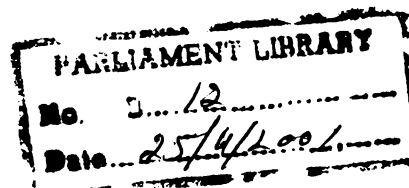


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



(Vol. IV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, February 25, 2000/Phalgun 6, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 21.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijayraje Scindia, please. What is your submission please?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Sir, my name is not Vijayraje Scindia. My name is Madhavrao Scindia.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : There should not be Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. I have called Shri Madhavrao Scindia, and not you. Please understand that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is very unfortunate that the lawyers have been lathicharged.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : What is the provocation that they were lathicharged?

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

11.03 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ban on Government employees joining RSS

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour because I have moved, along with several others I believe, an Adjournment Motion on a matter of extremely grave concern to all of us which strikes at the very basic tenets of our parliamentary democracy in our Constitution. It is such a grave issue where the Government servants are freely allowed to

participate in the activities of the RSS. ...(Interruptions) The Centre is sitting as a mute spectator to all these happenings.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be very brief.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I would like to make my own submissions on this that the Centre has every authority to issue a directive to the State Government because the ideology of the RSS is something which spreads poison throughout the length and breadth of this country, goes against the basic feature which is secular. ...(Interruptions) I would like to quote from what Shri Golwalkar has said.

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing the subject. You can briefly mention it.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : All these are important issues because the ideologies spread poison. The basic feature of our Constitution is secularism. The feature basic of our Constitution gives neutrality and objectivity to the civil servants. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We are absolutely appalled by the hon. Prime Minister giving a clean slate to the RSS as a cultural organisation.

I would like to quote what the ideologue of the RSS had said.

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing the subject. You can briefly mention about the Adjournment Motion.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : How can a government servant be allowed to participate in the activities of an organisation which spreads poison against the minorities, which hits at the secular traditions of this country and which is out to destroy all the basic tenets on which our Constitution stands? To convince the people, I would like to quote what Guru Golwalkar had said on what the system in our country should be, and what it is today. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing. We are listening to Shri Scindia. Please understand it. No other hon. Member is allowed. I have not allowed anybody else. I am listening to Shri Scindia. The other hon. Member should take his seat. I am not allowing him.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : He said that every race in Hindustan must adopt the Hindu culture and language, must learn to respect and hold in reverence the Hindu religion.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a discussion.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : He said - "T"

entertain no idea but those of the glorification of the Hindu race and culture, i.e. of the Hindu nation and must lose their separate existence to merge in the Hindu race or may stay in the country, wholly subordinated to the Hindu nation, claiming nothing, deserving no privileges, far less any preferential treatment—not even citizens' rights". ...*(Interruptions)*

Therefore this is the basis and ideology of the RSS. How can a Government servant be allowed to participate in the activities of the RSS? How can they be allowed to participate in the activities of this type of an organisation? One of the basic tenets of parliamentary democracy is that the civil servants must have objectivity and maintain neutrality while dealing with the people.

MR. SPEAKER : We are not entirely discussing the subject. Yesterday also, I allowed you to mention something about the Adjournment Motion.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Are we not to mention the subject?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : This is one of the basic features of our Constitution. It is such a basic and fundamental matter that I am sure that you, in your wisdom, a person who believes in secularism, is certain to allow a discussion under Rule 56, as an Adjournment Motion so that this matter which has united the Opposition entirely is discussed threadbare and the Government understands what its constitutional responsibilities are. *(Interruptions)*

The Union Government is acquiescing because under article 256 and 257 the Union Government has every right to issue a directive; and if they do not issue the directive, it means that the Central Government is also not maintaining its constitutional responsibilities, it is totally abrogating its responsibilities and that the hidden agenda is being pushed down the throat. All that the BJP is doing is to allow the Government of Gujarat to float trial balloons to ensure that ultimately the hidden agenda prevails.

I would request Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Sharad Yadav, Shri George Fernandes and those gentlemen sitting here to kindly reflect on what Shri Golwalkar had said. They should not sit quietly. It is a serious matter. They are not understanding what is going to happen to this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (BHOPAL) : I am on a point of order. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not suspended the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia is using wrong words. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that I have not suspended the Question Hour. I am only hearing. I am listening to what is being said.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia has violated the parliamentary code of conduct on that I am on a point of order....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : It is my point of order. He has made a mistake.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : He has quoted somebody's name who is not present here in Parliament. It should be expunged from the records.

[Translation]

Expunge it from the records. Mr. Madhavrao Scindia has quoted the name of that person who is not present in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat. There is no point of order, please. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : How is it possible that there is no point of order?

[Translation]

I will quote the rule just now.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : I hope

that this is a matter which will not be decided on the *decibels*. If we are going to out-shout each other, then let us also know. Then, as the Opposition, we know what we have to do. We felt that this is a matter which requires to be discussed in the House, the highest body of this country in a proper manner because it is a matter of great concern for all of us. I have no manner of doubt. There are many hon. friends sitting across us who also feel probably in a more intense manner that we are also thinking. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I want to submit whether it should be discussed, and in what form it should be discussed.

There are certain issues which are so vitally important which concern the entire nation as this issue does and the entire Opposition is united on this. ...*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : We are united on this issue. This is creating problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We want to take recourse to a method which is mentioned in the Rule Book, namely, moving an Adjournment Motion because we want to have an element of censure contained in it. Now, it is being said, 'No, this is not a matter fit for an Adjournment Motion; this is not a matter which should be discussed in the Budget Session and so on and so forth'.

We are very sorry that this is not a matter which can be brushed aside like that. I find neoconverts on the other side. They are more anxious to stifle discussions on this vital issue. I do not wish to refer as to what happened in your chamber. But, I am sure, you have understood the intensity of the feelings of the Members from the Opposition. This is a matter which cannot be compromised.

We earnestly request you to allow this matter to be discussed under Adjournment Motion on Monday. Today the Railway Budget is being presented. We do not wish to have it disturbed. Let it be done. Let the country know that this matter is being treated seriously. Parliament gives its most anxious attention to it. If they have the majority, they will decide against it. Why are they trying to stifle a discussion on an Adjournment Motion?

My earnest appeal to you, Sir, please do not take away this important instrument from the hands of the Opposition, which the rules permit. We are not asking for anything extraordinary. The history is replete with instances in this Parliament when such discussions have been allowed. This is a matter, if it is being treated as a routine matter that the hon. Members on that side will stop us from referring, then, I am sorry that in spite of our best wishes, the House will be in problem, we shall have problem in running the House.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Sir, is the Question Hour suspended?

MR. SPEAKER : I have not suspended the Question Hour.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Then, the Question Hour should be taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that hon'ble Members do not want to run the Question Hour. If we will not be allowed to speak then the House will not run and if they allow us then it will run. This you will have to decide....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Mulayam Singh, you may speak for five minutes daily in Question Hour....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said about the 'Sangh Parivar' just now and the attitude of the governments of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh about the Sangh Parivar is censurable, anti democratic and contrary to the Constitution. The character of our constitution is secular and it is a direct blow on that. A conspiracy being hatched to wipe out the democratic system from this country. As such these Governments are permitting Government employees/officers to participate in Sangh Parivar activities. It means that Government employees and officers will be forced to join parade because they will be granted promotion and given good jobs keeping in view all these activities. Therefore, we want that this matter should be taken up after stopping the business of the House. The congress party, left parties, and all other opposition parties including our party are having the same opinion. The Lok Sabha is the Supreme forum to express the views of the people of the country. We want that hon'ble George Fernandes must express his views in this regard; the Janta Dal(U), Balu Saheb, Vaiko Saheb and Telugu Desham Party should also express their views in this matter. It is not a trivial matter. We all are elected by the people of the country. We are of the opinion that by encouraging the communal forces we have come to such a situation that the internal unity of the country is in danger and the borders are also facing the same danger. Therefore, this issue must be taken up seriously. If we were united internally in the country then Pakistan would not have dared to attack on us. Today, conspiracy is being hatched to destroy and disunites the entire country. These people want to run the Government under the influence of Sangh Parivar, whether we would have to accept it. We would like to know the views of the Home Minister in this regard because simply by saying that the Government of Gujrat or Uttar Pradesh might have done it is not correct. Tell us what directions have been given by you to these Governments. Therefore, this issue must be taken up first after stopping the business of the House. The dangerous situation created by the Bhartiya Janata Party run State Government has also posed a threat to the internal unity of our country. We are not in a position to take any step towards the development, unity and safety of the country. We are clear that there should not be any minister and

member in Lok Sabha from Sangh Parivar. It should be banned. You dance, sing or parade outside and announce that this is our job.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have faced many hardships. In 1977 we have sacrificed our Government on the question of dual citizenship, although we were in majority. At that time, too, we fought against the Sangh. Today we are facing the result of dual citizenship. We want you to take initiative in the matter and play a role in it. Today the unity of the country is in danger. Therefore, this issue must be discussed in the House after stopping all other business.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity. The question is that the Adjournment Motion has its own meaning and as you very well know, it has an element of censure. What is happening in the country about RSS and also great intervention in the educational sphere is of importance to all of us. I am sure, in historical research also this is what happened. Therefore, we threw an Adjournment Motion and the entire Opposition was united on it. We wanted to press that Censure Motion and hope that you will allow us to do so.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a right proposal to accept an Adjournment Motion. All the four points essential for adjournment motion i.e. it must be a matter of urgent public importance and restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence are there and for which the Union Government is accountable. When the government of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have allowed Government officers/employees to join R.S.S. and the ban which was imposed on the recruitment in R.S.S. has since been lifted, there is chaos and communalism is being spread all over the country. The constitution says that we will not allow any danger to affect our secularism. In this way, the Prime Minister has announced its decision and a clean chit has been given to R.S.S. and Sangh Parivar. As such, when this government has failed to check communalism then this matter must be treated as a total failure of the government. Therefore, this Adjournment Motion must be admitted, this is a fit case for the Adjournment Motion. When income tax notice was served on them these R.S.S. people said that we are cultural. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, No. Mr. Raghuvansh Prasad, you please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : An affidavit has been filed in the Nagpur High Court that we are a

political party and they say that we are a cultural party. They are adopting double standards. Therefore Bajrang Dal, R.S.S. and the Sangh Parivar have become a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are the custodian of democracy and you are the patron of the House, therefore, we want that you save the country from fascism and communalism.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (AKBARPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of R.S.S. is being discussed in this House since yesterday. Permission has been given to government employees by the Gujarat Government to participate in the activities of the R.S.S. and the Uttar Pradesh Government also supported the same, so we want to know, especially from the treasury benches, what the views of the government in this regard are so that the people of the entire country could know their decision. The entire opposition is united on the issue of Adjournment Motion. Therefore, we request you to admit the Adjournment Motion in this regard and this issue should be discussed openly. You have to take decision in this matter. I understand that you might be under pressure from the treasury benches but you should also make use of your power. You are very well aware of the opinion of the opposition but the opinion of B.J.P. lead government and their allies should be made known to the entire country. I understand that you will make use of your power fully. If this issue is suppressed, then the people of minorities in the country will feel frightened and as the R.S.S. has from time to time encouraged the communal forces in the country, the people of minority community are feeling scared in the country. I request you that when entire opposition is united on this issue, you will allow to get the issue discussed under this adjournment motion by making use of your power.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice for an Adjournment Motion on the question of certain State Governments lifting the ban on its employees from associating themselves or participating in the activities of the RSS. Sir, it is a very grave question. It is a question that concerns the secular credentials of our administration. It is not a question that concerns a particular State Government. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. Hon. Members please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, my submission is that it is not a question concerning a particular State Government like Gujarat, U.P. or Himachal Pradesh. It is a question of national, constitutional importance.

Firstly Sir, the secular credentials and the impartiality of our administration becomes suspect. That has to be seen because the Sangh Parivar, RSS and such other organisations are committed to an ideology that is totally in

contravention of the Constitution of India, both in letter and in spirit.

Secondly, if we allow such thing, then our administration gets divided into pro-RSS, pro-Sangh Parivar officers and those others who have not associated themselves with the RSS activities. We cannot allow such a thing. Our administration has to be impartial.

I will conclude by saying that the Gujarat State employees may be on deputation to other States and to the Central Government also whereby the communal prejudice may spread throughout the country. Sir, the Central Government must also revoke the deputation of such Gujarat State cadre officials that may be here. Therefore Sir, we want to censure the Government on its failure to protect the secular...

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please understand that we are not discussing the subject.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Yes. Sir, we want to censure the Government on its failure to uphold the secular polity of our country and the secular character of our Constitution. In order to censure the Government, the Adjournment Motion is required. What is necessary is not a mere discussion but the censure of the Government. Therefore, I would request you, in this hour of crisis for the secularism of our country, to accept and give consent to our Adjournment Motion.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (TURA) : Mr. Speaker Sir, one of the areas of concern for our country is the increasing attempt to politicise our bureaucracy, our administration. We have talked enough about the nexus between politicians and criminals! I have also been talking about the nexus between the politicians and the bureaucracy, and politicisation of bureaucracy is very dangerous. That is precisely the reason why while the article 19 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of association, it also imposes reasonable restrictions to maintain the neutrality on grounds of public order. Allowing the Government servants to be members of the RSS is certainly not in the interest of the neutrality of the administration, and it will certainly politicise the administration and the bureaucracy. Therefore, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, I fully support the Motion for Adjournment.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, I have also given the notice of Adjournment Motion, and I would also like to make a small submission.

MR. SPEAKER : There are many Members who want to speak, but I have given the time only to the leaders.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, there is no other follower in my Party.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand Shri Thomas, and please take your seat. Now, Shri George Fernandes to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Mr. Speaker Sir, there can be no dispute as to whether there should be a debate on the matter under discussion. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? I have allowed you. Now, let the Government respond.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : I do not know as to what is happening here. This is an Adjournment Motion. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. What is this? Please take your seat. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This is not the way. Shri Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my legs, please take your seat. Is this the way to behave in the House. Please understand, and please take your seat. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat. I have allowed the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : You are asking us to 'understand', but what is happening here? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I just want to speak on the admissibility of this Adjournment Motion. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN) : This is a subject concerning the Home Minister.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I want to know and I have a right to know as to what is happening here. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. Please take your seat. This will not go on record. I have allowed the Minister.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, please take your seat. Please understand that I have not allowed you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that the Chair has allowed him to speak. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : In what capacity is he speaking?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : In the same capacity in which you are speaking. What has brought you here has also brought me here. I have the same capacity that you have. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. Please take your seat. The Chair has allowed him to speak.

SHRI A.C. JOS : He has not given any notice of Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This is not the proper way. Please take your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS : In what capacity is he speaking?
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Once again, I am appealing to you. Please take your seat. Hon. Member, please go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, under what capacity is he speaking? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Speaker Sir, there is only one member from Janata Dal (Secular). He too should be heard. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, please advice us under what rule he is speaking? *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there can be no objection on the issue of debate on the matter which the Opposition wants to be discussed in the House and the debate can take place *...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Order please. No cross-talking please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : One point is that it is not possible to move for adjournment motion on this. I want to bring this fact to notice of the House that the proceedings of this House run under some rules...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

You see page 30. This is rule 58 :

"The right to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance shall be subject to the following restrictions, namely :-

The motion shall be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence involving the responsibility of the Government of India"*...(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (JALORE) : It is a recent occurrence....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We want to know your opinion. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House has been functioning for the last fifty years. I am not bringing about a new thing. I simply want to draw your kind attention to the rules under which this House should function *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We have already read these rules. We want to know the opinion of Samata Party on this subject.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This is not the right way. I have not allowed you. I have allowed the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I am now quoting from page 447 of Kaul & Shakdhar : ...*(Interruptions)* This is regarding admissibility of Adjournment Motions.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : The argument of Shri Fernandes is misplaced ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members put forth their arguments....*(Interruptions)* I listened to them attentively. They too should listen and understand what I say...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : He has to eat his words now. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to page No. 447 of the Kaul and Shakdhar...*(Interruptions)* I am mentioning the responsibilities of the Government laid down under these rules.

[English]

It must possess the following essential elements. First and foremost is the 'Ministerial Responsibility'.

"Generally speaking, the subject-matter of an adjournment motion must have direct or indirect relation to the conduct or default on the part of the Government of India and must be in the nature of criticism of the action of the Government of India either for having done some action or having omitted to do some action which was urgently necessary at the moment. An adjournment motion is not admissible unless there is failure on the part of the Government to perform the duties enjoined by the Constitution and the law."

"... Where the Government of India has no obligation to intervene in a matter, an adjournment motion is out of order."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, now I come to page no. 932 of the book.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is the constitutional duty of a State to so exercise its executive power as to ensure compliance with the laws made by Parliament. Secondly, it has not to impede or prejudice the exercise of the executive power of the Union.

[Translation]

Gujarat is frequently brought into discussion here but I would like to make it clear that this is a State matter which we can't bring into discussion over here. If something which my friends don't appreciate, is happening there, it can be raised in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I come to page no. 935.

[English]

It relates to Parliament and State matters.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, What is going on here? Would you kindly enlighten us?

