principle, the decision was taken to disinvest the Indian Oil Corporation when the United Front Government was in power.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a question has been raised. It was again raised as to what is being done with the amount which is realised as a result of disinvestment and whether it would be utilised for any social sector.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MIDNAPORE) : The break-up was not given by anybody.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Well, I shall endeavour to give you the break-up. The figures speak for themselves as to how much of the disinvestment realisations is being used. The total amount invested in the Indian public sector by way of Governmental equities is more than Rs.90,000 crore. Regarding all the loans of the financial institutions and the other reserves of them taken together, the figures is as high as Rs. 2,04,000 crore. This large national resource is held up in the public sector. I can see that some of them have done a commendable job. Since 1991-92, the dis-

vestment process has started. I would just give the figures for that period.

The budgetary support to the public sector by way of grants has been about Rs. 35,000 crore and the total support of all kinds to revive the public sector has been Rs. 61,968 crore. The total amount which the Government and various other institutions have ploughed back into the public sector is more than Rs. 61,000 crore. Therefore, this whole argument that disinvestment takes place in order to bridge the budget deficit is not correct and I just have to rely on Dr. Manmohan Singh's logic that at times the public sector is absorbing the national savings, because what the Government has realised from the public sector by sale of shares during this period was only Rs. 18,288 crore.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Minister could yield for a minute, I would like to ask a clarification.

Sir, the hon. Minister has talked about the total amount which has been invested or provided to the public sector. What we want to know is, out of this amount of Rs. 18,288 crore, how much money you have provided for strengthening of the public sector or for making the public sector units viable?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I am grateful for that intervention by Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

Sir, every realisation from the public sector, once the shares are sold, goes into the Consolidated Fund of India. So, an amount of Rs. 18,288 crore went into the Consolidated Fund of India by sale of these assets as on 30th November, 1999. As against this amount of Rs. 18,288 crore which went into the Consolidated Fund of India, more than Rs. 35,000 crore came out of that Consolidated Fund...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : What was the dividend?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I am again grateful for that query.

As against this investment of Rs. 90,000 crore to Rs. 95,000 crore and the rest of the Government institutional finances which are stuck up there, the total dividend received during this eight to nine year period is Rs. 9,971 crore. Therefore the return that we have got out of this entire national resource of almost over Rupees Two lakh crore, over a period of nine years, is too low. In nine years, on simple interest, the money triples itself. But from this investment of over Rupees Two lakh crore, that is, loans and equity, the total realisation in terms of dividend is Rs. 9,971 crore. The total amount so far obtained by sale of shares is about Rs. 18,000 crore or so. The total support by various governmental agencies to keep the public sector going and to strengthen them is almost Rs. 61,000 crore.

The hon. Member asked a question as to why this money is not spent on the social sector. I would like to inform him that much more than what is realised has been spent on the public sector itself. But, as I said, this entire money goes into the Consolidated fund of India and in 1991-92, the budgetary provision on the entire social sector was Rs. 8,175 crore. When all these realisations come into the Consolidated Fund, last year, the actual was, not the estimated figure, Rs. 29,570 crore and this year, the estimation is Rs. 32,380 crore, which is 400 per cent of the figure of 1991-92. Therefore, to say that this amount is being used only for bridging the budget the budget deficit may not be accurate, because much more than the amount realised from dividend and sale of shares is ploughed back to keep the public sector going and much more than has also been spent on the social sector.

Therefore, as far as the question as to why there should be disinvestment is concerned, the philosophy which was started in 1991 and which was evolved during the tenure of the United Front Government and the present Government is very clear and that is, a very large part of the national resource is held up in the public sector. It is erroneous to say that a national asset is being liquidated.

In fact, one of the interruptions was that the new department which has been formed is really an official liquidator. I would say that the argument, though attractive or *prima facie* does not hold ground for the reason that if public sector in this country or the companies in public sector are to revive, they need modernisation, they need investment, and they need money. Today, if the private sector is in a position to bring in all that to revive, no company is being liquidated. Some shares held by the Government are being sold to a private party. The companies would not close down; the corporations would not close down. The object is that their ownership gets broadbased, more funds are brought in, a professional management is brought in. Somebody who is going to spend Rs. 1,000 crore and buys shares of a public sector is not spending Rs. 1,000 crore to buy shares in order to close down the company. His object is going to be that the company must be revived, the company must be modernised, the company must be made professional and it must be made profitable. That was the whole philosophy behind disinvestment which was started in 1991. Once that takes place, the workers' interests in a gone concern and going to be much more protected rather than allow a public sector with lack of resources to face difficulties on its own strength.

During the course of the debate, several questions have been raised. Shri Indrajit Gupta had raised a question that there appeared to be an apparent contradiction in the Finance Minister's speech in the Rajya Sabha. I may point at that he was quoting it from his Budget Speech of 1998.

The printed text of the proceedings in the Rajya Sabha is :

"In the case of public sector enterprises inviting speedy considerations, the Government will continue to hold a majority shareholding.

This is a quotation from the Budget Speech which has been misquoted in the speech itself. The actual words were:

"In the case of public sector enterprises involving strategic considerations, the Government will continue to retain the majority holding."

This is precisely what the Minister of Finance had said in the Budget speech.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What would happen in regard to the others? He said something about 26 per cent.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : With regard to others, the speech of the Minister of Finance was very clear. I may read it out:

"In a generality of cases, the Government have decided that the Government shareholding in public sector enterprises would be brought down to 26 per cent."

Keeping the constraint of time in view, I will merely point out that a question was raised: "Is there any proposal to revive the sick public sector? The answer is : 'Yes'. Forty-two proposals for revival of the public sector are pending. Nineteen have been cleared and 23 proposals are pending consideration.

A question raised by several Members was : "Why was the Disinvestment Commission wound up?" I may clarify in this regard that the Disinvestment Commission was constituted on 23rd August, 1996. It was for a period of three years. The term would have normally lapsed in August, 1999. It was extended to 30th November, 1999. Thereafter, the term has lapsed in 1999. The new Commission is now to be freshly constituted. The process is already under way. I can assure this House that there would be a new commission which would be constituted.

A very valuable suggestion came from Shri Dasmuni: "Why should a C & AG audit not be undertaken with regard to the sales which take place of the shares of the public sector?" I may inform him that right from 1991-92, when this exercise was undertaken, a C & AG audit has regularly and continuously been undertaken. The C & AG reports in this regard are available. Obviously, the C & AG audit being there, the same would continue.

A question was also raised as to why there was the need and desirability of a new Department. It has been pointed out by several Members. Even in the past and in some cases, these disinvestment process were held up

because several agencies were involved with in the Government. A nodal Ministry has been created now in order to handle the process of disinvestment itself. Earlier, it was the Department of Public Enterprises, the administrative Ministry, the Ministry of Finance, who were all involved in the particular process. I only say that a new Department has been created.

15.00 hrs.

I am in this Department for only for a few days.

We are going to endeavour to take the utmost care that the disinvestment process which take place is done in the best public interest and efforts will be made to realise the maximum amount as a value of each transaction. There would be complete transparency of all process. In fact, in the other House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee has made some valuable suggestions which we are considering with regard to the even codifying the process and the workers' interests in all eventualities would be given utmost consideration.

Already questions have been raised in regard to the sale of the GAIL shares. It has already been discussed here and answered; I have nothing more to add here.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Why was it sold when the rate was so low? That was the question yesterday.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : While the question has already been answered, let me say so. There was a process of selling of shares through a GDR issue. That process started in 1996. It is a transparent internationally accepted book-building process by which the disinvestment takes place in that GDR issue. It is that transparent process of book-building which was followed in the present case in GAIL also. That the prices would come down or the prices would go up, really is a matter which can happen. The Government at one time decided not to sell at Rs. 110 because nobody...

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : A different advice was given for ONGC and another advice was given for GAIL.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Nobody is able to time the market. For instance, when the price was Rs. 120 and Rs. 110, maybe the Government would have been wise enough at that time to sell it. In February that year the domestic market was at Rs. 60 and even after the GDR issue, the price of the share is much lower than what it has been sold. Nobody can time the market, nobody can predict the market. The process which has been followed in the GAIL issue also is a book-building process which was devised in 1996 and is continuously followed.

MR. SPEKAER : Yes, only one or two clarifications and the hon. Minister may note down all of them first and then reply to them.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (NAINITAL) : The hon. Minister gave a negative name to the Department, Disinvestment Department'. He should have called it Investment Planning Department'. I would urge the hon. Minister not to give a negative name....(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : If the hon. Member thinks that disinvestment is a euphemism which indicates that there is a liquidation, he should consider that it is an effort to revive some of our sick public sector units.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Although the Disinvestment Commission recommended very categorically for setting up of a Disinvestment Fund, uptill now this is only on papers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much money has been deposited in the Disinvestment Fund. He has not given answer to that question and he has given a general reply regarding the total amount which has been provided. Although there is a reduction from 32 per cent to 13 per cent in Budgetary Support, he has not given the percentage by which it has been raised because of disinvestment all these eight years, and how much has been provided out of the amount raised by selling out the shares of public sector undertakings....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, you have already participated in the debate.

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Sir, the hon. Minister mentioned about the restructuring of the public sector undertakings. He has said that some decisions has been taken and many are pending. But there is a difficulty with regard to the financial transactions because discussions are going on for one year or two years and by that time that public sector undertaking dies. In the case of FACT, Kerala, it is pending for the past two years and no decision has been taken. My pointed question is, will the hon. Minister take a quick decision on public sector undertakings and somehow or the other revamp the public sector undertakings which can be revamped?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : At the outset, I am sorry to seek clarification after the concerned Minister made a statement on the sale of shares by GAIL.

Since my good friend, Shri Arun Jaitley offered to make some comments, could I take the liberty of seeking further clarifications on the basis of the points he made? He said, in the process of his brief comment, that book building of shares of GAIL at one stage went up to Rs.110 to Rs. 115. The then Government did not consider it proper to disinvest at that stage apparently because the Government of that time was told by the Merchant Bank, that, it was not the right price. The minimum price indicated by the Merchant

Bank at that time, I understand, was at least Rs. 120. The Merchant Bank, in fact, stated at that time, I am told, subject to confirmation from the Minister that the intrinsic value of the share of GAIL was Rs. 150. This was at that time when the SENSEX of our Stock Market was ruling at 3,600 points. Now, it is hovering around 4,600 points. This was at that time when Dow Jones was hovering around 5000 points. It has now shot through 10,000 points. Thirdly, this was a time when the price of gas, internationally, was far lower than they are today. Therefore, the intrinsic price of GAIL's share should be much higher than Rs. 150. In the background you are prepared to make a distress sale. I do not know whether it is a distress sale distressing sale. Will you kindly shed light on this?

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for calling me. In fact, my name was there in the Party's list of speakers but some of us have agreed not to speak. I have got only one clarification.

MR. SPEAKER : You be very brief because we have to take up the Private Members' Business.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : All right, Sir, IPCL is in Gujarat. All the three employees organizations, INTUC, AITUC and BMS, have approached the Gujarat High Court against disinvestment. The Employees Association of SC and ST Welfare has also certain apprehensions about the disinvestment of IPCL. According to my information, the Government has already decided to go ahead. At present, there are 13,000 employees. The IPCL came into being in the year 1969. On account of the reservation policy which was implemented from the year 1971-72, 2,500 SC and ST employees are already working. They are afraid that the reservation policy will be stopped, the moment the private share-holding goes beyond 30 per cent. The present share-holding of Government in IPCL is 59 per cent. If you give 31 per cent for private share-holding, it becomes a private sector. So, they are afraid that the policy of reservation will be stopped. What is the solution for the SC and ST employees? I would like to know whether the Government will give its assurance that in case of disinvestment taking place not only in IPCL but also in any other Public Sector Undertakings, the policy of reservation shall and will continue. It is not only the employees' associations but also the land owners who have given land to these people have also gone as appellants.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANHUHA) : Whatever Shri Pravin Rashtrapal has said, I also support that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : So, you can associate with him.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I want to make only one point. The hon. Minister has stated just now that the process of auditing of C & AG in such cases have been continuing. I am not saying that. What I am saying is that there is a specific recommendation of the Commission that while disposing of the shares, immediately without delay the matter should be taken up with the C & AG and based on their comment, one should process the whole thing. I would like to know whether this has been done in case of GAIL. That was my question yesterday.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : All along, our hon. Minister while making comments had been harping on the point that disinvestment was started in the year 1991 and both the Congress and the UF Governments had continued this. Of course, the UF Government did not take any decision on this. But they said that the matter would be examined. I am not going into it at length. My question to the hon. Minister is : "What is your policy on disinvestment?" It is because the National Agenda for Governance of the last Government, that is, the Government which was in power during the 12th Lok Sabha, which in fact, is being continued *de facto* during the 13th Lok Sabha, has said :

"The reforms process will continue". However, a strong "Swadeshi" thrust will be given to ensure that the national economy grows on the principle that "India shall be built by Indians".

This is my question.

Then, you have said about taking care of employment. I am not going to dwell at length on this point for want of time. I will just quote one example of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Hyderabad.

Now, as per a representation which had been given to us, two months salary has not been paid to the employees so far. This is the way this Government is taking care of the interests of the employees. This is the representation. (Interruptions) The question is : how this particular department, the newly created Disinvestment Department, which in my opinion is dismantling the public sector and destroying the public sector, is going to handle this particular point, i.e., taking care of the interests of the employees at large?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Please inform the House when are you coming out with the policy.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, since Shri Dasmunsi has raised this issue and that is also the last issue raised, the policy under which the Government has been acting in regard to disinvestment was specified in the previous two Budgets. The policy is, and I quote from the speech of the Minister of Finance in the 1998-99 Budget :

"Government have decided that in the generality of cases, the Government shareholding in public sector enterprises will be brought down to 26 per cent."

"In case of public sector enterprises involving strategic considerations, Government will continue to retain majority holding."

"The interest of workers shall be protected in all cases."

This was reaffirmed in 1999-2000 Budget. I quote:

"The Government's strategy towards public sector enterprises will continue to encompass a judicious mix of strengthening strategic units, privatising non strategic ones through gradual disinvestment or strategic sale and devising viable rehabilitation strategies for weak units."

A question was raised with regard to the setting up of the Disinvestment Fund as to what the Government propose to do and as such a fund had been suggested.

Now, this Fund was suggested when the United Front Government was in power. The Fund has, till date, not been put into action. The Minister of Finance while answering the debate in the other House has already clarified and I reaffirm what he has said: "We are soon going to take a decision in regard to the actual setting up of the Disinvestment Fund where ten per cent of the proceeds will go".... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : After eight years.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I am sorry it was suggested in 1996. If you say after eight years.... (Interruptions). Since 1991 it has not been set up and since 1996 it has been set up (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Disinvestment Fund was set up in 1996. How much have you deposited?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Therefore, in 1996-97 it was not set up. I am only reiterating what the Minister of Finance has said that we are taking steps to set up this Fund where ten per cent of the proceeds will go.

A question was raised that the restructuring process and a decision-making process takes a lot of time. By the time the market conditions change, the situation may even become worse. This is precisely the reason why one nodal agency has been created to taking of decisions in this matter.

As far as Gas Authority of India Limited is concerned, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy has raised this question, though the same question was raised in an earlier debate. My senior colleague, Shri Ram Naik has already answered it. Your entire argument overlooks one basic factor that the rate of shares in the stock market—domestic or international—never remains the same. Because that they never remain the same, nobody has been able to time the market and predict what the prices on a future date are going to be. When you

delay decisions, in these cases, after in principle deciding to sell and you wait for years, the prices may further go down, as it happened in this case. Not only do you suffer by way of prices going down, you also suffer on account of the opportunity cost that you have missed during those two to three years.

Therefore, the price at which it was sold was almost at par with the prevalent price. The domestic price was marginally higher because the domestic market itself was very thin. There was no capacity in the domestic market to buy this. So, the price may have been Rs. 78 but in the international market the price was Rs. 70. This gets explained by the levelling out of the market forces in the international market because after the sale also, the price has been lower on the dollar rate than the price at which it was sold. With regard to IPCL.... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The same yardstick should have been applied in the case of ONGC also.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Each sale will have to be decided on its own merits.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Who will decide ? (Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, in the case of GAIL, the advice was otherwise. Well, this is not the first time it has happened that after taking a decision, you can withhold it. Take the case of Indian Oil. In 1996-97, disinvestment decision was taken but then it was withheld because of the market conditions. There may be turbulent market conditions, because of which you may hold on at one particular time.... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I do not want to interrupt my friend. The point that all of us are trying to make is this. In the case of GAIL also, this should have been allowed. You should have withheld.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, please do not interrupt the Minister

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, let me clarify that in the case of GAIL, the price in the international market was the price at which it was obtained.

Two more questions have been raised. With regard to IPCL, the matter is still under process. No final decision in the matter has been taken. The questions which have been raised even in the course of the earlier debate will all be taken into consideration when the Government takes a decision in this particular matter.

Suggestions have been made with regard to the Comptroller and Auditor General. Earlier, the point had been raised in a different context.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Are you prepared

to have a re-look and investigation into the GAIL matter?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, the matter has been processed in the past in a particular manner. It would continue to be regulated and processed in the same manner in regard to every transaction, including the GAIL transaction. Merely because somebody wants to raise an issue, a new process cannot be found in that particular case.

I would like to suggest that our effort is going to be transparency and to be able to get the best...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : No reply has been given about IPCL.

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I have said that the matter is still under consideration of the Government and, therefore, the suggestions which have been made with regard to IPCL, will be borne by us in mind when we take a final decision. Our effort is going to be to have the maximum return, the best public interest being subserved and the maximum transparent processes to be followed in the future transactions. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Now we shall take up Private Members' Business. Shri Aditya Nath.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, will you accept the demand for investigation by a committee of the House?....(Interruptions) Why do you not accept the demand for a committee of the House to conduct investigation into the GAIL matter?....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, why is the Minister afraid of that?...(Interruptions) Sir, since the Minister is not agreeing to this demand, we are walking out.

15.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, since the Minister is not agreeing to our demand, we are walking out in protest....(Interruptions)

15.18½ hrs.

At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House.

15.19 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Sir, as a protest, we are also walking out on behalf of our party, AIADMK.

15.19 hrs.

At this stage, Shri P.H. Pandiyan and some other hon. Members left the House.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : Sir, do I not deserve an answer from the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, as a protest, I am also going out.

15.19 hrs.

BAN ON COW SLAUGHTER BILL*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit the slaughter of cow and its progeny.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit the slaughter of cow and its progeny."

I have to inform the hon. Members that Shri G.M. Banatwalla has given notice of his intention to oppose the Bill on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I should be taken to have protested and also walked out on the earlier point.

Sir, I am here to oppose the leave sought for introducing the Bill.

I must clarify that the Bill is not merely about cow. It includes all the progeny of the cow including bulls, bullocks, buffaloes and so on. Such a blanket ban has been decided as unconstitutional by even the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, in its judgement in Hashmat-ullah Versus State of Madhya Pradesh and Others in 1996 had struck down a similar Bill of Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, the Bill that is there before us today for the purpose of introduction is unconstitutional and *ultra vires* of the Constitution.

I have another important matter and that is the Bill is outside the competence of this House to legislate. This House does not have the competence to legislate on this issue. The issue concerns organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry. This appears not in the Union List; it does not appear even in the Concurrent List but the subject

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2 dated 17-12-99.

matter of the Bill appears in List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. It is exclusively in the jurisdiction of the States. It is not within the jurisdiction of the Centre and, therefore, it is totally outside the competence of this House to enact such a measure.

I may remind you that on 1st May, 1954 the Attorney General was called to the House. That was the time when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister. The Attorney-General came to the House and he endorsed the opinion and he advised the House that this subject matter is exclusively in the jurisdiction of the State, it does not come within the Union List; it does not come within the Concurrent List and, therefore, the House does not have the legislative competence.

This is a very important point. I think you yourself should not have allowed the Bill to come because our own Attorney-General at the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru came here in the House on 1st May, 1954. The matter is there. His entire argument before the House that the matter is outside the competence of this House is there in the Lok Sabha proceedings. I am referring to the proceedings of 1st May, 1954.

I, therefore, feel the Bill is not only unconstitutional but it is also outside the legislative competence of this House.

Sir, the legislative competence was decided. My point of view was endorsed. I am holding the same point of view as the Attorney General held and gave his opinion here in the House itself.

I would also like to draw your attention to Rule 294 Clause 1 Sub-clause (d). Before I read that my first request to you is not to allow this Bill to come for introduction at all and declare it as outside the competence of the House. Sir, in case my prayer is not being accepted by you, then I have to fall back on Rule 294, Clause 1, Sub-clause (d) which says :

It is for the Committee on Private Members' Bills

"to examine every private member's Bill which is opposed in the House on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House, and the Speaker considers such objection *prima facie* tenable;"

It has to be considered as *prima facie* tenable.

Even the Attorney-General came to the House and said that the matter was outside the legislative competence of this House. It is, therefore, very strange that the Members should persist in the flying against the opinion of the Attorney-General tendered in this House during the days when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister.

Sir, I would request you to hold the Bill totally as out of order. In case you do not do so, I would appeal to the hon. members not to press for such a Bill which is outside the legislative competence of the House. Sir, if he also does not yield, I have to appeal to this House to throw away this Bill lock, stock and barrel. It is unconstitutional, it is outside the legislative competence of the House. Even if that is not accepted, let the matter then go to the Private Members' Bills Committee to examine it under the rule which I have quoted.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Sir, the hon. Member has quoted Rule 294. It is a precedent in the House, in all the previous Lok Sabhas, that until that Committee is formed, all the Bills are allowed to be introduced whether it is a Constitution (Amendment) Bill or any other Bill. My Bill was also objected to last Friday and the House had allowed it to be introduced. So, I do not think that the point which is raised regarding Rule 294 is a proper one. So, the objection raised by him should be overruled. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yogi Aditya Nath.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, I have a point to make. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, you have not given any notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I am in support of this Bill. So, I may be allowed to reply his point... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No. The mover of the Bill can give the reply.

Yogi Aditya Nath.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, he can reply... *(Interruptions)* I have a very valid point in reply to his objection... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Swain, please understand that this is introduction stage.

Yogi Aditya Nath

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cow has been the main stay of the Indian culture and religion. Due to simplicity and utility of cow progeny its importance is prevailing in more or less all the civilised countries. In religious and agricultural country like India people worship sacred cow as mother and motherland. While considering all this the framers of our constitution made this provision in Article 48 that the state shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds and prohibiting the slaughter of cows

and calves and other milch and draught cattle. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, he is going into the merits of the Bill. Now we are not discussing the merits of the Bill. Shri Banatwalla has raised Technical points and he should reply to them, and not go into the merits of the Bill...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramesh Chennithala, Shri Bantawalla had raised some points. That is why, he is replying.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : First I am presenting the background. The state shall take necessary steps to conserve and improve breeds of cows, calves and other milch cattle and to prohibit their slaughter. Mr. Speaker, Sir, while disrespecting and hurting the sentiments of 100 crore people in the last 52 years...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Yogi Aditya Nath, you reply to the objections raised by Shri Banatwalla.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am replying. The cow slaughter has continued in this country due to the policy of appeasement. Earlier also, discussion in this regard has taken place in the House. Any law enacted for the implementation of the directive principles of state policy enshrined in Part IV of the constitution cannot be declared unconstitutional on the ground that it violates the rights given under Article 14, 19 and 21. Therefore, if any law is enacted through which the slaughter of cow and calves and other milch and draught cattle is prohibited then it cannot be declared unconstitutional in the name of violation of given rights. Thus in the light of 42nd Amendment of the constitution, there is no obstruction for framing an appropriate legislation on prohibition of cow slaughter. However, till now the government is unable to enact any desired law in this regard. Due to various reasons nobody dared to do so....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Yogi Aditya Nath, please understand that this is only an introductory stage.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Therefore, it is necessary that a central Legislation should be enacted on this important and sensitive issue.

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, please allow me to react on the point made by Shri Banatwalla.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot reply, please take your seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is not a question of reply.

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given any notice.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Shri Swain, please understand that this is not the procedure.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : He said that this was beyond the legislative competence of this House.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swain, you are not the competent person to reply to the objection. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swain, please take your seat. You are not supposed to clarify.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : During the time of the United Front Government, the same Bill was discussed in this House, though the Bill was defeated.

MR. SPEAKER : I am telling you, please take your seat. You are not supposed to clarify anything.

I have to inform the House that the Chair does not decide whether a Bill is constitutionally within the legislative competence or not. The House also does not take a decision on the specific questions of *vires* of a Bill. As far as the demand for referring the Bill to the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions is concerned, the Committee has not yet been constituted. Bills on the same subject have been introduced in the previous Lok Sabha, at least on six occasions. Under these circumstances, I put the question before the House.