MR. SPEAKER : First of all, you take your seat. I have not allowed you. Please understand that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, I have not allowed you. I have permitted him to speak. You are unnecessarily disturbing the House. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : In page 935, it says, 'The rules of procedure and conduct of business in Lok Sabha preclude the discussion of State matters which can appropriately be discussed in the concerned State legislature.' I now turn over to the next page and it says, '... questions which attract Union responsibility can be raised in Parliament.' This is on Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, this is not George Fernandes speaking.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is none of Government of India's business. I would like to reiterate that debate can be allowed if so desired but there is no scope for adjournment motion.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can decide as to whether adjournment motion should be allowed in this House or not. This is absolutely right that only such adjournment motion will be moved in this House for which the Government is responsible directly or indirectly. Right now hon. Minister Shri George Fernandes quoted from the book that adjournment motion can be allowed if the question attracts Union Govts' responsibility. We want to know and express our view on the subject as to whether it

is true that Gujarat Government had sought the view of Central Government on the decision taken in respect of the issue of R.S.S. and that should the Government officials be allowed to participate in R.S.S. activities by withdrawing that decision. The answer of the Central Govt. was affirmative that 'they can be allowed to participate'. Is this not indirect responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)* ... is this not their indirect responsibility, and if they said. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You prove it. ...*(Interruptions)* This is for your information that on the basis of this, the Government of India has permitted it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We want to say that it is very dangerous to allow government officials to participate in RSS activities. Do they not undergo military training and parade like brown centres and black centres in other countries, is militancy not talked of among them? If in such an organisation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Shivraj ji has many a time attended Sangh programmes, he knows it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

He has attended many RSS functions. He knows it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : In such an organisation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : In his hometown itself, he has attended RSS functions.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : If officers of Gujarat Government participate in activities of such an organisation, and Shri Banatwala rightly said, they can go to the states and can come in Central Government. What will be the consequences, has this government to take responsibility of this or not? Why should discussion under adjournment motion not take place on an issue or subject which has excited the House as well as outsiders? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I would like to say something very briefly. The point at issue is this ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Home Minister wants to say something.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I would like to say something very briefly, if I may have your permission. The point at issue is this....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Behenji, you are concentrating only on Madhya Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to tell Madhavrao Scindia ji about the remarks he had given on R.S.S. in 1970 that 'his Ganavesh is kept in his house'. I want to tell that Shri Sunder Lal Patwa ji was saying that he had enrolled Scindia ji a member of R.S.S. I have got proof. That's why he goes to the side of R.S.S. whenever the need be. ...*(Interruptions)* I have got proof of what he had given remarks on R.S.S. ...*(Interruptions)* He goes to the side of R.S.S. whenever the need be. ...*(Interruptions)* He starts opposing RSS just to show it off to Sonia ji. Sonia ji you don't allow Madhavrao ji to sit beside you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him. Madam, please take your seat.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I will only deal with technical points that have been raised by the hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes and I will not go into the merits or demerits of this issue.

All that I want to say is that there are innumerable instances as to why we believe in certain things here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : What is the new point that he is raising?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I am just raising a technical point. The viewpoint here is that basically the RSS goes against the secular character of our country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, I'm not given a chance to speak on point of order.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Therefore, to maintain neutrality and objectivity of the civil service, they should not be allowed to participate in the RSS activities.

The point that Shri George Fernandes has raised is that it is the Gujarat Government that had done it. In this

connection, I would like to draw your attention to the page 1 of the Supreme Court verdict in the Bommai case in 1994. The Supreme Court had ruled that :

"Secularism is one of the basic features of the Constitution."

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : He is a staunch supporter of RSS. ...*(Interruptions)* He goes to the side of RSS whenever the need be. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I have many points to say. Let her say whatever she wants to.

Sir, in the Bommai case, the Supreme Court had ruled that :

"Secularism is one of the basic features of the Constitution. While freedom of religion is guaranteed to all persons in India, from the point of view of the State, a religion, faith or belief of a person is immaterial. To the State, all are equal and are entitled to be treated equally."

The Supreme Court goes on to say :

"Any State Government which pursues unsecular policy or unsecular course of action acts contrary to the Constitutional mandate and renders itself amenable to action under article 356."

This is what the Supreme Court has said. We believe that the Gujarat Government has acted in violation of the Constitutional responsibility.

Therefore, under the Constitution the Union Government is entitled to take action under article 256. It says:

"Obligation of States and the Union - The executive power of every State shall be so exercised as to ensure compliance with the laws made by Parliament and any existing laws which apply in that State, and the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of such directions to a State as may, appear to the Government of India to be necessary for that purpose." ...*(Interruptions)*

Again under article 257 (1) the Union Government has the right to issue a direction. If the State is not complying under article 256 action can be taken against that State which may ultimately lead to 356. Both the articles give power to the Union Government to intervene if the Union Government believe that the State is not acting in accordance with the constitutional responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I want to raise a point of order. There is a deliberate misleading of the House by the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Shri George Fernandes has deliberately misled the House. Under article 257 of the Constitution, Shri George Fernandes said that the executive power of the Union shall extend giving direction to a State. He has wrongly interpreted it. I would like to quote the Circular of Home Ministry issued on 28.10.1980 before the Home Minister speaks. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know, under article 257 of the Constitution of India, whether the executive power of the Union for giving direction to a State is in line with the Circular, dated 28.1.1980, in possession of the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, we do not have time. At 12 noon we have to take up Railway Budget.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The hon. Minister has deliberately misled the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Home Minister is present here. He would clarify the position.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The Circular issued by the Home Ministry on 28.10.1980 says the Finance Minister therefore requested to specially bring once again to the notice of Government employees working under them about certain provisions under para 1. And it has clearly stated that *RSS* and *Ananda Marg* have communal bias. ...*(Interruptions)* I therefore want the Home Minister to interpret whether the holy book concept of secularism as enshrined in this Preamble varies from State to Centre. Shri George Fernandes interpreted secularism*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The Home Minister cannot surpass this Circular. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Thomas, please take your seat. I have allowed the Home Minister to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I may also be given a chance.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : I shall deal with the issues raised by Shri Madhavrao Scindia towards the end of the discussion because I find that these points that have been just made

by Shri Madhavrao Scindia were raised even by the Congress Party when they submitted a Memorandum. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale, please take your seat. Otherwise, I will have to take action against you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, you have kindly permitted Shri Madhavrao Scindia to raise this issue on admissibility not only for the second time today, but yesterday also you had disallowed the Adjournment Motion. But on the basis of the discussion you had with party leaders, you have allowed him to raise this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Shri Buta Singh, take your seat. How can you answer on behalf of the Chair?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I do not want to read out yesterday's proceedings. But as per yesterday's proceedings, you had permitted this matter to be discussed after 'Zero Hour' and you had disallowed the Adjournment Motion. But today in your wisdom....*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : How can you object to it?
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKER AIYAR : It has not been disallowed.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Hon. Members, you are not supposed to answer.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not objecting. The Speaker has the right to re-examine it and he has allowed you to raise it. Sir, I will deal only with the references made by Shri Scindia in regard to article 256 and article 257 (1) where under....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You read your Ministry's circular. It says that the employees should not join the organisation like RSS, Jamat-e-Islami ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, what is this? You are a senior Member. You know the procedure very well.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : He will read that.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Even before this matter was raised in the House, the Congress Party led by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi called on the President and submitted a Memorandum to him stating as to how the Central Government can intervene in the matter, and the President

forwarded that representation of the Congress Party to us. When I found mention of article 256 and article 257 (1), I immediately, once again, examined all aspects, and I found that the Sarkaria Commission which was the body that dealt with these articles in-depth, had first quoted what article 256 says and then said :

"A plain reading of the provisions of the article shows that the existence of a law made by Parliament or an existing law which applies in that State is a condition preceded which must be satisfied for the issuance of a direction under it. It shall not be a valid exercise of the powers conferred if a direction is given in a situation where no enforcement of the law made by Parliament or an existing law applicable in that State is involved."
...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, it is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, this is not fair. How many times he will say the same point?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, this is not fair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. I have allowed the Minister. Please understand. Let us have some patience, Shri Reddy.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : You only tell us whether it is a matter of importance or not.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, so far as the importance of the issue is concerned, on behalf of the Government, I again reiterate what Shri George Fernandes has already said, that the Government has no intention of stifling a debate. We are willing to debate this issue thoroughly. All that we are objecting to is the admissibility of an Adjournment Motion on this issue because it is a State subject and the Central Government has not taken notice of the...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, this is not fair.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, this is too much. What is this?

11.59 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, you are provoking the Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : In so far as article 257 (1) is concerned, it says :

"The executive power of every State shall be so exercised as not to impede or prejudice the exercise of the executive power of the Union and the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of such directions to a State as may appear to the Government of India to be necessary for that purpose."

...(Interruptions) I would quote from the Sarkaria Commission.

"The words 'for that purpose' in Sub-Clause (1) of this article limits its use to those situations where some executive action of a State impedes or prejudices the valid exercise of the executive power of the Union. If the Union Government is purported to give directions about the exercise of the executive power in any field reserved for the State executive which power does not collide with, such directions would be invalid."

This is the advice given by the Sarkaria Commission. Therefore, there is no case for the Central Government to act either under article 256 or under article 257 (1). This has been thoroughly examined in the Home Ministry. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, I am on my legs. Please take your seat. You are not allowing the Chair to say something.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, you are a senior Member. Please take your seat. Please understand that you have been given the best Parliamentary award this year.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, please take your seat. You are also a senior Member. Please understand it.

(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : This is an important matter. Before you give your ruling on this matter, kindly listen to us also. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing you, Shri Buta Singh, to please take your seat. This is not a proper way to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. When the Speaker is on his legs, you are obstructing him from speaking. Please take your seat, Shri Buta Singh. I am appealing to you. You are a senior Member.

(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, give me a chance to speak. Why cannot you listen to me? ...(Interruptions) Shri Advani is misleading the House and the country. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I had received notices of Adjournment Motion from S/Shri Vilas Muttemwar, Madhavrao Scindia, G.M. Banatwalla, Basu Deb Acharia and P.C. Thomas regarding failure of the Government to get the Gujarat Government order withdrawn for lifting the ban on Government employees from joining the RSS. I had disallowed the notices in the House on the 24th February, 2000. I have again received notices of Adjournment Motion today on the same subject from S/Shri Madhavrao Scindia, Basu Deb Acharia and G.M. Banatwalla.

I have also heard the Members. Though the subject matter is important enough to merit discussion in the House, I do not consider it appropriate to adjourn the entire business for this purpose.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me complete. What is this? We shall have a full discussion on the subject on Monday but not by way of an Adjournment Motion. Please understand it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : As we are not satisfied with the Home Minister's reply, in protest, we are walking out.

12.06 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : In protest against the Home Minister's reply, I walk out of the House.

12.07 hrs.

At this stage, Shri P.C. Thomas left the House.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Quality Upgradation of Agricultural Exports

*21. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to assist the agricultural producers by providing them infrastructure investment like storage, processing and refrigerated transport for quality upgradation of agricultural exports to enable them to attain the high standards of the of affluent countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has been providing financial assistance for enhancing production and productivity, preservation of and improvement in quality, development of packaging, improvement of infrastructure and other measures to facilitate exports of all agricultural products to meet with high standards expected in international markets of such products that are traded. The value of agro items exported excluding marine products, tea, coffee, castor oil and cotton during the last three years is :

1997-98	Rs. 15169 crores
1998-99	Rs. 15960 crores
1999-2000 (April-Oct.)	Rs. 7702.78 crores

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

Some of the steps taken to boost agro exports which also include providing infrastructure, quality upgradation, refrigerated transport etc. in this respect are :-

- (i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers through demonstration, training and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers;
- (ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units;
- (iii) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for eliminating pest incubation in the product especially mangoes for gaining access to overseas markets;
- (iv) 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 & floriculture products;

- (v) Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, lack of contamination and ensuring freedom from bacteria & fungi;
- (vi) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipments;
- (vii) Providing financial assistance to exporter/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (Pack Houses);
- (viii) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits and floricultural products;
- (ix) Mechanising harvest operations, purchase of intermediate packaging material for domestic transportation of the product;
- (x) Setting up of mechanised handling facilities including sorting, grading, washing, waxing, ripening, packaging and palletisation;
- (xi) Providing facilities for pre shipment treatment such as fumigation, x-ray screening, hot water dip treatment;
- (xii) Setting up of environment control systems such as pollution control, effluent treatment etc;
- (xiii) Setting up of specialised facilities such as high humidity cold storage, deep freezers, controlled atmosphere or modified atmosphere storages;
- (xiv) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
- (xv) Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information;

Interest Rate on Small Savings and PPF

*22. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reduced the interest rate on small savings and Public Provident Funds;

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

(c) whether the recent cut in the interest rate has affected the small savings in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to help the pensioners and other old individuals who invest their money in these sectors for their maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes Sir. The interest rates on certain small savings schemes and Public Provident Fund have been reduced w.e.f 15.1.2000.

(b) (i) The details of the interest rates on various small savings schemes and Public Provident Funds on and before 15.1.2000 are given in the enclosed statement.

(ii) The marginal reduction in the interest

rates on various small savings schemes and Public Provident Fund was necessitated in the larger interest of the economy so as to align these rates with the overall interest rate structure in the country.

(c) No adverse effect on the small savings is expected as the small savings still offer a risk free avenue of investment with attractive return, easy liquidity and considerable tax incentives, available on tap around the year to the investors. There was a growth in collections in the current year notwithstanding the reduction made last year.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Adequate steps are being taken from time to time to help the senior citizens including pensioners to provide them a better opportunity to invest their savings. The zero risk nature of small savings schemes renders their risk-return equation very favourable. No reduction was made in the tax-free rate of interest of 9% in the two deposit schemes meant for retiring/retired Government Employees and Employees of Public Sector Undertakings.

Statement

Small Savings Schemes in Force, Rates of Interest and Tax Benefits available thereon

Name of the Scheme		Interest rate %/Maturity Value		
		w.e.f 1.1.99	w.e.f 15.1.2000	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	@ Post Office Savings Account	4.50	No Change	Simple (individual Account)
2.	* Post Office Recurring Deposit (5 years) Maturity value for Rs. 10 denomination	Rs. 811.15	Rs. 789.60	
3.	* Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (6 Years)	12.00	11.00	Payable monthly plus bonus at 10% of deposits at the end of six years
4.	* Post Office Time Deposit Scheme			
	(a) 1 year Deposit	9.00	8.00	Compounded quarterly and payable annually
	(b) 2 year Deposit	10.00	9.00	-do-
	(c) 3 year Deposit	11.00	10.00	-do-
	(d) 5 year Deposit	11.50	10.50	-do-
5.	** National Savings Certificate VIII Issue (6-Years) Maturity value for Rs. 100 denomination	Rs. 195.60	Rs. 190.12	
6.	** National Savings Scheme 1992 (4-Years)	11.00	10.50	Payable annually
7.	Kisan Vikas Patra Maturity value for Rs. 100 denomination	Rs. 200 in 6 years	Rs. 200 in 6½ years	

1	2	3	4	5
8.	@ Public Provident Fund Scheme (15-Years)	12.00	11.00	
9.	@ Deposit Scheme for Retiring Govt. Employees (3-Years)	9.00	No change	Payable half-yearly
10.	@ Deposit Scheme for Retiring Employees of Public Sector Undertakings (3-Years)	9.00	No change	Payable half-yearly

Legends :

- * Benefit under Section 80L (of Income Tax Act) available.
 - ** Benefit under Section 88 & 80L (of Income Tax Act) available.
 - @ Interest completely tax free.
- In case of PPF benefit under Section 88 (of Income Tax Act) is also available.

Price of Natural Rubber

*23. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the total quantum of natural rubber available in open market;
- (b) the present price of natural rubber in the open market;
- (c) whether the Government have taken effective steps for ensuring reasonable price of natural rubber;
- (d) if so the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have taken any steps for collection of natural rubber from open market; and
- (f) if so, the agencies which are collecting the natural rubber and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The opening stock of Natural Rubber on 1.4.1999 was 1,87,965 tonnes and the production of Natural Rubber during 1999-2000 is estimated at 6.25 lakh tonnes.

(b) The price of natural rubber is ranging between Rs. 3100 - Rs. 3200 per quintal during February 2000.

(c) and (d) To ensure a remunerative price to rubber producers, Government of India through STC has made market intervention to procure Natural Rubber on Government account. The STC has already procured 29,427 MT of Natural Rubber till 1st February 2000. To enhance the consumption of indigenous rubber Government has imposed a ban on import of Natural Rubber under the Advance Licence Scheme w.e.f 20.2.1999.

(e) and (f) The natural rubber is being procured by the STC from RUBBER-MARK and RUBCO which are the apex bodies of Rubber Producers' Societies and private rubber dealers also.

Privatisation of I.A

*24. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to privatise Indian Airlines and Air India by selling 51% of its equity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the methodology proposed to be adopted for selling equity of these Airlines;
- (d) the amount expected to be realised by sale of equity of these Airlines;
- (e) whether some associations and Employees Unions have opposed the move of the Government;
- (f) if so, the objections raised by these associations/Unions; and
- (g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) It has been decided to disinvest 51% of Government held equity in Indian Airlines Ltd. Out of this 26% equity may be given to a group or an individual who may be called joint venture/strategic partner. The remaining 25 per cent equity would be offered to employees, financial institutions and public..

(d) The amount, realisable from any disinvestment depends on a number of factors including market conditions, financial performance of the company, sale condition etc. It is therefore not possible to estimate the quantum of proceeds from dis-investment.

(e) and (f) Some factions of employees have opposed disinvestment of Indian Airlines. The apprehensions of the employees on the proposal for Disinvestment in Indian Airlines basically relate to issues concerning job security, employee shareholding/wage/benefits/interests and management control.