The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit the slaughter of cow and its progeny.

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL* (Omission of Article 44 etc.)

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2 dated 17-12-99..

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, once again, I submit that the Bill is *ultra vires* of the Constitution. The Bill seeks to call upon the Government to enact a Uniform Civil Code thus putting an end to the personal laws and the religious laws of all the sections of the people in our society. Not only the Muslims, but I may say, the Hindus, the Christians, all our tribals and various sections of the people have their own personal laws; and Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution given them the right to practice, according to their personal laws.

Further, the Bill is in contravention of the provisions of Article 371. This Article 371A makes a special provision with respect to the State of Nagaland and says:

"In case of religious or social practices of Nagas, Naga customary law and procedure etc., no Act of Parliament shall apply to them."

Certain circumstances for that are mentioned. Why did we, sitting here, in this House, approve this Article 371A. It is because there was insurgency, and one of the demands there was the protection of their social and customary laws. Our Constitution was amended during the time of the late lamented Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Our Constitution was amended, and such an assurance was given to Nagaland and Mizoram that we shall not be interfering and tickling with their customary laws, religious laws and their customary practices. Accordingly, this amendment was brought in the Constitution.

Similarly, we have Article 371G, and this makes a similar special provision with respect to the States of Mizoram.

Therefore, we find that the concept of a Uniform Civil Code is a disintegrative concept leading to dissatisfaction and resentment from every section of our society, whether Muslims, or Christians or even lots of tribals that we have, the Nagas, the Mizos etc. Our Constitution gives everyone the equal right to protection of their personal laws, their social and customary practices and laws.

Sir, I, therefore, say that this Bill, which is disintegrative force and creates nothing but tension and restlessness in our society, be thrown out lock, stock and barrel. It is also unconstitutional and *ultra-vires* of the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Adityanath, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : It has been taken out of the Agenda of the NDA also....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : On Private Members Bills also you are doing like this....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a rule of civilized society and it creates congenial atmosphere among various communities, in the same way same formula should be applied in practice on the smallest unit of society. The Supreme Court has also requested the government from time to time to evolve Uniform Civil Code for every citizen in this country but it is unfortunate that the previous governments have made no such provisions which is essential for unity and integrity of the country, due to lack of political will whereas Article 44 of the Constitution.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if he goes into the merits of the Bill, then I can also go into the merits of the Bill(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Allow him to give his reply(Interruptions) You also raised technical points about the Uniform Civil Code(Interruptions) and Supreme Court judgements....(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I have not discussed the merits of the Bill....(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : So, Shri Adityanath has every right to give reply to the points raised by you....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is all right that Constitutional amendments have been made in regard to the States of Nagaland and Mizoram....(Interruptions) But no Constitutional amendment has been made with regards to any religion or any other State....(Interruptions) Then, how are you saying that this is unconstitutional....(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We are not discussing the merits of the Bill....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swain, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : The partners of NDA will also not approve of this Bill. They will oppose it....(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir this House is supreme.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Everyone knows that this House is supreme. You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, if anybody thinks that this Bill is against the Constitution, then he can move the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court will decide whether it is unconstitutional or not....(Interruptions) We are not here to discuss that....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat now.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very clear in Article 44 of the Constitution that State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform-Civil Code throughout the territory of India and it is in this context that when we talk of the unity and integrity of the nation under present circumstances, the Constitution of the nation should uniformly apply to every citizen of the country. Then, this is also essential for the purpose of marriage because when Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs have abandoned their feelings for national unity then why not other communities who consider themselves as citizen of this country....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Adityanath, please understand that this is only the introductory stage.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Then why don't you want to adopt Uniform Civil Code? Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only America but Muslim nations whether it is Pakistan, Yamen, Saudi Arabia or Turkey all have adopted Uniform Civil Code in their countries. I, therefore, request the House that it may be considered.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I will put the motion to the vote.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : 'Aye'.

MR. SPEAKER : Those against will please say 'No'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : 'No'

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the 'Ayes' have it. The 'Ayes' have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : The 'Noes' have it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We want division.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall put it again.

Let the Lobbies be cleared—

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, order please. You should know that the proceedings of the House are being telecast live.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K.M. Muniappa, you also take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the lobbies have been cleared.

I have to inform the hon. Members that as the Division Numbers have not so far been allotted to Members, it is not possible to hold the Division by the Automatic Vote Recording Machine. Division will not take place under Rule 367AA by distribution of slips.

Members will be supplied at their seats with 'Aye'/'No' printed slips for recording their votes. 'Aye' slips are printed on one side in green, both in English and Hindi, and 'No' in red on its reverse. On the slips, Members may kindly record votes of their choice by signing and writing legibly their names, Identity Cards numbers, Constituency and State/Union Territory and date at the place specified on the slip. Members who desire to record 'Abstention' may ask for the 'Abstention' slip. Immediately, after recording his vote, each member should pass on his slip to the Division Clerk who will come to his seat to collect the same for handing over to the officers at the Table. Members are requested to fill in only one slip for Division. —

Members are also requested not to leave their seats till the slips are collected by the Division Clerks.

Now, I shall put the motion to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The Lok Sabha divided :

Division No. 2 **Ayes** Time : 15.50 hrs.

1. Aditya Nath, Yogi (Gorakhpur)
2. Bais, Shri Ramesh (Raipur)
3. Bhagat, Prof. Dukha (Lohardaga)
4. Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal (Jaipur)
5. Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai (Banaskantha)
6. Delkar, Shri Mohan S. (Dadra and Nagar Haveli)
7. Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari (Kalahandi)
8. Elangovan, Shri P. D. (Dharmapuri)

9. Gadhave, Shri P.S. (Kutch)
10. Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar (Bareilly)
11. Gavitt, Shri Ramdas Rupala (Dhule)
12. Gawali, Kumari Bhavana Pundlikrao (Washim)
13. Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram (Ratnagiri)
14. Giluwa, Shri Laxman (Singhbhum)
15. Gupta, Prof. Chaman Lal (Udhampur)
16. Jadhav, Shri Suresh Ramrao (Parbhani)
17. Jag Mohan, Shri (New Delhi)
18. Jaiya, Dr. Satyanarayan (Ujjain)
19. Javiya, Shri G.J. (Porbandar)
20. Jayaseelan, Dr. A.D.K. (Trichendur)
21. Kaswan, Sri Ram Singh (Churu)
22. Khandelwal, Shri Vijay Kumar (Betul)
23. Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh (Mandala)
24. Kumar, Shri Arun (Jahanabad)
25. Mahajan, Shri Y.G. (Jalgaon)
26. Moorthy, Shri A.K. (Chengalpattu)
27. Oram, Shri Jwal (Sundargarh)
28. Parste, Shri Dalpat Singh (Shahdol)
29. Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar (Bhubaneswar)
30. Radhakrishnan, Shri Pon (Magercoll)
31. Ramshakal, Shri (Robertsganj)
32. Rao, Shri Ch. Vidyasagar (Karimnagar)
33. Rawale, Shri Mohan (Mumbai South Central)
34. Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh (Ajmer)
35. Rawat, Shri Pradeep (Pune)
36. Sahu, Shri Anadi (Berhampur, Orissa)
37. Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram (Shimla)
38. Sharma, Vaidya Vishnu Datt (Jammu)
39. Shashi Kumar, Shri (Chitradurga)
40. Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari (Bolangir)
41. Singh, Ch. Tejveer (Mathura)
42. Somaiya, Shri Kirit (Mumbai North East)
43. Swain, Shri Kharabela (Balasore)
44. Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand (Hapur)
45. Venkateshwarlu, Shri B. (Warangal)
46. Vetrivelan, Shri V. (Krishnagiri)

47. Vijaya Kumari, Shrimati D.M. (Bhadrachalam)
48. Vukkala, Dr. Rajeswaramma (Nellore)

Noes

1. Athawale, Shri Ramdas (Pandharpur)
2. Banatwalla, Shri G.M.
3. Bundela, Shri Sujjan Singh (Jhansi)
4. Chennithala, Shri Ramesh (Mavelikara)
5. Chinnasamy, Shri M. (Karur)
6. Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan (Raiganj)
7. Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan (Silchar)
8. Farook, Shri M.O.H. (Pondicherry)
9. George, Shri K. Francis (Iddukki)
10. Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh (Dibrugarh)
11. Govindan, Shri T. (Kasargod)
12. Gowda, Shri G. Putta Swamy (Hassan)
13. Handique, Shri Bijoy (Jorhat)
14. Jalappa, Shri R.L. (Chikaballapur)
15. Jos, Shri A.C. (Trichur)
16. Khan, Shri Mansoor Ali (Saharanpur)
17. Krishnan, Dr. C. (Pollach)
18. Kumarasamy, Shri P. (Palani)
19. Mahale, Shri Haribhau Shankar (Malegaon)
20. Malaisamy, Shri K. (Ramanathapuram)
21. Mollah, Shri Hannan (Uluberia)
22. Muniyappa, Shri K.H. (Kolar)
23. Muttemwar, Shri Vilas (Nagpur)
24. Pandiyan, Shri P.M. (Tirunelveli)
25. Paswan, Shri Sukdeo (Araria)
26. Patel, Shri Dharm Raj Singh (Phulpur)
27. Patil, Shri R.S. (Bagalkot)
28. Patil, Shri Uttamrao (Yavatmal)
29. Premajam, prof. A.K. (Badagara)
30. Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala (Chirayinkil)
31. Reddy, Shri M. Janardhana (Narasaraopet)
32. Reddy, Shri S. Jalpal (Miryalguda)
33. Reddy, Shri Y.S. Vivekananda (Cuddapah)
34. Sanadi, Prof. I.G. (Dharwad South)

35. Saroja, Dr. V. (Rasipuram)
36. Scindia, Shri Madhavrao (Guna)
37. Selvaganpathi, Shri T.M. (Salem)
38. Shinde, Shri Sushil Kumar (Solapur)
39. Singh Deo, Shri K.P. (Dhenkanal)
40. Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad (Vaishali)
41. Singh, Shrimati Kanti (Bikramganj)
42. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M. (Sivaganga)
43. Thomas, Shri P.C. (Muvattupuzha)
44. Vaiko, Shri (Sivakasi)
45. Vyas, Dr. Girija (Udaipur)
46. Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad (Jhanjharpur)

MR. SPEAKER : The result of the division is :

Ayes : 48

Noes : 46

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The leave is granted. Hon. Member may now introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Hereafter, they cannot talk about secularism... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Sir, can we also have a public record of the voting later, on the notice board? We would like to have it... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, hon. Member Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, the outstanding Parliamentarian, is more active today.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : He is overactive!

15.57 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Article 1)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 3—Shri Adityanath.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR) : Mr. Speaker,

Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Items no. 4 and 5 - Shri Bir Singh Mahato is not here. Item No. 6 - Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

15.58 hrs.

SPICES AND CASH CROPS PRICES COMMISSION BILL*

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the purpose of recommending to the Government the remunerative prices spices and other cash crops.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the purpose of recommending to the Government the remunerative prices for spices and other cash crops."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I introduce the Bill.

15.59 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of the Tenth Schedule)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I introduce the Bill.

16.00 hrs.

PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of article 19)

16.0½ hrs.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I introduce the Bill.

COMPULSORY VOTING BILL*

16.01 hrs.

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 17-12-99.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I introduce the Bill.

16.01½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES)
ORDER (AMENDMENT BILL)*
(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I introduce the Bill.

16.02 hrs.

NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE BOARD BILL*

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a National Welfare Board for the welfare of children and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a National Welfare Board for the welfare of children and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I introduce the Bill.

16.02½ hrs.

YOUTH WELFARE BILL*

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for comprehensive policy for the development of the youth in the country.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 17-12-99.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive policy for the development of the youth in the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I introduce the Bill.

16.03 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new article 44A)

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I introduce the Bill.

16.03½ hrs.

RUBBER GROWERS (PROTECTION) BILL*

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for ban on import of natural rubber and to protect the interests of rubber growers.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for ban on import of natural rubber and to protect the interests of rubber growers."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I introduce the Bill.

16.03½ hrs.

SLUMS AND JHUGGI JHOPRI AREAS CLEARANCE BILL*

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (CUDDAPAH) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for clearance of jhuggi jhopri clusters and slum areas and for matters connected therewith.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II,
Section-2 dated 17-12-99.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for clearance of jhuggi jhopri clusters and slum areas and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

16.04 hrs.

PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT BILL*

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (CUDDAPAH) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for employment or for means and resources for self-employment to at least one adult member of every family.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for employment or for means and resources for self-employment to at least one adult member of every family."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

16.04½ hrs.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES (FOR CHILDREN OF PARENTS LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE BILL)*

[English]

SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (CUDDAPAH) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special educational facilities to the children of parents living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special educational facilities to the children of parents living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II,
Section-2 dated 17-12-99.

16.05 hrs.

FOREIGN AID FUND OF INDIA BILL*

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (CUDDAPAH) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the utilisation of foreign aid and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the utilisation of foreign aid and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : I introduce the Bill.

16.05½ hrs.

COMPULSORY VOTING BILL*

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make voting compulsory at all elections and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make voting compulsory at all elections and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I introduce the Bill.

16.05½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of Article 85)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.06 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT BILL)*

(Insertion of new article 31)

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA : I introduce the Bill.

16.06½ hrs.

POPULATION STABILISATION BILL*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for population stabilisation measures for promoting small family norm and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for population stabilisation measures for promoting small family norm and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA : I introduce the Bill.

16.07 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new Sections 26-A and 26-B)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.07½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of Article 51A)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.08 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES)
ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of the Schedule)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speakers, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.08½ hrs.

FLOOD CONTROL BILL*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Flood Control Board to control floods and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Flood Control Board to control floods and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO : I introduce the Bill.

16.09 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new article 9A)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO : I introduce the Bill.

16.09½ hrs.

COMPULSORY VOTING BILL*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make voting compulsory in elections to legislative bodies in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make voting compulsory in elections to legislative bodies in the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO : I introduce the Bill.

16.10 hrs.

NATIONALISATION OF INTER-STATE RIVERS BILL*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for nationalisation of inter-State rivers for the purpose of equitable distribution of river waters among the States and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for nationalisation of inter-State rivers for the purpose of equitable distribution of river waters among the States and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : I introduce the Bill.

16.10½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of Article 103 etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.**[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.11 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new article 75A, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.**[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.11½ hrs.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AGED BILL*

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (SOLAPUR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for securing a life with dignity, peace and security to the aged and for their welfare and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for securing a life with dignity, peace and security to the aged and for their welfare and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.11¾ hrs.

POPULATION CONTROL AND FAMILY WELFARE BILL*

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (SOLAPUR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide measures for population control through compulsory sterilisation of certain persons and providing incentives/disincentives for adopting small family norm.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide measures for population control through compulsory sterilisation of certain persons and providing incentives/disincentives for adopting small family norm."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.12 hrs.

TERRORIST AND DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES
(PREVENTION) (WITHDRAWAL OF LEGAL
PROCEEDINGS) BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Before I call upon Shri G.M. Banatwalla to move the motion for consideration of the Bill, we have to fix the time for discussion on the Bill. Shall we fix two hours.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRAYALGUDA) : No, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): We oppose this Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, initially we will fix two hours. Later on we will see.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, it is a very important Bill which concerns the civil liberty of thousands of people and a lot of people have been affected by this TADA law. Though it is lapsed, it continues to afflict people.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, initially we can give two hours. If necessary, we can extend the time for discussion on the Bill.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for withdrawal and prevention of all legal proceedings under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 which expired on 23 May, 1995 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

16.13 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all know that TADA Act lapsed on 23rd May, 1995. But even after the lapse of TADA Act hundreds of cases have been going on in the courts. Hundreds and thousands of people have been languishing behind the bars. Act lapses but the people still continue to suffer in jails in context of pending cases, it is a thing contradictory in nature. All the pending cases should have lapsed just after the expiry of the Act but it did not happen because a specific provision under TADA had not lapsed with the Act.

[English]

The situation came up because of sub Section 4 of section 1 of the Act.

[Translation]

Due to this Sub Section 4 of section 1 of the TADA act, pending cases continued to proceed. The people whose cases were pending, continued to remain behind bars. It is a peculiar situation— "Law has lapsed but the trial is going on". It seems that even today we follow Britishers who proclaim, "The King is dead, long live the king". The same thing applies here. TADA is dead, long live TADA, it is a strange kind of contradiction and this Bill has been brought forward to do away with this provision. The purpose of this Bill is only this that when the act has been done away with, then the cases coming under the purview of this act should be deemed as lapsed and the persons who are behind bars in connection with the pending cases, should be released. If the government thinks that they are guilty and have committed the crime then certainly we have a lot of laws to deal with them. There was no need to apply this draconian law.

[English]

Under the normal laws of the land, they can be tried.

[Translation]

They could have been tried under the normal laws of the land. It would have to be remembered as to how much peculiar situation has arisen before us. On one hand TADA lapses, but the pending cases are going on. Secondly, several investigations are pending and pending cases are going on. Even the pending investigations have been protected. According to it, the pending cases will go on. Then various new means were adopted to continue with TADA act. Sir, with your permission, I would like to refer to

[English]

"Betrayal of Indian Democracy round the states"

[Translation]

by N.B. Chande in which it has been revealed as to how TADA was continued and people were implicated under the Act even after it lapsed. At page no. 170 of the work, N.B. Chande has given so many examples and I am quoting one of his example, to reveal as to how many methods were adopted to continue with TADA Act.

[English]

If the police wants to book someone they tag his name to an old FIR since the case may be listed as under investigation."

[Translation]

Hundreds of cases were labelled as "under investi-

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

gation" and several such frightening incidents like including the names of certain persons under the tag of old FIR and cases under old investigation came before us and the TADA was continued for such acts.

Sir, we should understand as to why the TADA was allowed to lapse. TADA is a blemish on the largest democracy in the world for it does not contain any democratic principles. It was such an act under which all the healthy principles for the survival democracy were trampled.

It was also revealed that TADA has been misused extensively. Therefore it was demanded that such a provision which is against the democratic norms and healthy principles of jurisprudence and which bestows unhundred powers to the executive to misuse it, should be done away with. This fact was accepted and this Act was abolished on 23rd May. You will find that the people booked under TADA even for petty crimes. Sir, I do not want to quote many examples. But you give a slight thought to the fact that how indiscriminately this Act was used, how many innocents were subjected to torture and atrocities under this Act. Even today these persons have been waiting to get rid of TADA and to come out of jails Sir, you see as to what sort of people were detained under TADA and what was their crime. Petty drivers, labourers too were detained under it. And their crime was that they did not know what the luggage someone were carrying contained. The porters, the chowkidars, the auto-rickshaw drivers, drivers who did not know the contents of the carriage and the purpose for which it was being carried, were also detained. In Vardhan region of Raigarh district of Maharashtra, a shephard was grazing his goats. One day he saw that the police designated some persons as terrorists and arrested them and the shephard too was detained under TADA for the simple reason that he had seen the entire episode. I can even give the number of each criminal but I am not doing so for I do not want interfere in the process of justice. An innocent women who made available drinking water to the strangers who asked her for water saying they were thirsty, was also detained under TADA. I can give the name, number and all other details about that woman, it is in my record but I do not want to do so. You just see what kind of persons were detained under it. The whole world knows that TADA was indiscriminately used under communal bias. When a law is misused so much and it is being abolished on this very basis, then the cases pending under such draconian law should also be withdrawn. If you consider them as criminals then there are various laws we have in this democratic country under which trials can be held against them. Therefore I urge the government to free those people from the abuse of draconian law as they have been languishing in jails for years. The cases were taken to the Supreme Court which passed the order stating that as a lot of discrepancies were being observed, so TADA cases

have to be reviewed. It should be reviewed at State and Central level. Then only the government was forced to review this. The position in respect of Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat was particularly bad. The government was forced to review due to the order of the Supreme Court. There was a case of Kartar Singh vs State. How many cases were found to be unsatisfactory during the review. These were not one or two.

[English]

The review is still not satisfactory.

[Translation]

23,862 cases had to be dropped due to this unsatisfactory review. We have got this figure from starred and unstarred questions in the House. I am not presenting these figures as I do not want to take much time of the House. When the casual and unsatisfactory review of a law has resulted in the dropping of 23,862 cases, you can easily judge that the injustice and atrocities had reached the climax.

Another figure was given in an unstarred question. That was slightly more than this. 23,901 cases were dropped under it. The repealing of such an Act is necessary because the cases under trial of a law which is against a jurisprudence, healthy principles, democratic norms should also lapse alongwith the Act. What is the position of pending cases? What is the position of TADA court and designated court!

[English]

They are moving at a snail's pace.

[Translation]

The very slow pace and undue delay is hampering the disposal of these cases. Some times back it was said that today

[English]

the total number of live cases under TADA is 14446.

[Translation]

This is about pending cases. In how many cases investigation is pending? In reply to an unstarred question in Rajya Sabha the Government informed that figures pertaining to pending cases have been furnished but separate figures pertaining to pending investigations are not maintained. On the basis of records I can prove as to how it has been misutilised? About 1022 undertrials are behind the bars who had been ruined mentally and economically and their families had been ruined. I would thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

A few months ago in July, 1999 he had said that:

[English]

"Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had assured a speedy action on TADA-related cases. He directed the Union Home Ministry to furnish status report from across the country and also to initiate steps for expeditious action.

[Translation]

This report was published in 'The Hindustan Times' on July 15, 1999 and in 'The Times of India' on July 16, 1999. The Prime Minister had issued the order but we don't know as to what action has been taken on his order? This was the election time and perhaps this order was also issued during that time. This order was issued during the course of recently held elections. As I had already said that there are 14446 cases pending and 1022 people are in jails and these cases are being pursued at a snails speed. Should I give an example that how to court proceedings are going on. Demolition of the Babri Mosque and TADA cases are linked with Mumbai bomb blasts. People are languishing in jails for the last seven years. Seven years is not a small period. Under certain sections of TADA there could be imprisonment upto five years or even more and people are behind the bars for more than seven years under TADA and they have been ruined mentally and their families have been ruined. The rich people went to the Supreme Court to get bail. There are several such people and this House is aware of them but the poor people could not go to the Supreme Court to get bail as a result they are still languishing in jails. These poor people are suffering from poverty.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a judgement of the Supreme Court. I would like to remind you by drawing your attention towards the case AIR 96 SC 2053. Imprisonment up to five years can be awarded under certain sections of TADA and people are in jails for the last seven years under TADA. Now the Judge has said:

[English]

"After the accused persons have suffered imprisonment which is half the maximum punishment provided for the offence, any further deprivation of personal liberty would be violative of....article 21."

[Translation]

This judge had said that what situation has arisen before me. There is gross violation of Article 21. People cannot be deprived of their freedom like this.

Anyhow the issue was that bail should be granted to these people who are in jails under TADA cases and they deserve bail, but it is an irony that these poor fellows do not know whether they are entitled to get bail. These are poor

and illiterate fellows who had been arrested while they were grazing their goats or they had arrested for doing an offence of giving water to a passerby. Whom they had not seen earlier. I can cite numerous examples in this regard. How can we expect that these poor illiterate people who are languishing in jails will ever come to know about the judgement delivered by the Judge? The Government itself should have taken care of rights of these people. These people and their families should have been informed about this by the Government. As per the judgement of the Supreme Court a list of the persons who are in jails under TADA cases should have been prepared and presented in the TADA designated court but it has not been done and the Government did not heed about this. What immediate steps these poor fellows can take? They had paid lot of money to advocates to pursue their cases. In order to provide them immediate relief atleast the Government should have taken some steps in this regard. I am not saying whether these poor fellows are in a position to pay for their bail or not. These poor fellows do not have anything to spend and they have been charged with.

[English]

Waging a war against the nation.

[Translation]

This type of cases have been filed against these poor fellows which I just read out for you, and if they are not in a position to make payment for their bail then this House and the Government will have to think in this matter from the justice point of view.

But the question is not only of bail. The matter is more serious. Now they should be granted bail but I have just said that the matter is more serious. Just see what is the present position of court proceedings in these cases. For example bulky charge sheets have been filed in connection with Bombay bomb blast case. The total number of witnesses in Bombay blast case is about 3000 and during these seven years hardly 189 witnesses out of 3000 have been summoned to the court for giving witness. 3000 witnesses will have to be witnessed in cases of these poor people and so far only 189 witnesses have been called for witness in the court. How long this case will linger on? This case can go on for an indefinite period. In some cases these can go on even after death of the accused and his name can appear in column two or three of the chargesheet. The Lawyers are of the view that at this pace there is no hope of settlement of these cases even in twenty years. To which law this situation is related? The situation is related to the law which has been termed draconian by entire country and the Government and which is against the democracy and with regard to which it has been said that this law has been misused on large scale.