(g) As per the announced policy of the Government on disinvestment, the interest of the workers would be protected in all cases. The Government shall endeavor to protect the legitimate interests of the employees through the MOU/Shareholders Agreement with the strategic partner.

Export Potential

*25. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have examined the export potential of the country;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the names of the exportable items;

(c) the country's export during 1996-97, 1997-98 1998-99 and 1999-2000 till December, 1999;

(d) whether the export performance has been affected during the last three years;

(e) if so, the reasons for lower performance; and

(f) the corrective action proposed to reduce the trade deficit and to boost the export performance of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Examination of export potential is a continuous process and Government is continuously taking various export promotion measures to enhance our share in world trade. Based on a detailed analysis of available data, a set of next generation export products have been identified which include medical and pharmaceuticals products, iron and steel primary forms, textile yarn, office machines, telecom equipments, agricultural machinery, chemical products, electronic items including toys.

(c) India's export during previous four years are as under :-

	(Value in US \$ million)
1996-97	33469.76
1997-98	35007.85
1998-99@	33641.00
1999-2000@ (April-Dec.)	27419.23

@ Provisional

(d) and (e) The poor export performance as witnessed during last three years was largely in line with the world trend. The South East Asian crisis as well as crisis in Russia and some of the Latin American countries affected our exports to these regions. Infrastructural constraints and other impediments like narrow basket of exportable goods and low unit value realisation were other reasons. However, in the current financial year, exports have picked up and export growth in dollar terms during April-December, 1999-2000 is 12.93% over the corresponding period of the previous year as per provisional figures.

(f) The trade deficit is the excess of imports over the export and a large portion of our imports are necessary to sustain economic growth. The Government is taking conscious and continuous efforts to boost exports through changes in EXIM policy and procedures with focus on improving the export competitiveness and providing a freer trading environment.

Disinvestment Target

*26. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI AJIT SINGH :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government would be able to realise the disinvestment target of Rs. 10,000 crore during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the future course of action of the Government in connection with disinvestment;

(e) whether the Government are opting out for strategic partners of wholesale sale of the sick PSUs; and

(f) the plans of the Government regarding disinvestment of the "navaratnas" and when would the formulation of the new Disinvestment Commission be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) It may not be possible to achieve the Disinvestment Target of Rs. 10,000 set for the year 1999-2000.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Disinvestment as planned initially in some companies through capital market route could not take off till 2nd week of October, 1999 as General Elections were

being held in the country. Government decided to wait for the formation of the new Government. During October-November, 1999, the GDR offering in GAIL was completed. From second week of November, 1999 to January, 2000, no international offering could be planned because of Y2K problem. In the meanwhile, a separate Department was constituted to deal with this disinvestment.

(d) The Government would implement the present declared policy of disinvestment that in generality of cases, the government shareholding in public sector enterprises will be brought down to 26 per cent. In case of strategic PSUs Government will continue to retain majority holding.

(e) There is no general policy with regard to the methodology of disinvestment in sick PSUs. It is worked out on a case to case basis.

(f) The Government has no separate policy in disinvestment with regard to the "navratna" companies. The general policy on disinvestment as detailed in answer to part (d) would be followed. The Disinvestment Commission shall be constituted in near future.

Approval to Film Titled WATER

*27. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI RIZWAN ZAHIR :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had accorded permission to film producer Deepa Mehta to shoot her film titled "Water" at Varanasi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date of according permission;

(c) whether this film has been scrutinized afresh and certain portions have been removed from this film;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of agreement made between the Government and the film producer;

(e) whether there was an attack on the shooting set by some activists;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the total damage to life and property as a result thereof;

(g) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has imposed a ban on shooting of the film;

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

(i) the present status of the film?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) :

(a) to (f) M/s Flagship International Limited, a Canadian company, had applied to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 1st October, 1999 for permission of the Government for shooting of the feature film "WATER" in India. Ms. Deepa Mehta is the Director, Script Writer and Co-producer of the film. Procedure regarding shooting of feature films in India by foreigners is laid down in the Visa Manual of the Ministry of External Affairs. The application was accordingly considered in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs is made for ensuring acceptability of proposal from the point of view of security.

2. While considering the proposal Ministry of Information and Broadcasting keeps in view the concerns of integrity of the nation, friendly relations with other countries and communal harmony while adhering to the policy of freedom of expression. Accordingly with the concurrence of the Home Ministry, the Ministry communicated its concurrence for the shooting of the film vide letter of 6th January, 2000. The Government does not enter into agreement with applicant film makers in this regard. The concurrence given by the Ministry was subject to certain conditions, one of which was that shooting on locations will be subject to permission being granted by the respective controlling authority.

3. On 31st January, 2000 the Government of Uttar Pradesh conveyed that there were protests by organisations and persons in Varanasi about the content of the script and suggested re-examination of the script by the Government of India. Thereafter Ms. Deepa Mehta approached the Ministry for approval of a modified version of the script containing dialogues in Hindi. She deleted/changed some sentences in her script. This altered script was considered and approval of the Government was accorded to the amended script for shooting of the film on that basis on 2nd February.

4. Government of Uttar Pradesh informed that on 30th January, 2000 a group of persons demonstrated on the location of the film during which some damage was caused to some of the sets prepared for the shooting of the film. There was no loss of life. Demonstrations against the shooting of the film by several organizations in Varanasi and group of persons continued. Some shooting of the film

was done on 5th February, 2000 but due to the law and order problem created by protests, demonstrations and an attempted suicide, the District Administration Ordered stoppage of shooting for 15 days under section 144 of Cr. PC by their order of 7th February, 2000. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has not imposed ban on the shooting of the film.

5. As reported in Media, the production team has left Varanasi. The Ministry has not been approached by M/s. Flagship International Limited thereafter.

Closure of Banks

*28. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

SHRI SURESH KURUP :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down some of the Public Sector Banks;

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

(c) the total non-performing assets of these banks, as on date; and

(d) the action plan prepared by the Government to recover these loans after the closure/merger of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There is no proposal to close down any public sector bank.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Companies Involved in Economic Offences

*29. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies, Indian and foreign, involved in economic offences during the last three years;

(b) the details of the economic offences committed;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government against the companies concerned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The number of companies against which action has been taken for violations under the Customs Act, Income Tax Act and

Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, during the last three years, is 8269.

(b) The major violations are wilful attempt to evade taxes, filing of false returns, under/over valuation of goods, fraudulent claims of drawback, misdeclaration/wrong classification, misuse of modvat credit, non-realisation of export proceeds, dealing in foreign exchange without RBI permission and dealings in Hawala transactions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The action taken include issue of show cause notices, imposition of penalties and fines, and launching of prosecution.

Harassment to Small Investors

*30. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the harassment being faced by the small investors consequent upon the introduction of the Depository System;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also taken note of the unprecedented losses suffered by such investors in respect of investments made during the hey-day of capital market in early and mid nineties in companies which have since vanished;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to evolve a viable "modus operandi" through SEBI to enable such investors to divest their holding without further losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for introducing the Depository System?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (d) Paper based security are vulnerable to risks associated with fake forged and stolen paper and with problems of bad delivery and delays in registration. Dematerialisation and the depository system have greatly reduced the risks of bad deliveries and fake/forged/stolen securities. Therefore, the introduction of the depository system and dematerialisation of securities are in the interest of investors. The fact that about 20 lakh accounts have been opened in the depository system, demonstrates that small investors are taking advantage of this system.

(b) and (c) In the recent past, several companies, which tapped the capital market and collected funds, have defaulted in their commitments made to the public while mobilising funds. These companies fall within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)/Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/Department of Company Affairs (DCA) depending on the nature of their activities in the capital market. Accordingly, action has been taken against

such companies by these agencies under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the Companies Act, 1956 and the rules/regulations framed thereunder. As regards the collective investment schemes (CIS), based on the information available with SEBI, a sum of about Rs. 185 crores has been repaid so far by 127 entities to the investors. As per SEBI's regulations for CIS which were notified on 15th October, 1999, no entity can carry on any CIS unless it obtains a certificate of registration from SEBI. An existing scheme, which does not obtain registration from SEBI, shall have to wind up the existing scheme and return funds collected to investors. Action, such as issuing prohibitory orders, winding up petitions, launching of prosecution proceedings, has been taken by RBI against non-banking financial companies. The Department of Company Affairs has also initiated prosecution proceedings against erring companies.

Trade Agreement with U.S.A.

*31. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether any trade agreement has been reached between India and United States to eliminate barriers in several key sectors including textiles and agriculture;

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

(c) the extent to which India's trade with USA has improved after signing the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, India and the United States of America (USA) have reached a bilateral agreement for the determination of reasonable period of time for implementing the rulings and recommendations of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) dated 22nd September, 1999, which had upheld that India's Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on imports were not justified on Balance-of-Payments (BOP) grounds. The ruling was in the context of dispute filed by the USA in the WTO on the QRs on imports maintained by India. The reasonable period of time for implementation, as mutually agreed will finally expire on April 1, 2001 by which date the existing QRs on all 1429 tariff lines at 8 digit level will have to be removed by India. The QRs on 714 items will be removed by 1st April, 2000 and QRs on the remaining 715 items will be removed by 1st April, 2001.

(c) Since the QRs on the items covered under

this agreement have not yet been removed, the question does not arise.

Non-Performing Assets

*32. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "No respite for public sector banks from Non-Performing Assets" appearing in the "Statesman" dated January 14, 2000;

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

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to reduce Non-Performing Assets of various public sector banks;

(d) whether the Government have decided to amend the present banking laws and has initiated the process of releasing the list of top defaulting companies and individuals of bank loans;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the top bank loan defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Management of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) was one of the subjects discussed in the meeting taken with the Chief Executives of the Public Sector Banks, as recovery in NPAs has been the subject matter of continued attention of the Government/RBI as well as of Public Sector Banks. It is a fact that NPAs of the Public Sector Banks has risen from Rs. 43,577 crore as on 31st March, 1997 to Rs. 51,710 crore as on 31.3.99 representing 15.9% of the gross advances.

(c) and (f) Reserve Bank of India/Government of India as well as public sector banks have taken a number of steps not only to check the fresh incidence of NPAs but also to ensure recovery of NPAs. These are :

i) The Government had appointed a three member Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Indian Banks' Association to study the reasons for mounting NPAs in public sector banks and to suggest a detailed multi pronged strategy for dealing with problems of NPAs. The comprehensive recommendations made by the Committee have been considered by the RBI and the Government and action has been initiated on some of the recommendations.

- ii) In order to prevent the accretion of fresh NPAs banks have taken steps to upgrade the credit appraisal skills at different levels.
- iii) All public sector banks have documents of loan recovery policy prepared and duly vetted by Board of Directors.
- iv) Banks have been advised to reduce their NPAs through negotiated settlements to ensure maximum recovery at minimum expenses. However, in this regard precautions is to be taken while arriving at compromise settlements have also been laid down.
- v) Recovery cells have been set up at Head Office under a General Manager and branch wise targets have been set up by banks. Performance of branches in recovery is to be monitored by Head Office on monthly basis and Board of Directors are kept informed of the progress on quarterly basis.
- vi) Debt Recovery Tribunals at Calcutta, Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Guwahati, Jaipur, Patna, Mumbai, Jabalpur, Hyderabad, Ernakulam and Appellate Tribunals in Mumbai and Chennai have been setup so far to assist speedy recoveries of banks dues. On 17th January, 2000 an Ordinance has been promulgated for giving increased powers to the DRTs in order to render them more effective in the realisation of dues to banks and FIs.
- vii)
 - 1) Reserve Bank of India has put in place a scheme to collect details about borrowers of banks and FIs with outstanding aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above which are classified as "doubtful" or "loss" and accounts where suits are filed, as on 31st March and 30th September each year and disseminate this information (on floppy diskettes) to the banks and FIs for their use while considering, on merits, the request for new or additional credit limits by defaulting borrowing units and also by the directors/proprietors/partners named in the list either in their own name or in the name of other units with which they are associated.
 - 2) RBI also publishes a list of borrowers (with outstanding aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above) against whom suits have been filed by banks and FIs for recovery of their funds, as on 31st March every year.

- viii) Settlement advisory committees headed by retired Judges have been set up by nine banks to examine and recommend compromise proposals to the competent authorities for their consideration in respect of large advances.
- ix) Settlement Advisory committees of executives have been set up as per guidelines issued by RBI to liquidate more than three years old NPAs of SSI Sector and small loans by compromise settlement.

(d) and (e) In order to further expedite the recovery mechanism, the Recovery of Debts Due to banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 has been amended by promulgation of an ordinance on 17th January, 1999.

The ordinance seeks to, inter-alia, provide for set-off and counter claims, appointment of receivers and commissioners by the Tribunals, appointment of more than one recovery officer and empowering the Tribunals to distribute the sale proceeds among secured creditors in accordance with the provisions of Section 529 A of Companies Act, 1956.

[Translation]

Export of Raw Materials from Madhya Pradesh

*33. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of raw materials from Madhya Pradesh being exported country-wise;
- (b) whether iron ore of Bailadila in Bastar district is being exported to Japan at very cheap rates; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Sir, the Central Govt. maintains export data for the country as a whole and not State-wise.

(b) and (c) No Sir, as per the EXIM Policy, iron ore above 64% Fe content is canalised and is mainly exported through MMTC. The prices are negotiated on annual basis and prevailing international price forms the basis for export contracts.

Technical Committee for Sanctioning Crop Loans

*34. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have constituted technical committees in each district of the country for sanctioning crop loans by the banks;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure availability of loans to the farmers by the banks, especially in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) guidelines, Technical Committees consisting the representatives of State Government, banks and progressive farmers have been constituted in every district for, inter-alia, fixing the scale of finance for each crop grown in the district. Cost of operations including imputed cost of family labour, agro-climatic factors, specific requirements of hi-tech and plantation crops, methods of operation, etc. are taken into account while fixing the crop-wise scales of finance. These scales of finance are being adopted by all banks in the district to ensure uniformity as well as availability of adequate credits to the farmers.

(c) RBI/NABARD have taken several measures to further strengthen the flow of credit to farmers. Some of these are :

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

In Bihar, special concessions/policy relaxations have been extended to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs)/District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) to ensure availability of credit to farmers. Some of these are :

- The eligibility norms of the minimum recoveries and Non-Performing Assets are not insisted upon while sanctioning of credit limits;
- The norms of minimum involvement by DCCBs and SCB and seasonality discipline are also not insisted upon;
- Drawals are allowed to SCB on behalf of DCCBs against fresh Seasonal Agricultural Operation (SAO) disbursement made with effect from 1 April 1999 irrespective of the availability of No Overdue Cover Certificate.

In Madhya Pradesh, out of the 45 Central Cooperative Banks (CCBs) functioning in the State, exemption has been given in the case of as many as 22 CCBs from complying with Section 11 (1) of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Cooperative Societies) enabling extension of credit limits aggregating Rs. 335.27 crore during the current year.

[English]

Debt Recovery Tribunals

*35. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of Debt Recovery Tribunals set up to recover outstanding loans advanced by banks;
- (b) the amount of total outstanding loans of banks at the time of setting up these Debt Recovery Tribunals and at present;
- (c) the number of cases disposed of by each Tribunal since its inception and the amount so far recovered;
- (d) the reasons for failure of Debt Recovery Tribunals to recover outstanding loans as expected; and
- (e) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the performance of Debt Recovery Tribunals throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Twelve Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) at Calcutta, Delhi, Bangalore, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Guwahati, Patna, Jabalpur, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Ernakulam and two Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) at Mumbai and Chennai have been established under the Recovery of Debts Due to banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993

(DRT Act) so far and three DRTs at Chandigarh, Cuttack and Allahabad and three DRATs at Calcutta, Delhi and Allahabad are under process of being set up to recover outstanding loans advanced by public sector banks.

(b) and (c) As on August 1, 1993, 10595 suits filed cases of Rs. 10 lacs and above (involving total amount of Rs. 6738 crores) were pending in respect of public sector banks (PSBs), in various Courts before setting up of DRTs. RBI have reported that as on 31.3.1999, 21781 cases involving total amount of Rs. 17921 crores have been transferred from various High Courts to DRTs or filed with it upto 31.3.1999 by the banks. Tribunal-wise position of number of cases, as on 30.9.1999, disposed of and amount recovered since its inception in respect of PSBs and financial institutions (combined) as reported by DRTs is given below:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Tribunal	No. of cases disposed of as on 30.9.99	Amount Recovered
(Rs. in crores)			
1	2	3	4
1.	Calcutta	857	59.24
2.	Delhi	1214	106.43
3.	Bangalore	2334	258.77
4.	Jaipur	1432	161.31
5.	Ahmedabad	420	58.53
6.	Chennai	1229	162.46
7.	Guwahati	51	1.43
8.	Patna	126	10.93
9.	Jabalpur	270	0.81
10.	Mumbai	Recently set up	---
11.	Hyderabad	Recently set up	---
12.	Ernakulam	Recently set up	---

(d) and (e) The performance of the Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) has been affected on account of certain court cases, including the one in Delhi High Court declaring the DRT Act unconstitutional and void. The Government has however filed an Special Leave Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court and DRTs are functioning under the stay order granted by the Supreme Court against the Order of Delhi High Court. DRTs have now started showing results. Government is setting up five more DRTs and four more Appellate Tribunals in addition to 10 DRTs and one DRAT proposed originally. Two of these DRTs at Hyderabad and Ernakulam and one DRAT at Chennai have been established.