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

Under these circumstances and keeping in view the pace of court proceedings in these cases this House will have to take into account all these facts while passing this Bill and we will have to do justice. Sir, in a case A.I.R. 1996 S.C. 2957 the Judge himself had said:

[English]

"It is clear that there is very little prospect of a speedy trial in cases under TADA in some of the States."

He goes on to give the reasons also.

[Translation]

The Judge himself had said. This should be an eye opener for us what the judge had said further in this very case.

[English]

"When the release of under-trial is severely restricted as in the TADA case by virtue of Section 20, Sub-Section 8 of TADA Act...."

Sir, I repeat it because of the importance of the sentences. The judge says:

"When the release of under-trial is severely restricted as in the TADA case by virtue of Section 20, of Sub-Section 8 of the TADA Act, it becomes necessary that trial does proceed and conclude within a reasonable time."

[Translation]

To be just and fair it is necessary that the proceedings in these cases should be concluded within a reasonable period. But situation is the question of concluding the proceedings in these cases within reasonable period does not arise.

Sir, emphasis has been laid on making the TADA law somewhat different from the principles of the jurisprudence of law and obtaining bail under TADA Law has been made very difficult. As such at least Court cases under the said law should be expedited and judgement should be given within a reasonable time. But as I was telling this House that there is no hope of the judgement coming within the reasonable time.

Sir, in the case which I am referring to the judge had further said:

[English]

"Deprivation of personal liberty without ensuring speedy trial would also not be in consonance with the right guaranteed by article 21."

[Translation]

We have to uphold the constitution. We have taken oath that we will act according to our Constitution and Judges are openly saying so many things and despite all this we are ignoring the reality, it is against justice. Hon'ble Chairman Sir, this should be remembered that

[English]

If the law itself is lawless.

[Translation]

If the law itself is draconian and is against the healthy principles of lawful court proceedings and if the trial in courts can not be completed within the reasonable period then the people will have no faith in law, the people shall cease to have faith in our system, judiciary and democracy system. Even the people will lose faith in democratic set up. These are the apprehensions in the minds of the people and consequences of these could be grave. Therefore, this House should take serious note of all these things.

Sir, justice is the victim of dual policy of the Government today. I had made a reference about it in the morning also and now I would like to give an example of it. It has been stated that the Government is ready to set up a new commission to inquire into the 1984 anti-sikh riots. I don't want to comment on it. On the one hand the Government says that action should be taken against guilty persons of 1984 riots and it is even ready to set up a new commission for it if required but on the other hand the Government of UP which is of the same hue as centre, has recently withdrawn the 8 cases, which were filed in the case of massacre of 17 muslims in Nigar cinema hall of Meerut in U.P. in 1991. Though only eight cases were filed in this regard and now, all of a sudden, these have also been withdrawn by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. What type of Government is this? In this democratic system, the Government is least bothered about the precious lives of people belonging to minority communities. In this way the morale of communal elements is boosted. 17 muslims were massacred in broad day light, charges were levelled against the accused persons and later on cases were withdrawn.

Sir, prior to this when saffron Government was in power in Maharashtra, atrocities were committed against hundreds of dalits. Hundreds of cases were filed against the perpetrators of this crime but saffron Government of Maharashtra withdrew those cases. These are different yardsticks of justice.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, those were political cases.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, those are being called political cases whereas it is a clearcut case of discrimination

I can give more examples. Those cases were withdrawn and criminals were released to create communal harmony.

[English]

TADA is the blackest piece of legislation in independent India's statutes.

[Translation]

Several laws are there in the country, which can be used but plea is given that we have to fight the terrorists and control terrorism. I would like to ask whether terrorism has not increased despite enacting laws like TADA or to what extent terrorism was curbed by it. The reply will be in the negative. Despite TADA terrorism increased unabated. How many such laws are there in the country—there are laws like TADA, Disturbed Area Act, Armed Forces Special Act and Terrorists affected Areas Special Courts Act but in spite of all these laws terrorism could not be checked and it increased unabated. Terrorist activities were increased even after enacting TADA.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, how much time do you want?

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very sensitive issue...(Interruptions)

[English]

AN. HON. MEMBER : Sir, he is the Mover of the Bill...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, please continue.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not say that action should not be taken against the guilty. The whole House is unanimous on the issue of checking terrorism but appropriate methods should be adopted for it. There is no dearth of laws. All the related laws of the land are there to check terrorism. Terrorism cannot be checked by enacting draconian laws or by bringing state terrorism to counter that. Terrorism cannot be countered by enacting such laws which are against democratic norms and jurisprudence but on the contrary such acts encourage terrorism. Today, the question is not about strengthening the tribunal justice, the question is what about our policy force? What steps are being taken for modernisation of police force and making it impartial and effective. Such situations cannot be tackled by enacting numerous laws only but for that intelligence should be made efficient.

The working of intelligence was being discussed here

in the context of Kargil, I do not want to discuss that here but it seems that attention is not being paid towards it. We have peace keeping force.

[English]

There should be better utilisation of peace keeping forces.

[Translation]

It is essential to pay attention towards better and proper utilisation of our forces to counter terrorism. It is not proper to give more rights and powers to Government for countering terrorism because these can be misused easily. We have several heart-rending instances of its misuse before us. It is a wrong viewpoint and we should remember that. Ours is a great country. What constitutes this greatness. It is great because of its civilization which follows the rule of the law in democratic manner.

[English]

Laws which are law less will harm our country to a great extent.

[Translation]

Sir, what I am saying today is not my viewpoint only but the Members sitting on treasury benches also had the same opinion when they were in the opposition. I can give several instances here. I can quote speeches of several Members in this regard. Now I would like to give instance of a senior Member of the Cabinet and all Members respect him. He was in the Rajya Sabha. You may be remembering the name of this senior colleague—Shri Jaswant Singh. What has been stated by Shri Jaswant Singh with regard to TADA? This is not my opinion but the views expressed by Shri Jaswant Singh. In Rajya Sabha he was saying that—

[English]

It was on 26th August, 1987 at page 403. I quote :

"If the Government is putting across a thesis that because the criminal justice system stood paralysed, therefore, they had taken recourse to the TADA Bill, I remain unconvinced."

This is the opinion of your colleague. He says further that....(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) Congress Party was in power at the time when TADA was introduced ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions please.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It is the reality.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It lapsed during their tenure itself...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Now it is the discretion of the Court...(Interruptions) How do you withdraw it?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We will be thankful to you, if you make efforts to improve the situation...(Interruptions). For how long will you continue to politicise the issue? They are behind the bars for unduly long time and are waiting for their release. The poor have been ruined. And here you are talking only of politics and of setting political scores with each other. This deserves to be condemned. I was mentioning about the statement of Shri Jaswant Singh. I was reminding my colleagues about the statement given by their cabinet colleague.

[English]

"If there is the suggestion that this Ordinance is a means of eradicating terrorism, then again I disagree and differ and, therefore, I oppose it."

[Translation]

His speech is on record. We do not quote here the speeches delivered in the other House. Therefore, I am not going in its detail. But, I have given the reference. Shri Jaswant Singh had said:

[English]

"State must not advocate the adoption on unconstitutionality to combat crime. Our Indian State must reflect in its laws the excellence of its civilization, not its exorcism."

[Translation]

I could have given several references of the speeches delivered by the people who are occupying treasury benches today. I have given reference of debate only. It should not be understood that I or any other colleague of mine are afraid of countering terrorism. We assure you that the whole country will counter terrorism unitedly. But it is absolutely wrong to come up with something which puts blot on democracy.

It is said that even today the Government are considering to enact a new legislation to counter terrorism. They have not learnt any lesson from the lapse of TADA. I understand that a new legislation is being framed. Actually, the preparations are being made to bring the new legislation on the lines of TADA. It is a matter of concern that the laws against jurisprudence and democracy are made an inseparable link of our legal system. It is said that

[English]

the Government is habituated to take shortcuts.

[Translation]

whereas these shortcuts often prove self-defeating and instead of rooting out terrorism, such measures in fact, further encourage terrorism. It appears today that having enjoyed extraordinary powers, the executive want to keep extra-ordinary powers with it to maintain tight control over citizens.

17.00 hrs.

With these words, I commend this bill to the House. I request the House and the Government that TADA should be viewed with humanitarian, legislative, moral and democratic point of view. People under trial have already been in jail for as much time as they would have in jail in case they were convicted. Where will you find inhumanitarian situation worse than this? Today, it is necessary to get this bill passed. TADA is abolished and it should have been abolished totally. It was a draconian law and it has been grossly misused. To try people under such legislation is absolutely wrong and amounts to injustice.

I submit this bill to the House and request you to pay attention to the plight of the poor and the people who are behind bars. Their families are ruined. Yes, you can definitely try people who are real culprits, under other laws, the constitution of our country has provision for it. I also presented the opinion and thinking of judges, jurists before you. I expect that the House will rise at this critical juncture and will set another example of justice, by supporting this bill.

Surely, we will collectively fight against terrorism. We will fight against terrorism, by not bringing the state terrorism but by keeping our records right. It will not make difference to it. I am sure that the House will give its approval to this legislation.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for withdrawal and prevention of all legal proceedings under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 which expired on 23 May, 1995 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I must appreciate the eloquent speech of Shri Banatwalla which was delivered in unsullied Urdu. I cannot match his speech in any way, but I would definitely

try to pick holes in whatever he has presented to this august House.

Before I start, I would like to congratulate Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, who in his another eloquent extempore speech in the Central Hall, had quoted from Shakespeare. It was a Hamlet's statement: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy". What was true of the Shakespearean days is true now in India. With extra-territorial loyalty in religion, in social behaviours and in political ideologies, this Indian polity, in a manner, many persons of this policy have looked to foreign lands, to foreigners and foreign activities in India. That is why, this august House and the Parliament in general had, from time to time, passed some laws to cope up with the problems that were facing this country.

I would request my friends in this august House to go through the Act itself wherein emphasis had been put on coping with the problems and what were the things that were creating problems for this country.

It is a fact that the TADA was abused here and there. That is why, it was allowed to lapse in 1995. But Shri Banatwalla's entire attack is on clause 4 of Section 1, where there is a lingering provision. Why there is a lingering provision, that has to be thought of, when we are thinking of the political atmosphere, the secessionist's attitude of some people and the way people have been behaving.

The other day only, this House had passed the Money-Laundering Bill—wherein it was indicated that persons who create something with a view to get money, who murder, who counterfeit, who take to prostitution, who are involved in narcotics and psychotropic substances trade or Arms Act—saying that the money-launderers will be booked. What was the TADA doing? There is a clear provision in the TADA about money-laundering itself. These are all matters which can be seen.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Indian Penal Code was enacted in the year 1860; the Evidence Act was enacted in the year 1872, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, after going through a lot of amendments, came into force in 1973 and became Act 2 of 1974. Those who had drafted the Act, enacted it and enforced it, did not know that there could be people who need to be tackled in a very different manner. Those who are in the executive, those who are in the enforcement agencies or the departments know how difficult it is to cope up with the problems. One has to read between the lines to enforce certain behavioural patterns among the people; in behavioural patterns, I am not talking of recidivism—committing crime again and again is recidivism; I am talking of people who do not have any loyalty for this country mostly or who do not have any qualms or scruples for people—the milk of human kindness does not flow in their minds.

Take the case of Bombay blasts in 1993. Two hundred and sixty persons were killed; just like that, innocent persons died, and about 2,000 AK-47 and AK-57 rifles were recovered, not to talk to other explosives or the RDX. With the normal laws, how can you tackle this problem? Take the case of Chapter 7 of the Indian Penal Code wherein there are certain provisions about waging war, sedition and all these matters.

Now-a-days, in the present situation, in this country Sections 121, 124 and the other related Sections would look like very innocent provisions in the Act. Herein, I would like to pick holes in the statement of Shri Banatwalla; I hope, he would not mind it. He gave the instance of a shepherd and a lady who gave water to the terrorists. The Act itself has been very clear. Sections 109 to 114 of the Indian Penal Code are very innocent Sections that deal with abetment. But here, it has been said that if you aid or abet a terrorist, then one would be liable. Why? It is again a question of coping up with the problems. In coping up with the problems, intentions may not be relevant. Kindly mark my words, Mr. Chairman, Sir, again, I repeat, "In coping up with problems, intentions may not be relevant." It may be relevant at that particular moment, when an officer is taking action. It may not sound proper, when the designated court sits to take stock of the situation. It may not sound proper, when the media starts writing against these officers. As a police officer, I know how difficult it is to cope up with the problems where you come immediately and take a decision.