To ensure expeditious adjudication and recovery of dues of banks and financial institutions, remove legal anomalies and strengthen the Recovery Tribunals, amendments have been carried out in the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 by promulgation of an Ordinance on 17.1.2000. Some of these amendments are as under :-

- (i) set-off and counter claims, appointment of Receivers and Commissioners by the Tribunal, transfer of cases from one Tribunal to another and appointment of more than one Recovery Officer in a Tribunal;
- (ii) empowering the Tribunals to issue certificate for recovery of enhanced or reduced amount on the basis of the final order of the Appellate Tribunal;
- (iii) empowering the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal to appraise the work of Presiding Officers of Tribunals and discharge functions of the Chairperson of another Appellate Tribunal;
- (iv) the transfer of recovery certificate from one Tribunal to another Tribunal to facilitate recovery;
- (v) empowering the Tribunals to distribute sale proceeds among the secured creditors in accordance with the provisions of section 529 A of the Companies Act.

Motor Vehicle Insurance Business

*36. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Motor Vehicle Insurance Business in the public sector is incurring heavy losses;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make the business profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The motor portfolio of insurance is incurring underwriting losses.

(b) Following are the main reasons for the losses:

- i. Unlimited liability provision in the Motor Vehicles Act for Motor Third Party Claims;
- ii. Provision in Motor Vehicle Act which has increased the "No Fault Liability";
- iii. Increasing trends in the awards of compensation by Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT);
- iv. Increase in number of road accidents giving rise to increase in Third Party (TP) death/injury claims;

v. Substantial rise in repairs cost of motor vehicles without commensurate increase in premium; and

vi. Inadequate increase in premium rates for Own Damage and Third Party covers.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the general insurance industry to make the business profitable :

- i. Approached the Tariff Advisory Committee (TAC) to increase the motor premium rates,
- ii. Introduction of in-house survey for claims less than Rs. 20,000/-,
- iii. Quick settlement of Third Party claims through Lok Adalats,
- iv. Initiation of loss minimisation measures by the general insurance industry.

[Translation]

Officials Involved in Fraud Cases in CIL

*37. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of cases of shortage in coal stocks and other frauds have been detected during the period from 1989-90 onwards, particularly in the years, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 in various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details of cases detected so far in each subsidiary, particularly in case of BCCL, CCL, ECL and WCL;

(c) whether the Government have constituted several committees to examine such cases;

(d) if so, the details of such committees along with the dates of their constitution;

(e) the details of recommendations made by each committee thereon;

(f) whether all the guilty officials/employees have so far been punished according to the recommendations of the said committees;

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor indicating the details of cases which have not been finalised till date; and

(h) the efforts being made by the Government to dispose of the remaining cases with a view to make reports of the said committees effective and to stop the shortage in coal stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) :-(a) to (h) Three Committees were set up by the erstwhile Ministry of Coal under the Chairmanship of Shri R.N. Mishra, a senior executive of Coal India Limited (CIL). The information about these three Committees is given below :-

(i) The Committee which was set up on 27.7.92 to investigate into the stock shortages in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) during the period from 1986-87 to 1992-93 submitted its report on 24.12.93 to the Ministry of Coal. On 24.4.94 acceptance of the Ministry of Coal in regard to the major recommendations in the report was conveyed to CIL. On consideration of the Committee's recommendations, disciplinary action was initiated against 222 officials involved in 259 cases. Out of the disciplinary action against the 222 officials, disciplinary action against 220 officials has been completed by now.

(ii) The Committee which was set up on 7.10.94 to investigate into the low despatch of coal in Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in 1994 submitted its report on 5.1.96 to the Ministry of Coal. On 3.6.96 acceptance of the Ministry of Coal in regard to the major recommendations in the report was conveyed to CIL. On consideration of the Committees' report, disciplinary action against 190 officials involved in 240 cases was initiated. As on date, disciplinary action against 166 officials involved in 193 cases has been completed. In remaining 47 cases, inquiry report has been submitted in 32 cases and in two cases inquiries have been completed but inquiry reports have not yet been submitted. The remaining 13 cases are pending in various stages of disciplinary proceedings.

(iii) The Committee which was set up on 19.5.93 to investigate into the stock shortages in Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) during the period 1992-93 submitted its report on 31.1.97 to the Ministry of Coal. On 2.1.98 acceptance of the Ministry of Coal in regard to the major recommendations in the report was conveyed to CIL. On consideration of the Committee's report, disciplinary action against 178 officials involved in 78 cases was initiated. As on date, disciplinary action against 144 officials involved in 54 cases has been completed. Out of the remaining 24 cases, inquiry reports have been submitted in 5 cases. In two cases, inquiries have been completed but inquiry reports have not yet been submitted. The other 17 cases are pending in various stages of disciplinary proceedings.

The recommendations of these Committees were of following two categories :-

- (i) Initiation of disciplinary proceedings against individual coal executives.
- (ii) Recommendations regarding systems improvement in order to eliminate stock shortages and over-reporting of production.

The details of action taken in regard to the recommendations regarding systems improvement on the basis of the information received from CIL are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*Details of latest action taken in regard to the recommendations
regarding systems improvement*

Sl. No.	Recommendation	Latest Status
1	2	3
1. Separation of functions of Manager and Agent.	<p>The functions of Mine Manager and Agent should be clearly demarcated so as to remove the overlap. The production of coal should be the primary responsibility of the Manager while the Agent should be the custodian of the stock and responsible for the despatches of the stock.</p>	<p>After implementing the recommendation in a few Areas it has been found that total demarcation of functions of managers and Agents is not feasible as Directorate General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad objected to such demarcation on the ground that any loading place/siding is within the leasehold of a particular mine as per the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 and the Manager is fully responsible for the acts of commission and omission at the siding along with the mine since the siding is a part of the mine as per definition of "Mine" under the Mines Act, 1952 and the Manager cannot be absolved of the above responsibility.</p>
2. Optimum stock level	<p>The stock of coal should be restricted to maximum of one month's production, preferably by augmenting despatches failing which by regulating the production. As an alternative, each colliery must plan for a day when its stock level should be zero. In exceptional cases where stock cannot be zero, old stock must be disposed of and fresh coal must be stocked separately.</p> <p>In case a particular heap cannot be so disposed of, the heap must be subjected to a thorough scrutiny for quality and quantity by CIL measurement team to determine the exact quantity and quality of the coal.</p>	<p>The level of coal stock is being controlled by restricting production, wherever necessary. The aggregate of coal stock in CIL as a whole as on 31.10.99 is equivalent to 0.77 month's as against 0.94 month's on 31.10.98.</p>
3. System of reporting production	<p>In situ shales/stones are considered for reducing the dumper factor whereas in the actual despatches some of these stones get mixed up and are despatched to the consumers. The differential quantity of coal is, however, not available with the colliery. This has led to under-reporting of production. A dual system of reporting production should be followed.</p>	<p>In the revised guidelines under formulation this aspect is being taken care of.</p>
4. Computerisation of colliery operations	<p>There should be computerisation of colliery operations so as to correlate various factors of cost and production</p>	<p>Under implementation.</p>
5. Disciplinary action on stock shortages.	<p>All Line Managers should be made responsible for shortages. Power should be delegated to the CMDs to suspend and impose all penalties on all non-Board level executives working under them other than</p>	<p>Implemented.</p>

compulsory retirement, removal and dismissal. CMDs should also have powers to place any executive under suspension upto 3 months, concurrence of CIL, Board being necessary for longer periods.

6. Stacking of Coal

No cognizance of coal production to be taken until it reaches the predetermined stacking ground.

This is being followed.

7. Despatch of Slow Moving Stocks

There are certain stocks which are of lesser quality. A policy must exist which allows flexibility in pricing of coal.

The subsidiaries have the powers to sell the coal in the stock as per the actual quality.

8. Weighbridge/Fencing

Adequate fencing may be provided for each stocking area in a colliery. A crash programme should be taken up to install road weighbridges in each colliery.

Work has been completed in most of the subsidiaries in respect of installation of road weighbridges. Fencing is not a feasible proposition in view of large scattered stocking areas requiring very heavy initial investment as well as recurring expenditure.

9. Calibration of dumper/Tubs

Fixation of dumper factor and tub factor should be based on the carrying capacity and not based on average quantity of coal carried by them during the month.

In the revised guidelines under formulation this aspect is being taken care of.

Norms for ADR and GDR Issues

*38. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have done away with the requirement of taking the prior approval of the Ministry of Finance for floating ADR and GDR issues in the international share market for the Indian Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date of implementation of the decision;

(d) the details of the policy likely to be followed by the Government in regard to the issue floated earlier; and

(e) the details of procedure likely to be followed regarding approval from the Reserve Bank of India under the Foreign Exchange Act by the companies floating the issues?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) Government, in pursuance of the ongoing liberalisation process, have issued guidelines on the 19th January 2000 dispensing with the requirement of obtaining the prior approval of the Ministry of Finance by Indian

corporates for making ADR/GDR issues with fresh issue of underlying shares in the international markets. As investment through ADRs/GDRs are reckoned as part of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), such issues would need to conform to the existing FDI Policy and permitted only in areas where FDI is permissible. Such ADR/GDR issues would, however, be governed by other mandatory approval requirements such as approvals under the Companies Act, approvals for overseas investments/business acquisition (where ADR/GDR proceeds are utilised for overseas investments), etc. which would need to be obtained by the company. The Reserve Bank of India have also issued notification under FERA on 20th January 2000 granting general permission whereby the issuer companies would need to comply with a post issue reporting requirement. As regards the issues floated earlier to the announcement, the issuer companies have to conform to the terms and conditions specific to the individual approvals.

[English]

Import of Used Tyres

*39. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :-

(a) the number and value of used tyres imported during each of the last three years, country-wise;

- (b) whether the new tyres are also being imported;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the rubber growers have requested the Union Government to ban the import of used tyres; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations have been received from the Govt. of Kerala and from members of Trade and Industry including Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association, New Delhi (ATMA) against import of used tyres.

(e) In order to discourage indiscriminate import of used/treaded tyres, Government of India has already prescribed a minimum import price (c.i.f value) ranging from US\$ 25 to US\$ 175 per tyre, with effect from 8.8.1997.

Statement

Import of used tyres during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 (April-Feb. 99)

Item/Country					Qty. in Nos.	
					Value Rs. Lakhs	
	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99 (April-Feb.99)	
Retreaded/used Pneumatic tyres	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Hongkong	560	1.32	7	0.04	-	-
Netherland	39	0.73	-	-	-	-
German F. REP	-	-	1227	3.92	780	12.01
Japan	-	-	1208	3.52	-	-
Korea RP	-	-	15	0.30	852	4.42
Sri Lanka	-	-	400	1.14	260	2.18
United Arab Emirates	15	0.08	902	4.71	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	2000	11.54
U.K.	-	-	-	-	2010	13.02
Thailand	-	-	-	-	301	11.40
Others	20	0.10	898	4.90	4	0.07
Total	634	2.23	4657	18.53	6207	54.64

Import of new tyres during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (April-Feb. 99)

Item/Country					Qty. in Nos.	
					Value Rs. Lakhs	
	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99 (April-Feb.99)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Belgium	621	83.91	9531	87.73	543	71.92
China P.RP	105956	140.21	70756	63.50	5396	57.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
France	3813	427.06	18471	742.86	42634	750.36
German F. Rep	6808	247.10	21630	533.90	21463	391.24
Israel	52	5.15	22	2.41	314	31.85
Japan	35307	3462.51	14755	3762.49	92897	3950.61
Korea RP	22197	379.52	56979	867.20	46848	712.61
Singapore	2140	67.27	3102	377.31	38464	122.29
South Africa	8394	95.42	-	-	9276	166.42
Thailand	170136	53.61	51818	127.45	161576	345.55
U.K.	1215	198.27	6838	163.73	17321	354.83
U.A.E	62	3.55	4161	54.61	2358	45.57
Others	34116	915.37	118327	985.22	50285	182.98
Total	390817	6078.95	376390	7768.41	489375	7183.83

Source : DGCI&S Calcutta

New F.D.I. Policy

*40. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the Government have prepared the new Foreign Direct Investment Policy to make it automatic in all sectors barring a few core sectors;

(b) if so, the main features of the new policy;

(c) the percentage of Foreign Direct Investment allowed, sector-wise;

(d) the total Foreign Direct Investment made in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise and sector-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to save the Domestic Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government, in its commitment towards economic reforms, have announced the new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy thereby placing all items/activities under the automatic route for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Non-Resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) investment except the following :

1. All proposals that require an Industrial Licence

which include (i) the item requiring an Industrial Licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951; (ii) foreign investment being more than 24% in the equity capital of units manufacturing items reserved for small scale industries; and (iii) all items which require an Industrial Licence in terms of the locational policy notified by Government under the New Industrial Policy of 1991.

2. All proposals in which the foreign collaborator has a previous venture/tie-up in India. The modalities prescribed in Press Note No. 18 dated 14.12.1998 of 1998 services, shall apply in such cases.

3. All proposals relating to acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company in favour of a foreign/NRI/OCB investor.

4. All proposals falling outside notified sectoral policy/caps or under sectors in which FDI is not permitted and/or whenever any investor chooses to make an application to the FIPB and not to avail of the automatic route.

All proposals for investment in public sector units as also for EOU/EPZ/EHTP/STP units would qualify for automatic route subject to above parameters.

The sector specific guidelines and equity caps for foreign direct investment are outlined at Statement-I enclosed.

(d) The total FDI approved during the last three years, state-wise and sector-wise are at statement-II and III respectively.

(e) FDI is not considered a threat to an efficient domestic industry. However, while considering FDI proposals, a declaration is obtained from the applicant whether the foreign collaborator has any previous joint venture or technology transfer/trademark agreement in the same or allied field in India, the detailed circumstances in which it is considered necessary to set up a new joint venture/enter

into new technology transfer (including trade mark), and proof that the new proposal would not in any way jeopardise the interest of the existing joint venture or technology/trade mark partner or other stake holders.

For induction of Foreign/NRI/OCB equity in an existing Indian company, a copy of the Board Resolution of the existing Indian company is called for.

For induction of FDI beyond 24% in the activities reserved for small scale industry sector, undertaking an export obligation of 50% is mandatory.

Statement-I

Sector Specific Guidelines for Foreign Direct Investment

S.No.	Sector	Guidelines
1	2	3
1.	Banking	<p>NRI holding may be upto 40%, inclusive of equity participation by other foreign investors. Foreign investment of upto 20% is permitted by foreign banking companies or finance companies including multilateral financial institutions. Multilateral institutions are allowed to invest within the overall foreign direct investment cap of 40% in case of shortfall in foreign direct investment contribution by NRIs.</p> <p>The automatic route is not available.</p>
	Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC)	<p>a. FDI/NRI/OCB investments allowed in the following 17 NBFC activities shall be as per levels indicated below :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Merchant banking Underwriting Portfolio Management Services Investment Advisory Services Financial Consultancy Stock Broking Asset Management Venture Capital Custodial Services Factoring Credit Reference Agencies Credit Rating Agencies Leasing & Finance

1	2	3
		<p>xiv. Housing Finance</p> <p>xv. Forex Broking</p> <p>xvi. Credit Card Business</p> <p>xvii. Money Changing business</p> <p>a. Minimum Capitalisation Norms for fund based NBFCs :</p> <p>For FDI upto 51% - US\$ 0.5 million to be brought upfront</p> <p>For FDI above 51% and upto 75% - US\$ 5 million to be brought upfront</p> <p>For FDI above 75% and upto 100% - US\$ 50 million out of which US\$ 7.5 million to be brought upfront and the balance in 24 months</p> <p>100% NBFC to act only as holding company and specific activities to be undertaken by step down subsidiaries with minimum 25% domestic equity. 10% domestic equity to be brought upfront and balance over 24 months.</p> <p>b. Minimum capitalisation norms for non-fund based activities :</p> <p>Minimum capitalisation norms of US \$ 0.5 million is applicable in respect of all permitted non-fund based NBFCs with foreign investment.</p> <p>The automatic route is not available.</p>
2.	Civil Aviation	<p>(detailed guidelines have been issued by Ministry of Civil Aviation) In the domestic Airlines sector:</p> <p>i. FDI upto 40% permitted subject to no direct or indirect equity participation by foreign airlines is allowed.</p> <p>ii. 100% investment by NRIs/OCBs.</p> <p>iii. The automatic route is not available.</p>
3.	Telecommunication	<p>i. In basic, Cellular Mobile, paging and Value Added service, and Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite, FDI is limited to 49% subject to grant of licence from Department of Telecommunications and adherence by the companies (who are investing and the companies in which investment is being made) to the licence conditions for foreign equity cap and lock in period for transfer and addition of equity and other licence provisions.</p> <p>ii. No equity cap is applicable to manufacturing activities.</p>

1	2	3
4.	Petroleum	<p>a. Under the exploration policy, FDI upto 100% is allowed for small fields through competitive bidding; upto 60% for unincorporated JV ; and upto 51% for incorporated JV with a No Objection Certificate for medium size fields.</p> <p>b. For refining, FDI is permitted upto 26% (PSU holding of 26% and balance 48% public). In case of private Indian company, FDI is permitted upto 49%.</p> <p>c. For petroleum products and pipeline sector, FDI is permitted upto 51%.</p> <p>d. FDI is permitted upto 74% in infrastructure related to marketing and marketing of petroleum products.</p> <p>e. 100% wholly owned subsidiary (WOS) is permitted for the purpose of market study and formulation.</p> <p>f. 100% wholly owned subsidiary is permitted for investment/Financing.</p> <p>g. For actual trading and marketing, minimum 26% Indian equity is required over 5 years.</p> <p>The automatic route is not available.</p>
5.	Housing & Real Estate	<p>No foreign investment is permitted in this sector. NRIs/OCBs are allowed to invest.</p> <p>The scheme specific to NRIs and OCBs covers the following :</p> <p>a. Development of serviced plots and construction of built up residential premises.</p> <p>b. Investment in real estate covering construction of residential and commercial premises including business centres and offices.</p> <p>c. Development of townships.</p> <p>d. City and regional level urban infrastructure facilities, including both roads and bridges.</p> <p>e. Investment in manufacture of building materials.</p> <p>f. Investment in participatory ventures in (a) to (e) above.</p> <p>g. Investment in housing finance institutions.</p>
6.	Coal and Lignite	<p>i. Private Indian companies setting up or operating power projects as well as coal or lignite mines for captive consumption are allowed FDI upto 100%.</p> <p>ii. 100% FDI is allowed for setting up coal processing plants subject to the condition that the company shall not do coal mining and shall not sell washed coal or sized coal from its coal processing plants in the open market and shall supply the washed or sized coal to those parties who are supplying raw coal to coal processing plants for washing or sizing.</p>

1	2	3
		<p>iii. FDI upto 74% is allowed for exploration or mining of coal or lignite for captive consumption.</p> <p>iv. In all the above cases, FDI is allowed upto 50% under the automatic route subject to the condition that such investment shall not exceed 49% of the equity of a PSU.</p>
7.	Venture Capital Fund (VCF) and Venture Capital Company (VCC)	<p>An offshore venture capital company may contribute upto 100% of the capital of a domestic venture capital fund and may also set up a domestic asset management company to manage the fund.</p> <p>VCFs and VCCs are permitted upto 40% of the paid up corpus of the domestic unlisted companies. This ceiling would be subject to relevant equity investment limit in force in relation to areas reserved for SSI. Investment in a single company by a VCF/VCC shall not exceed 5% of the paid-up corpus of a domestic VCF/VCC.</p> <p>The automatic route is not available.</p>
8.	Trading	<p>Trading is permitted under automatic route with FDI upto 51% provided it is primarily export activities, and the undertaking is an export house/trading house/super trading house/star trading house. However, under the FIPB route :</p> <p>i. 100% FDI is permitted in case of trading companies for the following activities :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * exports; * bulk imports with export/expanded warehouse sales; * cash and carry wholesale trading; * 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 and for third party use or onward transfer/distribution/sales. <p>ii. The following kinds of trading are also permitted, subject to provisions of EXIM Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Companies for providing after sales services (that is no trading per se) b. Domestic trading of products of JVs is permitted at the wholesale level for such trading companies who wish to market manufactured products on behalf of their joint ventures in which they have equity participation in India.

1	2	3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Trading of hi-tech items/items requiring specialised after sales service. d. Trading of items for social sector. e. Trading of hi-tech, medical and diagnostic items. f. Trading of items sourced from the small scale sector under which, based on technology provided and laid down quality specifications, a company can market that item under its brand name. g. Domestic sourcing of products for exports. h. Test marketing of such items for which a company has approval for manufacture provided such test marketing facility will be for a period of two years, and investment in setting up manufacturing facilities commences simultaneously with test marketing.

9. Investing companies in infrastructure/service sector

In respect of the companies in infrastructure/service sector, where there is a prescribed cap for foreign investment, only the direct investment will be considered for the prescribed cap and foreign investment in an investing company will not be set off against this cap provided the foreign direct investment in such investing company does not exceed 49% and the management of the investing company is with the Indian owners. The automatic route is not available.

10. Atomic energy

The following three activities are permitted to receive FDI/NRI/OCB investments through FIPB (as per detailed guidelines issued by Department of Atomic Energy vide Resolution No. 8/1(1)/97-PSU/1422 dated 6.10.98) :

- a. Mining and mineral separation.
- b. Value addition per se to the products of (a) above
- c. Integrated activities comprising of both (a) and (b) above.

The following FDI participation is permitted :

- i. Upto 74% in both pure value addition and integrated projects.
- ii. For pure value addition projects as well as integrated projects with value addition upto any intermediate stage, FDI is permitted upto 74% through joint venture companies with Central/State PSUs in which equity holding of at least one PSU is not less than 26%.
- iii. In exceptional cases, FDI beyond 74% will be permitted subject to clearance of the Atomic Energy Commission before FIPB approval.

1	2	3
11. Defence and strategic industries		No FDI/NRI/OCB investment is permitted.
12. Agriculture (including plantation)		No FDI/NRI/OCB investment is permitted.
13. Print media		No FDI/NRI/OCB investment is permitted.
14. Broadcasting		No FDI/NRI/OCB investment is permitted.
15. Power		Upto 100% FDI allowed.
16. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals		<p>i. FDI upto 74% in the case of bulk drugs, their intermediates and formulations (except those produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology) would be covered under automatic route.</p> <p>ii. FDI above 74% for manufacture of bulk drugs will be considered by the Government on case to case basis for manufacture of bulk drugs from basic stages and their intermediates and bulk drugs produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology as well as the specific cell/tissue targeted formulations provided it involves manufacturing from basic stage.</p>
17. Roads & Highways Ports and Harbours		FDI upto 100% under automatic route is permitted in projects for construction and maintenance of roads, highways, vehicular bridges, tall roads, vehicular tunnels, ports and harbours.
18. Hotels & Tourism		<p>100% FDI is permissible in the sector.</p> <p>The term hotels include restaurants, beach resorts, and other tourist complexes providing accommodation and/or catering and food facilities to tourists. Tourism related industry includes travel agencies, tour operating agencies and tourist transport operating agencies, units providing facilities for cultural, adventure and wild life experience to tourists, surface, air and water transport facilities to tourists, leisure, entertainment, amusement, sports, and health units for tourists and Convention/Seminar units and organisation.</p> <p>Automatic route is also available upto 51% subject to the following parameters.</p> <p>For foreign technology agreements, automatic approval is granted if</p> <p>i. upto 3% of the capital cost of the project is proposed to be paid for technical and consultancy services including fees for architecture, design, supervision, etc.</p> <p>ii. upto 3% of the net turnover is payable for franchising and marketing/publicity support fee, and</p> <p>iii. upto 10% of gross operating profit is payable for management fee, including incentive fee.</p>

1	2	3
19. Mining		<p>i. For exploration and mining of diamonds and precious stones FDI is allowed upto 74% under automatic route.</p> <p>ii. For exploration and mining of gold and silver and minerals other than diamonds and precious stones, metallurgy and processing FDI is allowed upto 100% under automatic route.</p> <p>iii. Press Note No. 18 (1998 series) dated 14.12.98 would not be applicable for setting up 100% owned subsidiaries in so far as the mining sector is concerned, subject to a declaration from the applicant that he has no existing joint venture for the same area and/or the particular mineral.</p>
20. Postal services		Couriers carrying packages, parcels and other items which do not come within the ambit of Indian Post Office Act 1998 shall not be permitted.
21. Pollution Control and management		FDI upto 100% in both manufacture of pollution control equipment and consultancy for integration of pollution control systems is permitted under automatic route.
22. Advertising and films		<p>Automatic approval is available for the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — upto 74% FDI in advertising sector — Upto 100% FDI in film industry (i.e. film financing, production, distribution, exhibition, marketing and associated activities relating to film industry) subject to the following : <p>i. Companies with an established track record in films, TV, music, finance and insurance would be permitted.</p> <p>ii. The company should have a minimum paid up capital of US \$ 10 million if it is the single largest equity shareholder and at least US \$ 5 million in other cases.</p> <p>iii. Minimum level of foreign equity investment would be US \$ 2.5 million for the single largest equity shareholder and US \$ 1 million in other cases.</p> <p>iv. Debt equity ratio of not more than 1:1, i.e., domestic borrowings shall not exceed equity.</p> <p>v. Provision of dividend balancing would apply.</p>

Statement-II				1	2	3	4
State-wise/Year-wise break-up of FDI approved				Bihar	52.08	44.65	603.70
(Amount Rs. in crore)				Gujarat	3132.62	3348.71	1115.15
1997	1998	1999		Haryana	827.78	225.37	731.47
1	2	3	4	Himachal Pradesh	14.15	0.33	16.15
Andhra Pradesh	3141.90	2336.80	781.40	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.40
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	Karnataka	3114.83	5026.85	2513.28

1	2	3	4
Kerala	22.24	58.52	210.25
Madhya Pradesh	5081.72	660.18	1851.09
Maharashtra	6219.33	3063.05	6251.98
Manipur	3.19	0.00	0.00
Meghalaya	6.00	44.46	0.00
Nagaland	3.68	0.00	0.00
Orissa	4695.37	330.54	223.64
Punjab	565.46	101.59	19.44
Rajasthan	1613.46	65.14	194.88
Tamil Nadu	3914.60	3081.17	1647.35
Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	356.49	247.21	672.17
West Bengal	998.30	1205.04	308.88
Andman & Nicobar	0.00	12.80	0.00
Chandigarh	0.06	65.48	2.03
Dadra & Nagar Havelli	9.98	8.22	35.92
Delhi	5324.19	1091.08	6635.37
Goa	71.40	114.62	33.84
Pondicherry	62.13	38.91	39.89
Daman & Diu	8.74	5.85	22.29
Others (States not indicated)	15651.64	9636.57	4455.98
Grand Total	54891.34	30813.50	28366.55

Statement-III*Sector-wise/Year-wise break-up of FDI approved*

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Sector Name	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4
Metallurgical Industries	2516.72	2219.84	1400.15
Fuels (Power and Oil Refinery)	26432.61	13891.77	5673.47

1	2	3	4
Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	6.65	1.38	28.64
Prime Movers other than Electrical	12.89	25.00	0.40
Electrical Equipment	2192.99	1427.49	2546.85
Telecommunications	7185.60	3100.13	3901.78
Transportation Industry	3790.07	1562.88	6223.70
Industrial Machinery	218.18	108.09	269.42
Machine Tools	128.01	14.36	97.22
Agricultural Machinery	0.00	216.34	0.73
Earth-Moving Machinery	69.98	0.39	1.85
Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	383.32	189.27	275.30
Commercial, Office & household Equipment	252.31	280.80	85.33
Medical and Surgical Appliances	42.47	25.85	3.84
Industrial Instruments	11.80	0.91	4.94
Scientific Instruments	11.77	1.14	0.30
Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	0.25	38.00	0.00
Fertilizers	1.20	0.00	0.00
Chemicals (other than fertilizers)	2827.18	1813.73	810.41
Photographic Raw Film and Paper	196.27	0.00	8.33
Dye-Stuffs	2.89	73.59	4.50
Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	182.89	91.14	79.78
Textiles (Includ. Dyed, Printed)	595.32	232.55	322.76
Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product	684.68	107.12	685.77
Sugar	934.00	0.00	0.00
Fermentation Industries	253.67	0.51	2.22

1	2	3	4
Food Processing Industries	1926.93	632.54	141.42
Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	145.29	0.85	48.30
Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	145.03	60.55	1.24
Rubber Goods	45.83	551.25	123.71
Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	59.06	48.83	26.56
Glue and Gelatin	0.00	0.00	1.20
Glass	466.34	192.93	425.33
Ceramics	124.59	93.58	68.09
Cement and Gypsum Products	59.13	89.59	681.06
Timber Products	6.72	0.73	0.00
Defence Industries	3.47	0.00	0.00
Consultancy Services	369.37	636.22	253.62
Service Sector	1436.90	1697.12	2287.90
Hotel & Tourism	728.11	480.52	784.49
Trading	119.36	685.11	238.28
Miscellaneous Industries	321.50	221.40	857.63
Grand Total	54891.34	30813.50	28366.55

Allotment of Floor Lime Stone Mines

197. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who have been allotted floor lime stone mines on priority basis in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the minimum wages fixed for the labourers;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase their wages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Floor

lime stone is reckoned to be a minor mineral under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and consequently the Central Govt. is not concerned with the grant of mining lease for this minor mineral. The regulation of mineral concessions etc. of minor minerals like floor limestone is entirely under the domain of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and therefore the Central Government in the Department of Mines do not maintain such information.

(b) to (d) The fixation and increase of wages for workers employed in the floor limestone mines also comes under the purview of the State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh as per Section 2 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and hence this information is also not maintained by the Central Government.

Textile and Apparel Parks

198. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to set-up textile and apparel parks in various textile clusters across the country as part of its efforts to promote exports of value-added items like made-ups and apparels;

(b) whether a beginning has been made by way of a park coming up at Hyderabad;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the contribution made by the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) the other places where these parks are likely to be set up; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (d) In view of the need for establishing Apparel Parks in important garment producing states, Government is examining a proposal for apparel parks. Some State Governments have been requested to send proposals in this regard.

(b) and (c) As per information available with the Ministry, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has set up an Apparel Park at Gundlapochampally village near Hyderabad, over 174 acres of land. The Park is designed to provide uninterrupted power supply, common facility centre for services like post, telephone, container service, customs, insurance, training etc. besides other infrastructural facilities like approach roads and quota endorsement. The Union Government has provided Rs. 1.8 crore grant under Critical Infrastructure Balancing Scheme for providing power supply and for access road to Apparel Export Park. In addition to this, a grant of Rs. 70 lakhs has been paid from similar head for laying conveyance lines for treated effluence from the park to Hyderabad Metro Sewerage.

**RBI Report on Budgetary Reports
of State Governments**

199. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI has recently released report in regard to budgetary position of 26 State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of budget deficit of these State Governments, state-wise;

(c) whether the revenue deficit which was 38.3% in 1990-91 has gone up to 53.8% at present;

(d) if so, the main reasons for this huge budget deficit in States;

(e) whether the Government propose to give urgent attention for reforms in regard to States, budgetary position;

(f) if so, whether the Government have issued any instructions in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) As brought out in RBI Report on State Finances, January 2000, the combined revenue deficit for 25 states and NCT of Delhi was 28.3% of their GFD in 1990-91 and 53.8% of their GFD in 1998-99 (RE). Main reasons for the rising revenue deficit of the States are steep rise in non-plan revenue expenditure, particularly establishment expenditure, recurring losses of States' PSUs, rising interest payment liabilities and deceleration in receipts.

(e) to (g) State Governments are autonomous under the Constitution and are expected to take measures of their preference from time to time to improve their financial status. However, as recommended by the National Development Council Sub-committee, some States have evolved and undertaken their own medium term fiscal reform programme aimed at reduction in revenue deficit through increased revenue mobilization, reduction in non-plan revenue expenditure, correction in pricing and subsidy and disinvestment. The Government of India has created a facility for extending medium term assistance to those states who have entered into an agreement with Government of India for initiating monitorable fiscal reform programmes.

Statement

**Gross Fiscal Deficit of States-1998-99
(Revised Estimates)**

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	States	Receipts*	Expenditure	Surplus (-)/ Deficit (+)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	15640.80	19389.10	3748.30
2	Arunachal Pradesh	927.30	1032.50	105.20
3	Assam	5255.00	6806.60	1551.70
4	Bihar	10399.60	14790.90	4391.40
5	Goa	1143.40	1459.10	315.70
6	Gujarat	13122.90	17896.80	4773.90
7	Haryana	6033.60	8353.40	2319.80
8	Himachal Pradesh	2533.90	3848.90	1315.00
9	J&K	4766.20	5718.40	952.20
10	Karnataka	12168.30	15189.20	3020.90
11	Kerala	8174.60	10959.30	2784.70
12	Madhya Pradesh	12301.10	15828.40	3527.30
13	Maharashtra	22130.70	29102.50	6971.80
14	Manipur	952.30	1122.00	169.70
15	Meghalaya	939.80	1146.10	206.40
16	Mizoram	756.40	901.30	144.90
17	Nagaland	1035.70	1278.90	243.20
18	Orissa	5716.90	8369.70	2652.80
19	Punjab	7080.10	11013.00	3933.00
20	Rajasthan	8838.10	14084.00	5245.90
21	Sikkim	1466.50	1662.40	195.90
22	Tamil Nadu	14198.50	18582.20	4383.70
23	Tripura	1244.80	1446.90	202.10
24	Uttar Pradesh	18800.00	30891.50	12091.40

1	2	3	4	5
25	West Bengal	10012.00	18521.30	8509.30
26	NCT Delhi	3982.80	5482.90	1500.10
Total		189621.40	264877.30	75256.00

* Revenue Receipts.

DD Regional Service

200. SHRI P. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any new measures to improve the Doordarshan Regional Service in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Bangla which functions 24 hour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any difference of opinion between Central and State Governments on telecasting the above programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have constituted an expert committee to guide and monitor the programmes of these channels;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the name of the agency which guide and monitor the programmes made and telecast in the DD Regional channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Telecast of high quality serials on sponsorship/ commissioned basis, introduction of daily one-hour morning information service programme in addition to interviews with celebrities, linking of the four Regional Satellite Channels of Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam on every Wednesday and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and maintaining a high quality of transmission are some of the measures to improve the service.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The programmes are guided and monitored by the respective Kendras.