He cited other examples, and I will cite one example of NSA. It had been newly introduced; from MISA it came to NSA. At that time, I was the SP of the undivided Cuttack City, which had a population of about 42 lakhs.

In the city, there were a lot of anti-social activities and public order was at stake. Public order is the most important thing in a city. One person was arrested by me. It went to the Review Board. A sitting judge was the Chairman of the Review Board and two other retired judges of the High Court were its Members. The practice is that the Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate have to place the facts before the Review Board. I placed the facts before the Review Board and immediately the Chairman said: "It is not acceptable, you have unnecessarily arrested this person. I allow him to go scot free". You cannot argue. I also did not argue.

After four days, right in front of the house of that judge there was a fracas between two groups and this man, who had been allowed to go scot free, had hit a person with a sword and with that blood-dropped sword entered into the house of the judge and terrorised him for about 45 minutes. I got information and I came there. I found that he had gone into that house. We chased him and he went away.

[Sh. Anadi Sahu]

The judge then told me that he would have been killed. I told him : 'Your Honour, yes, you could have been killed, but you should have known the situation which existed in this city. You are in an Ivory Tower. You don't know the situation prevailing in the city. You allowed him to go scot free.' He told me, 'I am sorry and from next time onwards I would not allow anybody to go'. For another one year I had a very good time and whosoever was arrested, the judge would say that he would stay in jail.

Sir, why I am mentioning this is because we have to cope up with the problems that have been coming to us—be it a shepherd, or be it a lady who gave water. You have to take the facts in its totality then only you could come to a conclusion as to what was required by the enforcing officer.

Take the case of the North-East, take the case of Kashmir, take the case of Punjab where militancy is in a dormant stage. Take for example, the State of Bihar. Everywhere you cannot cope up with normal criminal activity and all that. There has to be an abnormal action and that abnormality may be criticised by people at a later stage. But for giving a healthy society, for instilling confidence in the minds of the citizens of this country, it is necessary that we must go beyond. In going beyond there might be coercion. You may call it a draconian law. But it is all for the society. It has to be accepted. You have to commit a small crime in order to prevent a big crime, if it is necessary. That is what has been done. If we ask for the removal of clause IV of Section 1 of the Terrorist and disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987, then I think, we would not be able to cope up with the problems.

Sir, the persons who have been arrested earlier might have been arrested for some secessionist activities; they might have been arrested for some ransom; they might have been arrested for some seditious bomb blasts; or they might have been arrested for some activities, maybe, for making a statement. A statement can also create problems. A statement by a person could be more powerful than a bomb. If that person has been arrested on the sole basis of a statement, then why should one bother about it? But if you think that just because of a statement a person has been arrested, then I think, it would not be proper on the part of this august House to sit in judgement at this time.

Sir, that is why, in the year 1995, the Rajya Sabha had thought of introducing another Bill by the title, Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 1995. It was almost same as the TADA. But there has been a softening of the facts. Softening of the facts means, no enquiry or investigation can start without the written permission from the Superintendent of Police. No charge sheet can be filed without the sanction from the Inspector General of Police. That is the kind of softening attitude that has been adopted. But the same

thing has been kept. The same thing means that many persons with money and power can get a bail under Section 438 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Anybody with a bag of money could immediately get anticipatory bail, with brilliant lawyers hovering around and pliable judges sitting on judgement.

If that is the fact, if Section 438 is applicable in TADA cases, all the TADA detainees could have been allowed to go scot free. That anticipatory bail provision has been cut off in TADA and the same thing is done here also. You are all the lawmakers. You also kindly think what would be the position in the absence of such a stringent provision. And what is that stringent provision? It is that there would be a designated court and the Supreme Court, and there would be none in between when you start a case in new Act which I hope would come into force. It is my earnest request to the hon. Members here to insist upon reintroduction of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1995. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to cope with the many problems that have been coming up every day.

Think of Kashmir. The other day, seven policemen not connected with any activity at that particular moment of time were killed. Human Rights Commissions have been crying hoarse about human rights. What has happened to those seven constables and innocent bystanders who have been injured or killed? Who will look after people unless there is a stringent Act to arrest the people involved immediately and put them inside the jail? Let them languish in jail for the whole life. The hon. Member who spoke before me mentioned that there is a provision for five years of imprisonment but people have been languishing in jails for seven years. Let them languish. They have gone out of the way to kill people. They have been draconian in their actions and the law should also be draconian to put them down.

If I were the victim, I would be shouting hoarse. Kindly think of a situation where one of us has been a victim, or a near relation of ours has been killed, or one of us had been taken of ransom, or our houses have been gutted by fire. If the person responsible for it comes out of prison after four years and perpetrates the same act, how do we feel? Kindly think of it.

I am not going into details. As I said, I cannot match the hon. Member's eloquence. I only say as to what the situation is in our country today. There have been penalties and forfeitures. We are not bothered about it. It is over. No new case is being taken up. Penalties are over during investigation. But the investigation stage is still continuing. Very few cases are there. I think only 1,026 persons were there till the end of 1999. By this time many must have come out jail. In a very few cases investigations are on. There is no question of forfeiture of property, etc. Only some investigations are continuing but those investigations must

continue under Clause 4 of Section 1 of the Act which was there.

Till another Act comes into force, I think the Government should take immediate steps to introduce that Act, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1995 again so that TADA in a different form comes into force. Without such coercive methods it would be very difficult to control those persons who think of cessation. It would be very difficult to control them. In this country, there are many people who are at the helm of affairs, who have money, who have been always thinking of seceding from this country. If somebody in my house revolts, do I not box his ears? Do I not whip him for whatever he has done? This is what is whipping or boxing the ears by the State. So, we should not take it amiss. We should take it in its stride, in the good spirit that it has come with.

There are people who are trying to effect the harmony amongst different sections of the people. My friend Shri Banatwalla was indirectly referring to some people of a particular community. But TADA is only saying that those who are attempting disruptive activities amongst different communities have to be arrested and put behind bars so that they do not have any access to the persons who have remained outside and are creating problems.

Take the case of General Musharraf talking to another man in Jodhpur jail. Recently, we read in the newspapers that he sent some communication to that person. I forget the name of the person who is in Jodhpur jail. Had the TADA been there, immediately, the jailer and many other persons would have been put inside the bar. One may say that only a letter was sent; only some conversation has taken place, and therefore, why should a person be arrested under TADA? That is what Shri Banatwalla's argument is. No. It is cancerous situation which is prevailing in this country. That cancer has to be taken out. For taking out the cancer, you can cut off a limb, it does not matter. But the body will remain intact. That has to be thought of. Think of that small incident where General Musharraf could be able to send certain information to that person who is in Jodhpur Jail. If we do not have a new act to match with the TADA provisions, maybe, softened to some extent, it would be very difficult—I tell this august House—in another three to four years, to cope up with the problems. Any number of policemen, any number of army men would not be able to cope up with it unless we strike terror into the minds of those people who are thinking of secession or communal disharmony in this country.

With these few words, I oppose this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Shri Ramesh Chennithala. You may conclude your speech within 10 minutes. Then, we shall take up Half-an-Hour discussion.

17.22 hrs.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 23rd May, 1995, the TADA got lapsed. The request of the mover of the Bill, hon. Shri G.M. Banatwalla is that the cases pending under the TADA, which was has lapsed, may be tried under existing laws. Sir, more than 1,200 people are there in different jails under this TADA. Shri Banatwalla was explaining about the situation as to how people were persecuted and how their civil rights were taken away under the TADA.

Sir, time and again, certain provisions of the TADA have been criticized in this august House. The TADA has been widely criticized even outside Parliament also. Sir, it has violated our democratic rights and legal norms which are existing in our country. As Shri Banatwalla has rightly pointed out, Section 1(4) has been severely criticized. He has illustrated certain examples also.

Sir, we have to think as to why the TADA had been enforced in our country at all. In normal circumstances, stringent laws like the TADA would not have been enacted by Parliament. No Government wanted to enforce such an Act. No elected Government, Democratic Government, civilized Government wants such an Act. Then why did the situation arise? I agree with Shri Anadi Sahu on certain issues. He had been the Inspector-General of Police of Orissa. He knows better than all of us about the terrorists activities. I know, during his tenure, he was a very capable police officer.

Sir, the unity and integrity of the country is a paramount issue before every citizen in our country, and we cannot allow any kind of anti-national propaganda or anti-national activity in our nation. Any kind of such an action should be criticized. Why has this TADA been enforced? It has been enforced to check the terrorists activities and disruptive activities in certain parts of our country.

We are all aware that no civilised country wants this kind of an Act. But even in other countries like, Britain passed an Act in order to check the terrorist and disruptive activities prevailing at that time. The advanced countries like the USA also passed such Acts to check this menace of terrorist activities in their countries. India also is not an exception. Today Shri K. Francis George and I had to go to the airport to receive two bodies of the jawans who were killed in Doda region. We are about to go to the airport to receive the bodies. They were killed in an encounter with the terrorists in the Doda region. These youngsters, one hails from Trivandrum and the other from Pathanamatta in my Constituency. We are just going to receive their bodies from the airport. They were posted in the Doda region and they were having an encounter with the terrorists and they

[Sh. Ramesh Chennithala]

died and their bodies are coming. The situation in Jammu & Kashmir and in Punjab has to be seen very seriously. What is happening in the North-East? If you go through these areas, you will be able to see the amount of terrorism and terrorist activities which are prevailing. Normal life has been affected seriously. Even in Jammu & Kashmir, civilians are not safe. The terrorist activities had reached such a level that even everyday human casualties are taking place. This has to be checked. I am not saying we should reintroduce TADA. But we should have some kind of a deterrent to save the unity, integrity and the freedom of our country. We have to protest the freedom of people. Of course, TADA, has been misuse and innocent people were kept in jail and to suffer I went to Rajasthan. Twenty to thirty people who belong to the minority community came to me and they showed me how their families harassed by the police and how they were put under TADA. I have taken up their case with the authorities. Even from the All India Congress Committee, we have given some assistance to the poor people who had suffered under TADA. But, at the same time, we cannot allow the terrorists to go scot free and to do whatever they want to do. We are all aware of the terrorist activities prevailed in their State of Punjab. What was the situation there? Three or four years back, what was happening in Punjab, is now happening even in Jammu & Kashmir. Even an elected Government cannot control the situation and cannot run the State. The terrorist activities are such that even normal life is not existing in the States. So, I think that the Government should come forward to check this kind of activity. As Shri Anadi Sahu pointed out rightly even issuing a statement against the country is punishable. Those people should be checked and any kind of propaganda against the nation should be checked properly. But in a situation like this which is prevailing in Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and in the North-Eastern States, the Government is compelled to have some laws. Innocent people should not be harassed. As Shri G.M. Banatwalla rightly pointed out we all agree that innocent people should not be harassed. Lot of injustice has been done to all people and he has explained that.

Can we justify the people who were directly or indirectly involved in the bomb blasts in Bombay which caused hundreds of deaths? Can we approve of it?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Sir, we are to have the Half-an-hour discussion at 5.30 p.m. He can continue later.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He can continue till 5.47 p.m. He can take 17 more minutes now.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, I need at least half-an-hour to conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will take up the Half-an-hour discussion at 5.47 p.m. and you can continue later on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since we started late, at 3.17 p.m., we can go on up to 5.47 p.m.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman Sir, tell them to speak later on. Now, take up the Half-an-hour discussion.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : We cannot sit after six o'clock. Today is Friday and we have to go.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, let him continue in the next Session.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees, we may take up the Half-an hour discussion now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

15.32 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Re: Financial Health of Indian Airlines and Air India and Purchase of Aircraft

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up the Half-an-hour discussion. Shri Kirit Somaiya.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH-EAST) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am going to speak about the working of Indian Airlines and Air India in the Half-an-Hour Discussion. Some important points were raised in the discussion held two weeks ago in the House on financial condition of these two Airlines. The first important point raised was that till the declaration of Domestic open sky Air Policy, the Indian Airlines was having monopoly and upto year 1993-94 it was ending profit. And once the open Air Sky Policy was announced which gave way to the private airlines in Indian Sky, the losses of Indian Airlines went on increasing due to competition, overstaffing and poor management. In 1993-94, the loss was Rs. 258 crore and in the year 1995-96, the loss was Rs. 109 crore. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should tell the House about the reason for loss incurred by Indian Airlines or Air India.