Interest Rates of GPF/EPF

201. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lower the rates for General Provident Fund and Employees Provident Fund as it has done in case of Public Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Review of interest rates is done and notified annually. Interest rates for 2000-01 are yet to be finalized.

Refund of Service Charges by PGFIL

202. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether following a judgement by the Supreme Court in 1996, the R.B.I. has directed Peerless General Finance and Investment Limited (PGFIL) to refund the service charges to the depositors which was collected against RBI guidelines;

(b) if so, whether the Company complied this directive and if so, the total amount paid so far; and

(c) the time by which the balance amount is likely to be paid in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) RBI have reported that following the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, companies like PGFIL were allowed to collect a one time non-refundable maximum amount of Rs. 80/- only towards the cost of expenses for issuing brochures etc. and servicing the depositors' accounts. Accordingly, the depositors were to be repaid on maturity the aggregate amount of deposits along with contracted returns thereon after adjustments of the service charges applicable.

(b) In pursuance of the instructions of RBI, Peerless General Finance and Investment Ltd. (PGFIL) has written back an amount of Rs. 771.47 crores appropriated earlier from the deposits after adjustments of the allowable service charge in its balance sheet as on 31st March, 1996 towards liabilities to the depositors.

(c) RBI have reported that the provision for the additional liability in respect of the deposits & appropriated earlier will be made in the company's books in phases and the entire amount will be fully provided for by March, 2001.

Explosive Act

203. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of cases which have come to light regarding violence of the provision of Explosive Act during each of the last three years;
- (b) the details of such cases;
- (c) whether, the Government propose to make Explosive Department accountable and responsible for such cases; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) 668 cases of violation of the provisions of the Explosives Act, 1884 and the Explosives Rule, 1983 were reported during the last three years. Year-wise break-up is as follows :-

S. No.	Year	No. of Cases
01.	1997-98	297
02.	1998-99	139
03.	1999-2000	232
	Total	668

(b) The violations were reported in the following areas :-

- (1) Non-submission of monthly reports on transactions and movement of explosives.
- (2) Improper accounting of explosives.
- (3) Possession of explosives in excess on licensed capacity without permission.
- (4) Non-adherence of safety distances prescribed for magazines and manufacturing building.
- (5) Non-rectification of defects.
- (6) Supply of explosives to unauthorised persons.
- (7) Accidents, thefts and loss of explosives from licensed premises.

The licences were immediately suspended/ cancelled.

(c) and (d) Apart from officers of the Department of Explosives, the district authorities are also empowered to grant licences for manufacture, possession, use and sale of explosives in their area of jurisdiction. Various authorities of district administration up to the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police, besides officers of the Department of Explosives

have been given powers for search and seizure. As such responsibility for administration of the Act and Rules devolves on them.

[Translation]

D.D. Kendras in Bihar

204. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Doordarshan Kendras in Bihar and the location thereof;
- (b) the places in the State where Doordarshan Kendras are likely to be set up in the next three years;
- (c) the details of Kendras where construction work has been going on for the last three years; and
- (d) the time by which high power transmitters are likely to be set up in each district of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Besides 4 studios, 53 TV transmitters (High Power Transmitters -5, Low Power Transmitters-45, Very Low Power Transmitters-2, Transposer-1) are, at present, functioning in Bihar. Locations are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The following TV projects are presently, under implementation in Bihar and are likely to be commissioned in the next three years.

- i. Augmentation of Studio at Ranchi (augmentation)
- ii. HPT (DD1)- Jamshedpur.
- iii. HPTs (DD2)- Muzaffarpur, Patna, Ranchi
- iv. LPTs (DD1)- Ramnagar, Chatra, Braharwa, Rosera
- v. VLPT (DD1)- Ramgarh Hill.
- (c) Studio project at Ranchi.

(d) There is no Plan to set up HPTs on district basis. However all the districts of Bihar are covered by TV service, wholly or partially through the transmitters set up within or outside a given district.

Statement

Existing TV Network in Bihar (As on 15.02.2000)

Studios	Daltonganj
	Ranchi
	Patna
	Muzaffarpur
HPTs	Daltonganj
	Katihar

LPTs

Muzaffarpur

Patna

Ranchi

Aurangabad

Begusarai

Bettiah

Bhagalpur

Bokaro

Buxar

Chaibasa

Darbhanga

Daudnagar

Deoghar

Dhanbad

Dumka

Forbesganj

Gaya

Ghatshila

Giridih

Godda

Gopalganj

Gumia

Hazaribagh

Jamshedpur

Jamui

Khagaria

Kodarma

Lakhisarai

Lohardaga

Madhepura

Madhubani

Motihari

Munger

Mushabani

Nawada

Noamundy

Phoolparas

Raxaul

Saharasa

Saraikela

Sasaram

Sheikhpura

Sikandra

Simri Bakhtiarpur

Sitamarhi

Sitwan

Supaul

Patna (DD II)

Garhwa

Simdega

Ramgarh Hill

VLPTs

Tranposer

[English]

Use of Rupee Funds by Russia

205. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pact on use of rupee funds by Russia likely" appearing in 'The Times of India' dated January 15, 2000;

(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 FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is an in-principle understanding between India and Russia that a part of Rupee Repayment Funds owed by India to Russia may be used for Russian investment in joint ventures in India. The details in this regard, including the guidelines, areas for such investment and related modalities have not been finalised yet. Operationalisation of such an agreement for investment can have a positive impact on the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Indo-Nigeria Agreement on Drug Demand Reduction

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

(a) whether India has signed an agreement with Nigeria recently on mutual cooperation in drug demand reduction and prevention of illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Bilateral Trade Talks with China

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to enter bilateral trade talks with China;

(b) if so, the areas in which such talks are likely to be held;

(c) whether India is likely to press for the common demands for the benefit of both the countries at the WTO negotiations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) The VI Session of the India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations and Trade, Science & Technology (JEG) was held in Beijing from 21st to 22nd February, 2000. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Murasoli Maran, Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Chinese side Mr. Shi Guangsheng, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation. Both sides held bilateral discussions covering a wide range of issues relating to trade, investment and economic cooperation. The two Ministers also signed a Bilateral Agreement in the context of China's accession to the World Trade Organisations (WTO).

China is yet to become a member of the WTO. However, China has observer status in WTO. Both India and China have broadly similar views on issues like the need to keep non-trade issues out of the agenda of WTO. Therefore, there is scope for cooperation between the two countries as and when China becomes a member of WTO.

Report submitted by Disinvestment Commission

208. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of reports submitted by the Disinvestment Commission so far;

(b) the main recommendations made in these reports;

(c) the number of recommendations have been implemented by the Government so far; and

(d) the reasons for not implementing majority of recommendations by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) In its 12 reports given so far the Disinvestment Commission has recommended for trade sale in 8 PSUs, offer of share through capital market in 5 PSUs, strategic sale in various proportions in 28 PSUs, closure/sale of assets in 5 PSUs and deferment of disinvest in respect of 12 PSUs.

(c) and (d) The Commission is an advisory body. After considering the Commission's recommendations Government held equity in GAIL, CONCOR, MTNL and Modern Food Industries Ltd. have been partially disinvested. Since disinvestment is done keeping in view the market conditions and after detailed examination of the recommendations, disinvestment in other PSUs recommended by the Commission will be done at the appropriate time.

Closed Textile Mills

209. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of textile mills including Handloom, Powerloom closed in the country during 1999-2000, State-wise; and

(b) the reasons for the closure and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The State-wise details of cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) closed during 1999-2000 (April to December) are given below :-

State	No. of Mills Closed
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	2
Guajrat	3
Haryana	1
Karnataka	3

1	2
Maharashtra	2
Orissa	1
Tamil Nadu	17
Total	29

Regarding powerloom sector, on the basis of survey conducted by Powerloom Service Centres, Office of the Textile Commissioner, during April-September, 1999, the State-wise detail of estimated number of Powerlooms closed is given below :-

State	No. of powerlooms closed
Andhra Pradesh	303
Assam	1,932
Gujarat	37,334
Jammu & Kashmir	15
Madhya Pradesh	5,348
Maharashtra	37,401
Punjab	665
Rajasthan	9,709
Tamilnadu	29,556
Uttar Pradesh	16,276

Regarding Handloom Sector, the Handloom weaving is mostly a house hold activity. Due to its dispersed location, such data is not maintained.

(b) Closure of Textile mills can be attributed to many factors including obsolete technology, increase in cost of inputs, difficulties in getting timely and adequate credit, mismanagement, recessionary conditions etc. The Government have taken following steps, in this regard :-

- The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (special provisions) Act, SICA, 1985 and established the Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other compa-

nies, change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by bank and financial institutions.

- Govt. has set up Powerloom Service Centres (PSC) to provide training, consultancy, design development support, textile testing and information about the latest technology in the weaving sector for the benefit of the powerloom sector.

Job to Land Losers in ECL

210. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was an agreement to give jobs to the land holders whose land has been acquired by ECL for various collieries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ECL is not fulfilling the agreement by not appointing the land losers Ardha-gram and Bakulia collieries;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the compensation paid to the land losers so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Employment to land losers is offered as per the Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy of Coal India Limited. However, as reported by Coal India Limited, for Ardha-gram Open Cast Project, there was a tripartite agreement between the Ardha-gram Land owners Association, Ardha-gram Gram Panchayet and Local Management of ECL. As per the Tripartite Agreement, it was decided to offer 61 jobs to the land losers as part of a package deal against acquisition of 123.45 acres of land. Out of this 41 jobs have been offered, 8 cases are in the process and for remaining 12 cases, the proposal has not been submitted by the land owners to ECL management.

For Bakulia Project, as per the Tripartite understanding reached between the Land Owners Association, Salma Gram Panchayet and Local Management of ECL, it was decided to give 24 adhoc employments against acquisition of 48.5 acres of land. So far, no physical possession of land has been taken by the coal company against this acquisition.

(c) and (d) ECL is fulfilling the agreement in respect of land losers of Ardha-gram Open Cast project. Bakulia Project, being cost ineffective, could not take off and

remained a non-starter. The project has since been dropped by the coal company. As such, the tripartite agreement could not be implemented.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply given at (c) and (d) above.

(f) The compensation paid to the land losers in respect of the above two projects is as under :

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------------|
| (i) | Ardhagram OCP | Rs. 19,46,812/- |
| (ii) | Bakulia Project | Rs. 4,90,9000/- |
| | (As demanded by LA Collector when land acquisition proposal was mooted) | |

Clearance for new Deposit Schemes

211. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether few years back, the Government issued instructions that all financial companies would henceforth be required to get clearance from approved rating agencies like Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India (ICRA), Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL) etc. before launching new Deposit Schemes;

(b) if so, whether the Peerless General Finance and Investment Limited had adhered to this condition and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the safety of the Public Deposits in the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. Government did not issue any instructions that all financial companies would be required to get clearance from approved rating agencies before launching new Deposit Schemes.

(b) and (c) Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. (PGFICL) belongs to the category of a Residuary Non-Banking Financial Company (RNBFC). RNBFCs do not require credit rating for accepting public deposits. The investment pattern prescribed for such companies is considered adequate to cover safety of deposits. For the purpose of safeguarding the interest of depositors, RNBFCs are also enjoined upon the invest at least 80 per cent of the deposit liabilities in the securities as per the prescribed investment pattern. The securities are required to be entrusted to a public sector bank and can be withdrawn only for the purpose of repayment to the depositors. PGFICL had challenged the regulations through some court cases. On conclusion of the court cases, the PGFICL has accepted the extant regulatory provisions.

Loans Through Banks and Financial Institutions

212. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of investment of nationalised banks and financial institutions operating in the country for the development of industries during the last three years; State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any specific action plan to liberalise conditions for granting loans by these banks and financial institutions to industries; and

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

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

[Translation]

Decline in Consumption of Tea

213. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline of 6 per cent in the consumption of tea in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there has been decline in export of tea also;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to increase its exports?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (d) Yes, Sir, export of tea during the year 1999 registered a decline of 20.16 m.kgs. as compared to the exports during the previous year. Reasons for decline in exports are lower production during 1999, increased domestic demand, competition from other producing countries and decline in exports to Kazakhstan, Ireland, U.A.E., Iraq, ARE, Turkey etc. due to factors which are country specific.

(e) 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 specially 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.

Setting up of LPT

214. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the places where low power T.V. transmitters were proposed to be set up during the last three years in the country;

(b) the number of T.V. transmitters out of them have been set up so far;

(c) whether despite of completion of erection work and testing T.V. transmitters at some places have not been made operational; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and the time by which these are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) A total of 422 Low Power/Very Low Power TV Transmitters were proposed to be set up during 9th plan, out of which 354 have been sanctioned during the last 3 years. Of the 354 transmitter projects, 230 have been set up so far. A statement showing locations of all the 354 projects is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Commissioning of technically ready transmitters is pending due to non-availability of requisite staff. The transmitters would be made operational as soon as the requisite staff is in position. Action for redeployment/recruitment of staff is in progress.

Statement

State/UT	Location
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	LPT Bobbili
	LPT Knadukur
	LPT Madugula

1	2
	LPT Pasra
	LPT Pulamanear
	LPT Sirisilla
	LPT Tekkali
	LPT Veldanda
	LPT Vinukonda
	VLPT Duttalur
	VLPT Madipardu
	LPT Bhainsa
	LPT Macherla
	LPT Rajampet
	LPT Achampet
	LPT Devarkonda
	LPT Machilipatanam
	LPT Miryalaguda
	LPT Depadalli
	LPT Penganur
	LPT Sirpur
	LPT Udaigiri
	LPT Vemalvada
	LPT Zahirabad
	VLPT Kanigiri
	LPT Banswada
	LPT Darsi
	LPT Narsaraopet
	LPT Tuni
	VLPT Seetampetta
	VLPT Deomali
	VLPT Sangram
	VLPT Baririjo
	VLPT Geku
	VLPT Inkyong
	VLPT Liromoba
	VLPT Nampong

Arunchal Pradesh

1	2
	VLPT Rupa
	VLPT Taiha
	VLPT Mukto
	Xser Sankhi View
	VLPT Darak
	VLPT Hunli
	VLPT Mechuka
	VLPT Italin
	VLPT Tali/Tuting
	VLPT Boleng
	VLPT Gensi
	VLPT Keying
	VLPT Mariyang
	VLPT Palin
	VLPT Seijosa
	VLPT Tirbin
	LPT Miao
	VLPT Hawai
	VLPT Khimyong
	VLPT Sagalee
Assam	LPT Bokakhat
	Xser Guwahati
	LPT Dibrugarh (DD-II)
	LPT Silchar (DD-II)
	LPT Gohpur
Bihar	LPT Barharwa
	LPT Ramnagar
	VLPT Ramgarh Hill
	LPT Kodarma
	LPT Chatra
	LPT Rosera
	LPT Daudnagar
	LPT Mushabani

1	2
	LPT Simri Bakhtiarpur
	VLPT Garhwa
Gujarat	LPT Vyara
	LPT Bantva
	LPT Dhandhuka
	LPT Dhari
	LPT Limbdi
	LPT Una
	LPT Khambhalia
	LPT Modassa
	LPT Rajula
	LPT Punandhro (mobile)
	VLPT Sagwara
	LPT Botad
	LPT Dharampur
	LPT Jhagadia
	LPT Radhanpur
	LPT Jamjodhpur
	LPT Lunawada
	LPT Rajpirla
	LPT Umargaon
Haryana	LPT Bhiwani (DD-II)
	LPT Karnal
	LPT Tohana
	LPT Charkhi Dadri
	LPT Firozpur Jhirka
	LPT Mahendragarh
	LPT Yamunanagar
Himachal Pradesh	LPT Mandi (DD-II)
	VLPT Awah Devi
	VLPT Dalhausi
	VLPT Kaja
	VLPT Tissa

1	2
	LPT Sujampur
	VLPT Banjar
	VLPT Karsog
	VLPT Parwanoo
	VLPT Udaipur
	VLPT Ashapuri
	VLPT Bijli Mahadev
	VLPT Jhatingri
	VLPT Nehri
	VLPT Kotkhai
	LPT Sunder Nagar
	VLPT Chaupal
	VLPT Nichar
	VLPT Pribhayanu
	VLPT Chauri Khas
Jammu & Kashmir	LPT Poonch
	VLPT Bafliaz
	VLPT Darhal
	VLPT Tral
	LPT Naushera (Mobile)
	LPT Bandipura (Mobile)
	VLPT Chushul
	VLPT Mulbekh
	VLPT Tangtse
	LPT Udampur
	VLPT Batalik
	Ringdom Gompa
	VLPT Turtok
	LPT Rajauri
	LPT Darhal (Mobile)
	VLPT Khalsi
	VLPT Siachin (base camp)
Karnataka	LPT Belthangadi

1	2
	LPT Hiriyyur
	LPT Indi
	LPT Koppa
	LPT Mundargi
	LPT Dandeli
	LPT Hosdurg
	LPT Jamkhandi
	LPT Mudhol
	LPT Shindhnur
	LPT Talikota
	VLPT Huvini Hippargi
	LPT Hattihal
	LPT Tumkur
	LPT Kottarakkara
	VLPT Badami
	VLPT Kudligi
	LPT Hole Narsipur
	VLPT Sulya
	LPT Manjeri
Kerala	LPT Pala
	VLPT Mundakayam
	VLPT Erattupetta
	LPT Cannanore (DD-II)
Maharashtra	LPT Akalkot
	LPT Daryapur
	LPT Khanapur
	LPT Phaltan
	LPT Raver
	VLPT Sakoli
	LPT Mahad
	LPT Satana
	LPT Umarkhed
	VLPT Malwan
	LPT Ambajogai (DD-II)
	LPT Dharmabad