The situation of Air India is no different. The loss

incurred by Air India in year 1995-96 was Rs. 272 crore and in year 1998-99, it was Rs. 174 crore. The reason behind it is that earlier Indian Airlines was having monopoly though air service from other countries was also available. Our Airlines were unable to compete with them. Will the administration make efforts to improve it?

It has staff of 22 thousand people. I am surprised to know that services of Vayudoot have been discontinued and Alliance Air has been started in its place. The name of Alliance Air was given to accommodate 1000 employees of Vayudoot. Alliance Air has appointed 740 personnel. But out of 740, only 40 employees were taken on deputation either from Indian Airlines, Air India or Vayudoot. The recruitment of other 700 employees has been made totally from outside. Will it form the basis of discussion? What are the reasons behind it. My colleague Shri Rajiv has provided detailed information about 700 employees. With who are they related, on what basis they were given the contract, on what basis were these people appointed? On one hand one thousand employees of Vayudoot are sitting idle without any work. They are being paid and treated like Government's guest and on the other there is new staff of seven hundred. What will happen under these circumstances except increase in the losses.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw your attention towards one more situation. Air India and Indian Airlines run hotel corporation. They run centur hotel. I am unable to understand as to when the Government will stop running hotels? The running of hotels is not the job of Government. Will we ever take a decision in this regard. Yesterday and today we discussed the disinvestment policy. We are selling the industries of the core sector and are not trying to get rid of the real problem which we are facing. I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister that if not today, sometime or the other we should think over the issue. Running of hotels is not our business. Hotels too are overstaffed like it. They get so much of prime property from the Government free of charge. They do not have to pay the price of the land. While the private hotels of all categories, even after paying such huge amounts as land real estate prices.

[English]

They are able to compete with Centaur or other hotels.

[Translation]

There is an urgent need to ponder over this issue. I believe that there should be a Government involvement in the core sector. But many a time it is argued that the Indian Airlines have some social commitments to fulfil. They have to operate on such routes which falls in the internal parts of rural belts and are economically unviable. But there is no such pressure on Air-India.

[English]

I can understand if it is the case of Indian Airlines, but what happened to Air India?

[Translation]

But whatever reasons are given for it, they lack conviction. Infact Kelkar Committee was appointed for it. Kelkar Committee recommended to make a further investment of Rs. 2000 crores. From where will this money come, who will bring it and when will it be brought? From where new aircrafts will be available. On one hand the Ministry of Civil Aviation says to invest 2000 or 1000 crore rupees with the help of central Government, on the other hand. The second wing of the Union Government, the Ministry of Finance states.

[English]

They say that they are not going to give even a single paisa.

[Translation]

Whether any clarity can be achieved in this regard? Who will give money to the sick company. They can not get loans even in the open market. No one will even subscribe their shares. On one hand we say that the central Government has been given us the permission to increase the equity capital by Rs. 364 crore, on the other, announcement from the Finance Ministry is received on fourth day in which the Minister of Finance clearly rejects it.

[English]

He says that he is not going to share even a single paisa.

[Translation]

On one hand we say that the aircrafts of Indian Airlines have crossed their life expectancy. Which among the 12-14 planes of Indian Airlines will go out of order and when, nothing can be said about it. On the other hand we say that we should compete. I would like to suggest that there should be total replanning for it. We are moving towards the era of disinvestment and privatisation.

[English]

Can the Government not think about a joint venture with some professionally efficient company?

[Translation]

Whether the Government have received offers in this regard? Whether it is British Airways or some other company, the Government should invite open bidding for bringing about

[Sh. Kirit Somaiya]

the professional management. Today, we have to completely adopt open market policy in regard to airlines.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we open up the sky completely, we will not even get 50 paise for five rupees we are getting today.

[English]

You have to choose the appropriate time.

[Translation]

If you want to work in a joint venture or in a collaboration then you should start it right now. If you do it after two or three years then they will say

[English]

Why? It is a dead elephant?

[Translation]

At that time we will suffer even more losses than today. If today Air India talks about bringing new plans even after suffering accumulated losses upto Rs.1200 crore, after some years no one will do so.

Mr. Chairman, Sir a reply was given as to whether the Central Vigilance Commission had instructed the Air India that

[English]

only the lowest bidder should be allowed.

[Translation]

Whether or not the Air India started to negotiate with the other bidder, a very promiscuous reply was given that we are following the orders of Central Vigilance Commission.

[English]

Have you started a dialogue with the other bidder? Why have you started dialogue? Why did you not accept the lowest bidder.

[Translation]

It may be possible that the proposal of the other company are more attractive than the lowest bidder. Therefore through you I would like to submit that there should be an alliance of Air India and Indian Airlines. This should be given a thought. When we compare Indian Airlines and Air India with the airlines of other countries or private airlines, we find that private airlines are making big profits because Air India and Indian Airlines incur huge losses. Jet Airways which is a private airline is earning huge profits

while the Government of India backed Indian Airlines and Air India are running in losses.

Sir, in the end I would only submit that the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines is necessary to improve the health of these airlines as they are a burden on the national economy. Hence my submission is that the Government should reconsider for making improvement in the condition of these airlines.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would submit before the hon'ble Minister that Indian Airlines and Air India have been very reputed companies of the country and now they have been made limited companies so that they could be made viable but whether it is the issue of providing airport facilities, air flights obsolete aircrafts and their maintenance and supervision or be it the issue of overstaff, whenever we compare all these things with the airlines of other countries, we find that in terms of infrastructure we lag far behind the developed countries. Hence, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to why have we not been able to make any progress despite making so many efforts and providing so much facilities for them and what are the basic reasons of our failure? Whether you would like to investigate it and alongwith it, another issue is of overstaffing. The commercial pilots and licence holders who have left jobs in Indian Airlines, they have been provided jobs in Air India. Who is responsible for this backdoor entry and what action would you like to take against those found guilty? With these words I would like to take ask as to what steps the National Democratic Alliance Government would like to take for turning Indian Airlines and Air India which are the symbol of national prestige into profit making companies as against other private airlines in an era when the talks about globalisation and open market are taking place.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday during the question hour it was decided that there should be half an hour discussion on this topic because several such issues were raised on which reply from the Minister was desired.

On that day discussion was held on the Alliance Air and the hon'ble Minister had assured that all the points will be brought into the light by setting up an inquiry in this regard. My friend Shri Kirit Somaiya had also wanted to have information in this matter.

I would not like to say anything more in this regard but would definitely like to discuss the functioning of Indian Airlines and Air India. Besides I would also like to ask some questions from the hon'ble Minister through you. We had set up the public sector undertakings in the country with

the objective that the Government of India should make investments in big companies and these companies should earn profit and deposit it in the state exchequer and this business should go on effectively.

Since its inception 47 years ago Air-India had been making profit for the 37 years but I do not know as to what sort of decision were taken during the last five years or it could be due to the decisions taken during the last 10 to 14 years due to which the corpus fund or earning of Air India or profit of Air India plunged gradually. For example when the question of leasing of caribjet came up at that time a number of carib jets were inducted on the basis of wet lease contract and all the profitable air routes in the country were allotted to them and there was no exit clause in the said contract that what will be the consequence if this contract is terminated? With the change of Governments that contract was terminated and Air-India which was already incurring loss was fined to the tune of Rs. 100 crores.

There are several such incidents which have taken place in the history of Indian Airlines and Air India because it is such an area where common people have nothing to do. They have no say in their affairs. These are two such Departments where Administration and V.I.P.'s play an important role. Now the hon'ble Minister has taken the charge. Air India is running in loss and Indian Airlines is surrounded by controversies. It is certain that he will try his best to function under the given circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Air India had reduced the Superannuation age of its employees from 60 years to 58 years. It was a good decision. Indian Airlines was also considering to reduce superannuation age of its employees. I think it is right that Air India and Indian Airlines should ban new recruitments but an imbalance has been created at top level of the structure of these air lines by promoting staff to the higher grades during the last several years. There is shortage of staff at lower rungs in these organisations. It will be very difficult to run these two organisations until a balance is maintained therein. I would like to say one thing about the Indian Airlines that it needs pruning in upper structure of this organisation. I have been told that there are 37 directors in this organisation. There is a post of Director Medical Services under which there are only 40 Doctors and lakhs of rupees are spent on his salary in a year. There is another post of Director, public grievances. Many such other posts of directors are there. These posts have been created in the organisation at some point of time to oblige some one.

Sir, when private airlines were permitted to enter the country, people started to make hue and cry that competition is increasing. Due to competition salaries of the Pilots in other airlines were enhanced and the Pilots of Indian Airlines

left Indian Airlines to join other airlines. As such the management of Indian Airlines created productivity linked incentive. Today the Pilots of Air India and Indian Airlines are getting just double of their salaries as productivity linked incentives besides their salaries. We have no objection on payment of good salaries after giving good performance. But when your entire system is running in losses and you are giving such incentives and increasing pay packets. Are you doing justice with the economy of the country? Certainly we will have no objection in paying higher salaries to the staff of these organisations if staff earn more money for the corpus of their organisations and make their Airlines profitable.

Sir I would like to cite one or two examples in this regard because several issues are involved in it. Once upon a time the net worth of Air India was Rs. 1375 crores, which has eroded to Rs. 300 crores. After all there must be some accountability of some one in this whole system. I would like to put two-three points before you as the hon'ble Minister is getting himself apprised of the circumstances prevailing in the department gradually. I would narrate an incident of Indian Airlines which took place one month ago. One pilot kept an aeroplane parked for nine hours at Hyderabad Airport.

If any Aeroplane is delayed for only five minutes for any leader, the co-passengers express their anguish that the aeroplane has been delayed for the leader but a Pilot of the Indian Airlines kept the Aeroplane parked for nine hours at the Hyderabad Airport and the said Aeroplane was released only when crew reached Hyderabad from Bombay. Can we allow such things in an independent country? Whether this type of wasteful administrative expenditure be tolerated? The people of the country want that the condition of such institutions in the country should be strong.

A very tragic incident took place at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi when an eight year old girl was crushed to death between plates of an escalator. I would like to ask as to who is responsible for this? Certainly the hon'ble Minister is responsible for this, the entire system is responsible for this, which left the bolt of the escalator loose. This was a very tragic incident. This mishap could have happened with any one. Many people including tourists have seen this incident. We will have to identify the people responsible for such sort of incidents and we will have to improve this work culture and the employees should work with utmost dedication.

I urge upon the hon'ble Minister that it is a new department for him. Last time also I had said that a person down to earth has been assigned the charge of high flying Ministry. This House hope that you will make Air India and Indian Airlines one of the leading organisations of the country in next five years.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot make a speech. You can ask a question. I apprise the Member that under the rules, you can ask a question for elucidation of further facts.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : That is there. What happens is that this issue is an emotional issue. The matter is so important and the hon. Minister also desires that something better should be done in this organisation. So, I would request the hon. Minister that he should take personal initiative in the happenings of the Indian Airlines and Air India and take the House into confidence to improve the services of these Airlines.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you may kindly be brief so that the hon. Minister may conclude his reply by 6 p.m.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : The first point I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister is that there is no coordination between Air India and Indian Airlines. They operate in different sections. For example, they operate in the Gulf sector. Both Air India and Airlines operate together with the result that there are a few passengers in a particular flight. That is one point. If they have some prior consultation or discussion about the flight timings, this could be prevented. This is another point.

Another aspect is that there is mismanagement. Regarding the time schedule, there is no principle followed. I come from Tirvandrum. We have an International Airport which is the fourth largest International Airport. On one fine morning, they had cancelled 17 flights all of a sudden without any reason. These 17 flights were operating between Muscat, Bahrain, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and such other cities. These flights were operated with full capacity to my knowledge. But due to some reasons which I do not know, the flights were cancelled putting the Trivandrum airport to a very difficult situation. Subsequently, when I made enquiries, they told me that there was a loss and so, they had changed the flight timing but without changing the timing, the operation was profitable. All of a sudden, when it was changed, it begins to run on a loss. This is the position. So, there must be some coordination and understanding between Indian Airlines and Air India. It is quite natural that Air India runs on a huge loss because they are operating without any purpose. Take, for example the time schedule. It is most inconvenient for the travelling public. They operate their aircraft in such timings which are very inconvenient for the travelling public, for the office-going people and the business people.

I can cite a number of instances wherein Air India and the Indian Airlines are operating the scheduled flights without taking into consideration the convenience of the public. Probably, it will result in huge losses. So, I would

request the hon. Minister to look into this. Of course, the hon. Minister is new to this field. I would request him to study the entire thing, reschedule all the scheduled flights and also make it a well-managed concern. Now, really the net result is, it is a mismanagement for a very long time. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take immediate steps to restore the flights that have been cancelled at the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport and do that is possible to make the Airport more viable. Thiruvanthapuram is India's southern-most point. All foreign companies are demanding stop-over at Thiruvanthapuram. But these people do not allow them.

Regarding the finances of the Indian Airlines and the Air India, the matter should be taken into consideration. I hope the hon. Minister will take a very healthy decision in all these matters.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Minister has to reply only to the questions raised by the Members under the rules. Only those Members who have given notices are allowed.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, with your permission, I would like to put a straight question(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot go against the rules. You may put question in some other form. It is with reference to an accident.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not permitted. What you say is not in reference to the matter under discussion. It is against the rules. Members who have given notices have already put their questions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (NAGALAND) : Sir, why are you discriminating against me? When you have allowed him, why can you not allow me also?(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN : It is a bad precedent. Under the rules, it will not be permitted. I have disallowed that question also. It will go against the rules.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : I would like to ask a question about the North East...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : In order to do justice, I have dis-

*Not recorded.

allowed these two questions. I have rendered justice. You can raise it on some other occasion through other devices.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : These two questions are disallowed. I should not expunge it. You should follow the rules. It is not permitted under the Rules. It will be quoted as a precedent in future. I do not want to create any precedent. It is against the rules. Otherwise, for every discussion, there will be questions put by Members who have not participated in the debate.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : I have understood your points...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : For your information, I read the rule:

"There shall be no formal motion before the House nor voting. The member who has given notice may make a short statement and the (members who have previously intimated to the Speaker may ask a question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact. Thereafter, the Minister shall reply shortly:)"

You have not given notice. I cannot violate the rules.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate. I disallow the questions put by both the hon. Members. You can meet the Minister later.

18.00 hrs.

(Translation)

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as regards the issue which Shri Rudyji raised about the tragic death of a girl child, I had given a detailed statement in Rajya Sabha regarding that. As I could not make a statement here about it, I regret it. Stringent action can be taken against those found guilty for this tragedy and we will do it so that these kind of incident do not recur in future. Alongwith it we are trying to make proper arrangement in this regard. all the Questions which have been raised by Shri Somaiyaji during the discussion, cannot be replied to now. Indian Airlines has been making profit. Air India too has been considered among the best airlines of the world. But due to two or three reasons some problems were faced by both the airlines. The reasons which you have cited are all right in their place. The honble Member who spoke in the end mentioned about the strength of employees and also said that behind each of our aircraft, 700 employees are working while in other airlines, 250 employees per aircraft are working. There are

labour laws for the employees of public undertakings which have been operating for the past fifty years. There are approximately 18000 employees in Air India. There is no immediate remedy for this issue and it is a difficult job to find a remedy immediately. Not only did Rudyji say about the problems of employees, he has also said that the strength of officers has also increased. The pyramid is becoming parallel. It is also a problem. In 1996-97, Air India suffered loss of Rs. 14 crore, in 1997-98 it earned a profit of Rs. 47 crore and a further profit of Rs. 38 crore in 1998-99 and during first half of 1999-2000, it has earned a profit of Rs. 14.3 crore, I think that it will go further up. In 1980, 320 airbuses were inducted into the Indian Airlines, they were grounded for nine months. It is the largest fleet. This decision was taken by the Government. Approximately Rs. 200 crore were lost due to that decision.

(English)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Is there any proposal for the merger of these two corporation-Indian Airlines and Air India?

(Translation)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am coming to your point.

(English)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, please address the Chair. You should not directly ask from the Minister. You should address the Minister through the Chair.

(Translation)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : There are two major reasons for it. The most important reason is that the Airbus A-320, being run by Indian Airlines are the backbone of Indian Airlines. I would like to thank Shri Chandra Shekharji for taking the decision to once again operate the airbuses which were grounded and thus helping the rescue of those passengers who were stranded in Kuwait and Iraq during the Gulf-war. The large scale rescue of these passengers was made possible only through these airbuses. It is a very powerful aircraft in the world and our Indian Airlines has been significantly strengthened due to this fleet...*(Interruptions)*. We have nine A-300 aircraft but they have outlived their life expectancy. They are 20 years and four months old. The number of A-320 is 30. Due to the decision of grounding the A-320 airbuses whether by the previous government or this government, the efficiency of administration and employees is affected and the public sector too has been adversely affected. Were we ready when the globalisation started ?...*(Interruptions)*

We were getting protection from all sides. People did not have any alternative and way out and they had to utilize what they were offered. Hence they were forced to

[Sh. Sharad Yadav]

use only these things. But after globalisation when the competition increased, the inefficiency of officers and staff was exposed. Though they have been exposed, laws remain the same and there is no change in them. We could stop further recruitment but we were not in a position to retrench them. If you retrench them, then the losses will further increase. We have a fleet of nine A-300 which are 20 years old, 30 A-320 which are eight years old, 12 B-377 which are 18.4 years old and three donners which too are 14.2 years old i.e. the average age of our entire fleet is 12.9 years.

Sir, the losses which have been suffered by Indian Airlines are due to the decision of grounding Airbus A-320. Secondly, Vayudoot was merged with it and the staff strength of Vayudoot was 1300. Earlier its accumulative loss was Rs. 200 crore and a loss of Rs. 15 crore was being incurred per year. The number of its employees was 1300 and they were merged with the staff of Indian Airlines i.e. the entire burden of a sinking company was also shared by the Indian Airlines.

I have gathered all the necessary information from My Ministry regarding the complaint which hon'ble Rudyji had made about Indian Airlines last time. A complaint was just now made that the employees from outside and not from Vayudoot were recruited in Indian Airlines. It is also being looked into. I called on all the officers of my Ministry to deal with the issue which was raised by hon'ble Shri Kirit Somaiya and Rudy Sahib. If there is any mistake, it will be rectified. If the mistake is not worthy of excuse action will be taken against the guilty.

As I said about Indian Airlines that it has also to fulfil some social obligations. We run our flights on routes such as Kashmir and North-East. The financial condition of all the States is also not similar. The cost of fuel and rate of sales tax differs in each State. There is very high rate of sales-tax in Andhra Pradesh, you talk from Kerala. The financial position of the States is also deplorable. We face problem in getting fuel too.

Thirdly, there are 37 directors in the Management of Indian Airlines. Definitely it does not need so many directors. First day when I saw such a gathering in the meeting, I felt that there is not need for such a big strength. What can be done for pruning it, I will solve it by discussing the issue with the M.D. of Indian Airlines and the department. New employees are not being recruited but how to downsize the present strength will also be considered. The Members have already spoken in detail about the loss being incurred by it and it does not require a mention by me. Now we have come out of the phase of deficit and have entered the profit making phase. Now we will try to increase the profit.

The issue of time schedule was also discussed. Both the airlines have been facing the problem of time. Some of it is due to compulsions. Due to social obligations we have to run our air crafts in the remote areas too...*(Interruptions)* I accept your suggestion that they should fly on time and there should be proper schedule for it. Your suggestion will be considered after holding consultations with all the hon'ble Members and collecting all the necessary material. The major reason for the loss of Air India is that the Indian Airlines were given a large share in the Gulf to overcome its deficit during the time when the A-320 airbuses were grounded. It certainly benefited Indian Airlines but it reduced the profit of Air India. It is in bad shape and there is a need to improve it.

You have said about disinvestment. Now a separate department has been created to deal with disinvestment. It is being discussed in our department. The debate is on about the percentage of share of equity and share of management. Air India should own as a strategic partner and the process of disinvestment to be followed. Similarly, what should be the shape of disinvestment in the Indian Airlines because both these airlines are the property of India. Today, these airlines are facing some problems. Global competition has been introduced in this field. We have to withstand this competition. Now private airlines are also operating. We have to compete environment. Though we have suffered some setbacks but still we have been benefited due to this competition and have come up to their level in competition. Serious consideration should be given to the strategy to face this competition. I have taken charge only 2 months ago. We are trying to resolve this issue. The progress of this work has been affected with the commencement of Parliament session. Indian airlines and Air India are big institutions established by the hard work of the people of our country. Earlier these institutions were earning profits but for the last few years they are running in losses. We have to make concrete efforts to improve their working. Shri Rudy was raising the issue of Caribjet. Caribjet agreement was rescinded though there was no such clause in this regard in the agreement. This made the situation from bad worse. We are observing the situation. It will not create problems. I am personally handling the matter of Caribjet and I am pained to see the irregularities. I am paying full attention towards it since the day award was pronounced. The condition of the Air-India is very bad. An award of Rs. 103 crores has been pronounced for us in Caribjet case. It is our endeavour to rectify it. Fleet of Airbus A-320 was grounded. Vayudoot was merged in it. Earlier Indian airlines was a healthy organisation but consideration was not given to the fact that it can face problems in later stage. Government of India is not in a position to infuse a huge amount of funds in it. This department has been neglected because it is not related to votes. Besides, control over it was also weak to an extent. It is a glamorous one but is not obligatory to the Government. It has done a

commendable job right from Kargil mission to cyclone in Orissa..

I do not want to comment on the financial position of Air-India though it is in a bad shape. However, if the hon. Members desire, I can mention it in detail. We have demanded Rs. one thousand crores. The Kelkar Committee has recommended Rs. one thousand crores for disinvestment so that we could enter the world market. Air-India which was established in 1953 has a very big infrastructure. We are making efforts to ensure optimum use of its large assets so that it could become a better airlines. Providing good services to all.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST : Has the Government of India refused it?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Yes, Government of India has refused it twice. Our endeavour is to remind them....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is only a half-an-hour discussion. It has already taken nearly an hour. The Minister should reply to the questions raised by the three Members.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : We should remind them time and again....(*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to give the reply in the time allotted to me. I want to submit that both the air lines are in bad condition. Efforts are being made to improve the situation. Indian airlines is recovering

a bit as it has got some routes in the Gulf. In my view, Air-India needs some improvement. It has a work force of 18 thousand employees whereas the staff strength in the Indian Airlines is 22 thousand. It does not include the figures regarding the officers employed in these organisations. Next time I will tell you the number of officers when figures will be available in this regard. These are the problems. As regards the concern expressed by the hon'ble Members, I would like to submit that airlines are working properly.

Through you, I would like to tell the House that we are seriously engaged for the improvement in these institutions by re-scheduling them. We will try our level best to improve the situation. We will try to implement the suggestions given by hon'ble Members for the proper and optimum use of Indian Airlines fleet and for the improvement in these institutions. I have not been able to answer all the queries of hon'ble Members but in future proper reply will be given to them whenever I get time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that both the institutions are very old. It is the will of the House to restore the past glory of these institutions. Whatever best can be done to achieve this goal would be done by our Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 A.M.

18.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 20, 1999/Agrahayana 29, 1921 (Saka)

**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)**

Friday, December 17, 1999/Agrahayana 26, 1921 (Saka)

...

<u>Col./Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
59/10(from below)	obtained orld Bank	Obtained from the World Bank
62/9	MNISTRY	MINISTRY
96/5	(b)	(a)
/17	(a)	(b)
119/32	SHRI AJIT SHIV VITHALRAO KAMBLE	SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE
189/2	(DR.RAMAM)	(DR.RAMAN)
223,224/33	\$ 200.000	\$200,000
/38	\$ 200.000	
225,226/16,	\$ 91.310	\$ 91,310
/21	\$ 247.170	\$ 247,170
/25	\$ 325.000	\$ 325,000
/29	\$ 61.730	\$ 61,730
229,230/17	\$ 100.000	\$ 100,000
233,234/19	#	\$
259,260/25	288	286
261,262/24	108	106
263,264/8	3.382	3.362
265,266/21	2,403	2.403
273,274/2	88,351	88.351
309/10	-10.00	-10.02
324/11	12.04 hrs	12.01 hrs
345/15	under	number
377/5(from below)	(DHANHDUHA)	(DHANDHUKA)
391/10	Jaiya,Dr.Satyanarayan	Jatiya,Dr.Satyanarayan,
/22	(Nagercoil)	(Nagercoil)
392/1	(Bhahrachalam)	(Bhadrachalam)

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