1	2
	LPT Patan
	VLPT Ashti
	VLPT Karanja
	VLPT Pimpalner - Sakri
	VLPT Tivsa
	LPT Bhamragad
	LPT Dhadgaon
	LPT Mangalwedha
	LPT Pulgaon
	VLPT Ambet
	LPT Khopoli
	LPT Mangaon
	LPT Tumsar
	VLPT Koregaon
	VLPT Malkapur
	LPT Bhandara
	LPT Pandharkawada
	VLPT Arjuni
	VLPT Chimur
	VLPT Kurkheda
	VLPT Sindewahi
	VLPT Wai
Meghalaya	Xser Shillong
Mizoram	LPT Lawngtlai
	Xser Aizawl
	LPT Lunglei (DD-II)
Manipur	VLPT Jiribam
	VLPT Kangpokpi
	VLPT Churachandpur
Madhya Pradesh	LPT Agar
	LPT Bareilly
	LPT Karaira

1	2
	LPT Konta
	LPT Lakhnadon
	LPT Pandaria
	VLPT Alot
	VLPT Bijapur
	LPT Badwani
	LPT Champa
	LPT Kharod
	LPT Kukshi
	LPT Multai
	LPT Sindhwa
	VLPT Pathalgaon
	VLPT Koylibeda
	VLPT Singrauli
	LPT Bhanpura
	LPT Piparia
	VLPT Sarangarh
	LPT Bada Malehra
	LPT Garot
	LPT Sitamau
	LPT Pendra Road
Nagaland	LPT Mokokchung (DD-II)
	Xser Bara Basti
	VLPT Shamtorr
	VLPT Satakha
Orissa	LPT Chikiti
	LPT Kulad
	LPT Tushara/Saintala
	VLPT Kashipur
	VLPT Machhkund
	VLPT Sukinda
	Xser Chandipara
	Xser Dhenkanal
	VLPT Nagchi

1	2
	LPT Padua
	LPT Simliguda
	VLPT Chitrakonda
	VLPT Koksara
	LPT Gondiya
	LPT Khariar
	VLPT Simlipalgarh
	LPT Jalpara
	LPT Nayagarh
	VLPT Jayapatna
	VLPT Lanjigarh
	VLPT Paikamal
	VLPT Barpalli
	LPT Mohana
	LPT Patnagarh
	VLPT Aul
	VLPT Kalampur
	LPT Birmiltrapur
	LPT Karanjia
	LPT Rajgangpur
	VLPT Subdega
Punjab	LPT Patiala
Pondicherry	LPT Pondicherry (DD-II)
Rajasthan	LPT Bali
	LPT Kishangarh
	LPT Makrana
	LPT Nasirabad
	LPT Pirawa
	LPT Sanchor
	LPT Taranagar
	VLPT Kotra
	VLPT Tibi
	VLPT Aandhi
	LPT Bharatpur

1	2
	VLPT Viratnagar
	LPT Bhinmal
	LPT Kushalgarh
	LPT Nagar
	LPT Navalgarh
	LPT Sagwara
	LPT Sojat
	LPT Vijaynagar
	VLPT Laxmangarh
	LPT Hinaun
	VLPT Şikrai
	LPT Kishangarh Vas
Sikkim	VLPT Zorethang
	VLPT Rangpo
	VLPT Singtam
Tamil Nadu	LPT Ambasamudram
	LPT Chidambaram
	LPT Erode
	LPT Nattam
	LPT Peranampet
	LPT Vandavasi
	VLPT Mettupalayam
	LPT Udumalpet
	LPT Ambur
	LPT Denkanikotta
	LPT Kallakuruchi
	LPT Palani
	LPT Pollachi
	VLPT Gingee
	LPT Cheyyar
Tripura	LPT Amarpur
	LPT Jolaibari
	LPT Teliamura

1	2
Uttar Pradesh	LPT Ambassa
	LPT Kailasahar
	LPT Kailasahar (DD-II)
	LPT Almora
	LPT Dak Pathar
	LPT Dudhinagar
	LPT Kalagarh
	LPT Khetikhan
	LPT Narora
	VLPT Aroli
	VLPT Chamoli
	VLPT Kedarnath
	VLPT Naugaonkhai
	LPT Mao (DD-II)
	VLPT Saahiya
	LPT Chhibramau
	LPT Mahroni
	LPT Rath
	VLPT Manikpur
	VLPT Rajgarhi
	VLPT Tharali
	VLPT Khubia Nangal
	VLPT Okhimath
	VLPT Rudrapryag
	LPT Bidhuna
	LPT Dhunaghat
	LPT Gopeshwar
	LPT Karwi
	LPT Kosi
	LPT Talbehat
	VLPT Badrinath
	VLPT Dugadda

1	2
West Bengal	VLPT Manila
	VLPT Sirakota (Vaikunthdham)
	Xser Mussoorie (DD-II)
	VLPT Basot
	LPT Amroha
	LPT Haldwani
	LPT Rampur (DD-II)
	LPT Rudauli
	VLPT Nandpryag
	VLPT Thakurdwara (DD-II)
	LPT Karwi
	VLPT Maneshwar
	VLPT Pokhri
	LPT Balrampur
	LPT Jhalda
	VLPT Baghmandi
	LPT Garhbeta
	LPT Kuchbihar

Foreign Assistance for Modernisation of Mills

215. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some textile mills are being modernised with foreign assistance in the country, particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the names of such textile mills, State-wise;

(c) the names of countries and financial institutions which have provided amount for their modernisation; and

(d) the amount provided by them during each of the last three years, mill-wise?

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

[English]

Special Audit Conducted by SEBI

216. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) conducted a special audit of 22 plantation companies;

(b) if so, the details of gross irregularities in fund mobilisation and deployment and extent of financial fraud irregularities detected, company-wise in general and companies in Maharashtra in particular;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed against defaulting companies to protect the interest of investors; and

(d) the present status of action taken against plantation firms, firm-wise, alongwith steps proposed to introduce mechanism to check and monitor fraudulent dealings of plantation and other Non-Banking Financial Companies in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) conducted a special audit of 53 collective investment schemes (CIS), which include plantation companies.

The major findings of the audit reports include: large scale diversion of funds to activities unrelated to the schemes' objectives; the land/properties of the schemes are often not registered in the names of the entities/investors; a large portion of the funds raised has been spent towards the cost of mobilisation of funds; existing investors are paid out of the money received from the subsequent investors and not from the profits/income from legitimate business activities; funds have been mobilised without obtaining credit rating.

SEBI has issued show cause notices to various entities operating such schemes. Court proceedings have been initiated against 5 companies namely Libra Plantations Ltd., Arrow Global Agrotech Ltd., SPG Green Gold Plantations Ltd., Okara Agro Industries Ltd., and Golden Forests (India) Ltd. Further, the SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 were notified on October 15, 1999. Henceforth, no entity other than a Collective Investment Management Company which has obtained a certificate of registration under the SEBI regulations can carry on or sponsor or launch a Collective Investment Scheme. Also no existing Collective Investment Scheme is allowed to launch any new scheme or raise money from investors unless a certificate of registration is granted to it.

Information regarding plantation and other companies in Maharashtra is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Spinning Mills

217. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of spinning mills in the cooperative sector in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether these mills have the capacity to meet the requirements of handloom and powerloom industries;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to set up new mills in Meerut, Muzaffarnagar and Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the number of such mills likely to be set up during the Ninth Five Year Plan, location-wise and State-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The number of cotton/man-made fibre spinning mills in the co-operative sector, State-wise, as on 31-3-2000 :

State/Union Territory	No. of Spinning Mills
Andhra Pradesh	11
Assam	1
Bihar	3
Gujarat	4
Karnataka	12
Kerala	4
Madhya Pradesh	2
Maharashtra	67
Orissa	6
Punjab	7
Rajasthan	4
Tamil Nadu	18
Uttar Pradesh	11
West Bengal	2
Pondicherry	2

(b) The yarn requirement of the handloom and powerloom sectors is being met by the spinning mills in co-operative fold along with spinning mills set up in private and public sectors.

(c) to (e) The Central Government acts as a facilitator and it, on its own, does not set up any new mill.

Alumina and Aluminium Plants in Orissa

218. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Alumina and Aluminium plants are under construction both in the Private and Public Sector in Orissa;

(b) the capacity, estimated cost, location and expected date of completion of each of these Alumina and Aluminium plants; and

(c) the time by which these plants are likely to commence commercial production and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) The manufacture of Aluminium metal is expected from the provision of compulsory licensing. The parties interested in setting up new Aluminium plants have simply to file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM). There is no proposal to set up any greenfield Alumina/Aluminium plant in the public sector in Orissa. However, one public sector company, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is implementing expansion projects for increasing the capacity of its Bauxite Mines, Alumina Refinery, Aluminium Smelter and Captive Power Plant (CPP) in Orissa. The details of expansion projects of NALCO are as under :-

Name of the Project	Location	Existing Capacity (Tonnes)	Capacity After Expansion (Tonnes)	Cost (Rs. in Crs.)	Likely Date of Completion
Bauxite Mines	Damanjodi	24 Lakh	48 Lakh	1664.60 (mines+)	18.3.01
Alumina Refinery	Damanjodi	8 lakh	15.75 lakh	(refinery)	-do-
Aluminium Smelter	Angul	2.3 lakh	3.45 lakh	2062 (smelter +	3.5.02
CPP	Angul	720 MW	840 MW	CPP)	-do-

Following companies in the private sector have submitted Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memorandum (IEM) to the Government for setting up Alumina/Aluminium plants in

Orissa. The available information in respect of private sector companies is as under :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Location (District)	Item of Manufacture	Annual Capacity (Tonnes)	Date of Acknowledgement of IEM
1.	Orissa Extrusions Ltd.	Balasore	Unwrought Aluminium	7200	26.05.95
2.	Sterlite Industries	Kalahandi	Alumina	1000000	13.03.97
3.	Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd.	Sambalpur	Aluminium not alloyed	30000	02.01.95
4.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Sambalpur	Aluminium	250000	08.08.97
5.	Passary Minerals Ltd.	Sundargarh	Alumina, Calcined	2400	13.02.97
6.	Sterlite Industries	Jharsuguda	Aluminium Ingots	250000	13.03.97
7.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	Rayagada	Alumina	500000	08.08.97

Apart from the above, Government have allowed M/s. Utkal Alumina International (Pvt.) Ltd. and M/s. Larsen & Toubro to set up 100% export oriented Alumina plants of one million tonne capacity each in Rayagada District of Orissa.

Loans to States by Financial Institutions

219. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans sanctioned by the Public

Sector Financial Institutions to each State during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 till date, Institution-wise; and

(b) the amount actually released by these institutions during the above period to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As reported by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), institution-wise details of loans sanctioned and disbursed by public sector Financial Institutions to different states during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (April-December 1999) are given in Statements I to IV enclosed.

Statement-I

State-wise/Institution-wise sanctions during 1998-99

S. No.	State/UTs	IDBI	SIDBI	IIBI
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1828.3	180.9	109.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		1.5	
3.	Assam	46.1	8.2	2.4
4.	Bihar	678.3	95.9	12.6
5.	Goa	187.1	86.2	85.0
6.	Gujarat	3205.9	457.6	278.8
7.	Haryana	520.2	306.3	28.2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	82.2	38.7	5.0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir		20.1	
10.	Karnataka	2517.4	418.5	122.7
11.	Kerala	372.9	265.6	20.0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	751.5	243.2	51.0
13.	Maharashtra	5569.8	865.5	644.9
14.	Manipur		3.7	
15.	Meghalaya		4.8	
16.	Mizoram		1.0	
17.	Nagaland		1.5	
18.	Orissa	131.8	135.1	105.0
19.	Punjab	596.4	226.1	50.9
20.	Rajasthan	1080.4	151.7	78.0
21.	Sikkim	0.4	6.6	
22.	Tamil Nadu	2646.8	509.4	228.1
23.	Tripura		3.9	

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2076.5	271.7	140.5
25.	West Bengal	670.6	294.6	185.4
26.	NCT of Delhi	2268.5	186.5	17.5
27.	Union Territories			
(a)	Andaman & Nicobar		0.1	
(b)	Daman & Diu	56.8	0.2	
(c)	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	105.5	15.7	9.5
(d)	Chandigarh	62.7	2.4	
(e)	Lakshadweep			
(f)	Pondicherry	28.7	7.1	
Total		25484.7	4810.3	2175.2

Statement-II

State-wise/Institution-wise Assistance Sanctioned

S. No.	State/UTs	IDBI Apr-Dec. 1999	SIDBI Apr-Dec. 1999	IIBI Apr-Dec. 1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3467.4	177.5	88.4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		0.4	
3.	Assam	42.4	9.6	
4.	Bihar	207.6	60.6	8.2
5.	Goa	62.4	36.3	20.0
6.	Gujarat	3678.9	204.5	109.5
7.	Haryana	306.2	125.2	50.0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	357.3	28.1	25.0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	40.0	12.0	
10.	Karnataka	977.8	35.3	30.7
11.	Kerala	136.7	47.9	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	661.8	110.7	15.0
13.	Maharashtra	3214.8	243.5	318.0
14.	Manipur		0.5	
15.	Meghalaya		2.8	
16.	Mizoram		0.6	

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Nagaland			
18.	Orissa	42.3	29.9	300.0
19.	Punjab	631.5	60.1	
20.	Rajasthan	595.9	138.4	50.0
21.	Sikkim		1.8	
22.	Tamil Nadu	2737.6	202.7	222.6
23.	Tripura		1.0	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	496.5	111.6	63.0
25.	West Bengal	607.6	88.2	333.0
26.	NCT of Delhi	1197.7	115.0	13.2
27.	U.T. and Others	106.2	18.0	
(a)	Andaman & Nicobar			
(b)	Daman & Diu	16.0	0.2	
(c)	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	45.8	12.2	
(d)	Chandigarh	39.4	5.0	
(e)	Lakshadweep			
(f)	Pondicherry	5.0	0.6	
(g)	Others			
Total		19768.6	1862.2	1646.6

Note : Provisional data.

Statement-III*State-wise/Institution-wise Disbursements During 1998-99*

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	State/UTs	IDBI	SIDBI	IIBI
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1245.3	154.5	152.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	--	1.5	--
3.	Assam	22.7	9.6	2.4
4.	Bihar	137.7	78.7	--
5.	Goa	113.8	72.8	70.4
6.	Gujarat	2345.4	323.3	256.6

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Haryana	309.2	294.9	30.8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	96.3	38.7	5.0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.0	16.8	--
10.	Karnataka	1297.4	323.3	97.7
11.	Kerala	174.9	202.5	13.7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	752.9	194.0	40.3
13.	Maharashtra	2699.9	734.9	511.6
14.	Manipur	--	0.7	--
15.	Meghalaya	--	2.8	--
16.	Mizoram	--	1.0	--
17.	Nagaland	--	1.4	--
18.	Orissa	234.3	82.6	65.3
19.	Punjab	489.6	146.7	59.1
20.	Rajasthan	857.1	131.3	76.6
21.	Sikkim	--	6.1	--
22.	Tamil Nadu	1401.0	363.3	126.5
23.	Tripura	--	3.7	--
24.	Uttar Pradesh	835.7	240.5	86.3
25.	West Bengal	668.1	206.2	210.4
26.	NCT of Delhi	454.1	191.6	5.5
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	--	0.1	--
28.	Daman & Diu	51.3	0.7	1.1
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	106.9	16.1	14.0
30.	Chandigarh	17.6	1.2	--
31.	Lakshadweep	--	--	--
32.	Pondicherry	21.2	4.4	--
Total		14333.4	3845.9	1688.5

Statement-IV**State-wise/Institution-wise Disbursements
During April-December 1999.**

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	State/UTs	IDBI	SIDBI	IIBI
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	895.2	135.9	68.6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	--	0.5	--
3.	Assam	25.9	9.4	0.5
4.	Bihar	231.5	56.5	10.1
5.	Goa	56.1	38.08	10.0
6.	Gujarat	2019.0	161.6	101.0
7.	Haryana	235.9	100.6	2.7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	306.3	16.9	15.0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	41.2	11.6	--
10.	Karnataka	706.5	46.09	67.0
11.	Kerala	67.3	44.0	2.7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	580.2	89.2	16.0
13.	Maharashtra	2003.6	211.4	230.3
14.	Manipur	--	0.5	--
15.	Meghalaya	--	2.5	--
16.	Mizoram	--	0.6	--
17.	Nagaland	--	--	--
18.	Orissa	134.4	25.6	61.0
19.	Punjab	290.8	52.8	6.9
20.	Rajasthan	458.6	95.4	25.0
21.	Sikkim	--	1.9	--
22.	Tamil Nadu	912.3	177.9	91.6
23.	Tripura	--	1.1	--
24.	Uttar Pradesh	616.3	99.2	13.2
25.	West Bengal	336.1	59.4	99.4
26.	NCT of Delhi	475.3	111.7	13.2
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	--	--	--

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Daman & Diu	8.8	0.2	--
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	26.2	9.7	0.6
30.	Chandigarh	22.9	4.8	--
31.	Lakshadweep	--	--	--
32.	Pondicherry	15.8	0.6	--
Total		10466.2	1566.4	834.8

Revival of Instrumentation Ltd.

220. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the on going process of the implementation of the "Revival Project" of the Instrumentation Ltd.; and

(b) the present stage of the proposal to make Instrumentation Ltd., Palghat Unit as a subsidiary status and an independent profit making unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The sanctioned scheme of Instrumentation Ltd., (IL) is under implementation. It envisages corporate restructuring leading to IL retaining only the mother unit at Kota and conversion of their units viz. Palghat Unit, DDG unit of Kota and UPS unit of Jaipur into separate companies as subsidiaries of IL and also 'in principle' approval for formation of JVs for mother unit and its subsidiaries.

Government have already released funds required in the first year and extended the envisaged reliefs and concessions. Government has also provided counter guarantee to banks. Further, in August 1999 IDBI has been appointed as a consultant to assist the Company in implementation of the sanctioned scheme.

[Translation]

Investment by NRIs

221. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Union Government to encourage capital investment in the country; and

(b) the details of investment made by NRIs in the

country, State-wise and sector-wise during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The Government, with a view to further liberalising the investment regime, has reviewed the policy on Foreign Direct Investment and decided to place all items/activities, under the automatic route for Foreign/Non Resident Indian and Overseas Corporate Bodies investment, except the following :-

- (i) items requiring industrial licence;
- (ii) items reserved for small scale industry sector where the foreign investment is more than 24%;
- (iii) items requiring industrial licence in items of locational policy;
- (iv) all proposals where the foreign collaborator has a previous venture/tie up in India;
- (v) all proposals falling outside notified sectoral policy.

(b) State-wise details of NRI investment approvals during the last two years are given in the statement enclosed. The total inflow of investment from NRIs during 1998 and 1999 was Rs. 38914.60 lakh and Rs. 35917.60 lakh, respectively, covering a variety of sectors, notably Electrical equipments, Electronics, Telecommunications, Drugs and pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Food Processing, Services, Hotel & Tourism, Trading and Miscellaneous Industries.

Statement

State-wise Break up of NRI Investment during the years 1998 and 1999

State	(Rs. in crores)	
	Amount of FDI approved	
	1998	1999
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	290.31	23.35
Bihar	0.20	---
Gujarat	70.84	3.90
Haryana	6.86	103.45
Himachal Pradesh	0.33	0.45
Karnataka	114.38	21.91
Kerala	0.67	6.07
Madhya Pradesh	2.86	0.14

1	2	3
Maharashtra	135.61	108.87
Orissa	6.44	0.50
Punjab	5.07	2.10
Tamil Nadu	60.18	14.91
Uttar Pradesh	13.58	7.32
West Bengal	17.35	1.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.86	---
Delhi	13.32	56.91
Daman & Diu	0.25	---
Rajasthan	---	60.80
Chandigarh	---	0.98
Pondicherry	---	10.00
Others	11.23	32.87
Total	750.34	454.81

Export of Tea, Coffee and Cotton

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

(a) the quantum of tea, coffee and cotton exported during the last year till 31.12.99 and the target fixed thereof alongwith the names of the countries where these items were exported; and

(b) the steps being taken to increase the export of above items during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Export of tea and coffee during the period April to December 99 was 148.64 mn. Kgs. and 1.50 lakh tonnes respectively. Export target of tea and coffee for the financial year 1999-2000 was 220 mn. Kgs. and 1.80 lakh tonnes respectively. Against the export quota of 5 lakh bales for the year 1998-99 (Oct-Sept-99), export of cotton was 0.9872 lakh bales.

Major Countries to which these items are exported include Russian Federation, U.K., Germany, USA, Italy, Poland, are, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Slovenia, Belgium etc.

(b) In order to boost export of tea and coffee the Government and the respective Commodity Boards have been analysing country-wise export giving special attention to areas offering potential. The Commodity Boards also take

appropriate action to remove bottlenecks in exports to individual markets whenever these are noticed.

Certain other steps taken to increase exports of tea and coffee include :-

- (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad;
- (ii) field sampling in principal markets;
- (iii) media campaign in potential markets to increase consumer awareness including distribution of literature on tea and coffee;
- (iv) exchange of delegations between India and the importing countries.

Govt. have launched a Technology Mission on Cotton with the objective of research, dissemination of technology to the farmers, improvement in marketing infrastructure and modernisation of ginning and pressing factories with a view to increase productivity and quality of Cotton which have direct bearing on exports.

[English]

Exports of Marine Products

223. SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantity and value of marine products exported during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, till date;
- (b) whether the export of marine products has declined during the above mentioned period;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to boost its export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The exports of marine products from India during the year 1998-99, and April-January, 1999-2000 as compared to the similar period of the year 1998-99 are as follows :

Year	Quantity in MT	Value in Rs. Crores	Value in US \$ Million
1998-99	302934	4626.87	1106.91
1998-99 (April-Jan)	245549	3945.56	945.95
1999-2000 (April-Jan)	266681	4046.74	941.76

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There has been a marginal decline in export of marine products in \$ Value terms during the period April-January, 1999-2000 as compared to the same period of the year 1998-99. This has been basically due to lower value realisation from exports of shrimps in the Japanese market during the initial period of the current year on account of sluggish market conditions prevailing in that market.

(d) Some of the steps taken by the Government of India through the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for boosting the exports of marine products from India inter-alia include implementation of schemes for procurement of equipment used by the processing industry, development of new farms, authorising MPEDA to conduct a market research in respect of US Market, conducting demonstration programmes for propagating eco-friendly aquaculture, thrust upon diversified aquaculture, undertaking market surveys, approving a project for identifying the problems aimed at disease containment, setting up a Special Task Force for looking into financial needs of the industry and stressing upon the necessity of promoting exports of value-added products from India.

Amount Collected from PSUs through Disinvestment

224. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :

SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount envisaged and amount actually collected by the Government through Disinvestment of PSUs, unit-wise and the percentage of share unloaded, unit-wise, till date; and

(b) the asset value of such PSUs, unit-wise and their present market value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Statements I and II indicating the amounts raised through disinvestment PSU-wise and percentage of disinvestment so far are enclosed. This has been achieved against the target of raising Rs. 44.300 crores during the year 1991-92 to 1999-2000.

(b) Such information unit-wise is not collected by the Government.

Statement-I

S. No.	Name of the PSU	Amount realised (Rs. in crores) during	
		1991-92	1992-93 to 1999-2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Andrew Yule	--	0.00
2.	Bharat Earthmovers Ltd.	--	48.27
3.	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	--	47.17
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	--	309.55
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	--	331.18
6.	Bongaigaon Refineries Ltd.	--	45.40
7.	CMC Ltd.	--	0.00
8.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	--	0.00
9.	Container Corpn. of India Ltd.	--	335.48
10.	Dredging Corp. of India Ltd.	--	0.00
11.	Engineers India Ltd.	--	67.53
12.	Fert. & Chem. (Travancore Ltd.)	--	1.30
13.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	--	1810.90
14.	HMT Ltd.	--	23.38
15.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	--	0.00
16.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	--	8.07
17.	Hindustan Organic Chem. Ltd.	--	0.00
18.	Hindustan Petroleum Ltd.	--	894.96
19.	Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.	--	0.00
20.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	--	81.55
21.	Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.	--	2405.40
22.	Indian Petro-Chemicals Corpn. Ltd.	--	0.00
23.	IRCON International Ltd.	--	0.00
24.	Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.	--	15.63
25.	India Tourism & Devl. Corpn.	--	51.99
26.	Kudermukh Iron & Ore Comp. Ltd.	--	11.40
27.	Madras Refineries Ltd.	--	0.00

1	2	3	4
28.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	--	2360.46
29.	Minerals and Metals Trdg. Corp. Ltd.	--	0.00
30.	National Aluminium Co, Ltd.	--	244.30
31.	National Fertilizers Ltd.	--	1.00
32.	National Mineral Devl. Corpn. Ltd.	--	17.88
33.	Neyveli Lignite Corpn.	--	70.43
34.	Oil & Natural Gas Corpn.	--	3838.11
35.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fert. Ltd.	--	30.36
36.	Shipping Corp. of India Ltd.	--	28.08
37.	State Trading Corpn.	--	2.25
38.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	--	736.06
39.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	--	1239.00
40.	Mogern Food Industries Ltd.	--	105.45
Total		3038.00@	15162.54

@ As in 91-92 the shares were sold in bundles the amount realised PSU-wise is not available.

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of the PSU	As on 30-11-99 Percentage of Disinvestment
1	2	3
1.	Andrew Yule	9.60
2.	Bharat Earthmovers Ltd.	39.19*
3.	Bharat Electronic Ltd.	24.14
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	32.28
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	33.80
6.	Bongaigaon Refineries and Petro Chem. Ltd.	25.54
7.	CMC Ltd.	16.69
8.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	6.12
9.	Container Corpn. of India Ltd.	36.92
10.	Dredging Corp. of India Ltd.	1.44
11.	Engineers India Ltd.	5.98
12.	Fert. & Chem. (Travancore Ltd.)	1.70

2	3
13. Gas Authority of India Ltd.	32.66
14. HMT Ltd.	8.44
15. Hindustan Cables Ltd.	1.04
16. Hindustan Copper Ltd.	1.24
17. Hindustan Organic Chem. Ltd.	41.39*
18. Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	48.94*
19. Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.	9.87
20. Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	24.08
21. Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.	17.85
22. Indian Petro-Chemicals Corpn. Ltd.	40.05*
23. IRCON International Ltd.	0.27
24. Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.	22.98
25. India Tourism & Devl. Corpn.	10.03
26. Kudermukh Iron & Ore Comp. Ltd.	1.00
27. Madras Refineries Ltd.	16.92
28. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	43.80*
29. Minerals and Metal Trdg. Corp. Ltd.	0.67
30. National Aluminium Ltd.	12.85
31. National Fertilizers Ltd.	2.35
32. National Mineral Devl. Corpn. Ltd.	1.62
33. Neyveli Lignite Corp.	6.01
34. Oil & Natural Gas Corp.	16.36
35. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fert. Ltd.	7.50
36. Shipping Corp. of India Ltd.	19.88
37. State Trading Corp.	8.97
38. Steel Authority of India Ltd.	14.18*
39. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	47.04
40. Modern Food Industries Ltd.	74.00

* Including Dilution of Govt. Share holding by Public Issue/GDR Issues.

** The balance equity is held by State Govts./other collaborators.

*[Translation]***Export of Flowers**

225. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of flowers exported during each of the last two years alongwith the value thereof;

(b) the names of the countries to which the export of flowers was made; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to boost export of flowers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The value of export of flowers during the last two years has been as follows :-

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	81.21
1998-99	97.21

Source : DGCI&S/APEDA

In view of the assorted nature of exports of flowers, uniform data on quantity of flowers exported is not available.

(b) The major countries to which Indian flowers have been exported are the Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Japan, Australia, Singapore, USA, UK and UAE.

(c) The Government has been taking various measures to boost exports of floricultural products. Some of the steps taken to enhance production and boost exports of floricultural products include :-

(i) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, quality testing equipments;

(ii) Providing financial assistance by APEDA, NHB etc. to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units (reefer containers), establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities etc.;

(iii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;

(iv) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs, flowers shows and exhibitions;

- (v) Setting up of walk-in-type cold storages and integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as floriculture and horticulture products; walk-in-type cold storage facilities have been set up at Guwahati and Calcutta Airports. Integrated cold storage and cargo handling facilities have been set up at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai Airports. Similar facilities are being established at Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram Airports.
- (vi) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including training to farmers for export production, quality control, packaging, transport, etc.
- (vii) Grant of air freight subsidy on exports of floriculture products.

[English]

Public Sector Undertakings in Power Sector

226. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of manufacturing Public Sector Undertakings engaged in the power sector (Thermal and Nuclear) are suffering adverse effects of profitability due to excessive carrying cost on account of interest, storage and handling, insurance, record-keeping, inspection and risk of deterioration in quality due to excessive inventory holdings; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to maintain the optimum level of inventory and its prescribed percentage of 33% to the annual consumption, minimising the avoidable expenditure to achieve higher turnover against the capital invested by these Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) As per Public Enterprises Survey 1997-98, the net profit earned by the PSUs engaged mainly in the manufacturing of capital goods/ machinery used by the Power Sector has increased to Rs. 632 crores during 1997-98, as compared to Rs. 422 crores during 1996-97 and the interest burden has come down from Rs. 287 crores to Rs. 176 crores during the same period. The inventory of raw materials and stores & spares held as on 31.3.98 was Rs. 779 crores which represent 23.5% of the total consumption of these items during 1997-98. The various

steps taken by PSUs to control inventory holdings include regulation of purchases, reducing the lead time, enhanced computerisation and continuous monitoring.

Housing Loan to People of Gujarat

227. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the housing loan provided by various Banks and Financial Institutions to the people of Gujarat particularly of Jamnagar district and city during the last three years;

(b) the terms and conditions for providing such loan;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for providing loans to the people of above State during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The details of housing loan sanctioned/dispensed by all public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions for the last three years in Jamnagar District of Gujarat as reported by State Bank of Saurashtra, the Lead Bank for the District of Jamnagar and Dena Bank, the convenor of SLBC for the State of Gujarat are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of States (District)	Years					
		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1.	Jamnagar City	250	3.47	284	4.22	412	6.15
2.	Jamnagar District (Excluding Jamnagar City)	43	0.49	79	1.08	188	2.88

(b) The terms and conditions for housing loan is indicated in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No State-wise targets are fixed for housing loans.

Statement

Housing Loan Scheme

- (i) Loan Amount : Up to Rs. 5 lakhs for rural/semi urban, Rs. 10 lakhs for urban/metro for construction of houses.

Up to Rs. 50,000 for repairs/renovation.

- (ii) Interest : For loans up to Rs. 2 lakh - Not exceeding Prime Lending Rate (PLR)
For loans above Rs. 2 lakh - Banks are free to determine rate of interest subject to minimum being PL R.
- (iii) Purpose : 1. For construction/purchase of a new residential house/tenement/flat/duplex etc. The proposed accommodation could be constructed by self, professional builders, co-operative housing society, housing boards etc.
2. The scheme can also be extended for purchase of old/secondhand houses. The house proposed to be purchased should normally not be older than 10 years.
- (iv) Eligibility : Any individual having independent source of income i.e. salary, professional income, income from business etc. adequate enough to meet financial commitment/repay the installments.
- (v) Loan Eligibility : 1. Maximum loan shall be passed at 36 times the net monthly income/take home pay of the applicant, in which case the repayment works out to be less than 50% of the income.
2. For business, agriculture/allied activities etc. Maximum amount of loan would be restricted to 3 times their net annual income.
- (vi) Margin Money : 20% irrespective of loan amount.
- (vii) Disbursement : Disbursement should be made in phases and should be linked with actual progress made in the construction.
- (viii) Security : Mortgage of property.

Indo-British Investment Mission

228. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether the Indo-British Trade Investment Mission held its meeting in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of the points discussed and decisions arrived at;

(c) the details of key sector identified for trade and economic co-operation in terms of fresh investment and adoption of new technologies; and

(d) the details of performance review of Indo-British economic co-operation and bilateral trade during the current year and emerging trend over the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) An Indo-British Trade & investment Mission jointly lead by Sir Jeremy Hanley, former Minister of State in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Sir Nicholas Fenn, former British High Commissioner to India visited New Delhi and Mumbai during January 16-20, 2000. The programme was co-ordinated by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

(b) and (c) The delegation had meetings with some Union Ministers and trade & Industry during which it was briefed about the economic liberalisation undertaken by India and the resultant opportunities that exist for stepping up bilateral trade and investment in areas such as banking and financial services, infrastructure, telecommunications, information technology, mining, oil & gas, petrochemicals, industrial manufacturing etc.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Details of Foreign Direct Investment approved from UK during the last three years and during 1999 (Up to 30.11.99)

(Amount Rs. in Million)	
Year	Foreign Direct Investment approved from U.K.
1996	15245.99
1997	44907.19
1998	32008.44
1999 (up to 30.11.99)	28734.51

Details of trade between India and U.K. during the last three years and during 1999-2000 (April-November)

(Amount Rs. in Crores)			
Year	Exports from India	Imports by India	Total trade
1	2	3	4
1996-97	7266.52	7578.08	14844.60
1997-98	7955.90	9081.45	17037.35

1	2	3	4
1998-99	8027.83	10792.71	18820.54
1999-2000 (April-Nov)	6189.52	7146.45	13335.97

Bank Credits to States

229. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have found wide and unusual disparities in credit disbursement by the scheduled commercial banks to the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the norms for the disbursement of credit; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to increase credit to deprived States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The credit deposit (CD) ratio of scheduled commercial banks as on the last Friday of March 1999 is given in the Statement enclosed. The CD Ratio of banks vary from State to State. Banks are expected to have a CD ratio of 60 per cent in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches separately on All India basis.

(c) The credit flow in a State/Region depends upon various factors like availability of adequate infra-structural facilities, credit absorption capacity of the region, development of medium and large industries, properly developed marketing facilities, conducive atmosphere for investment, entrepreneurial initiatives, law and order situation in the region, satisfactory recovery position of bank dues etc. Banks have been taking every possible step for improving the flow of credit in the States where CD ratio is low and the position in this regard is monitored in the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meetings of the respective States from time to time.

Statement

Credit Deposit (CD) Ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks as on last Friday of March, 1999

	State/Union Territory	CD Ratio (in per cent)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	68.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.1
3.	Assam	31.5
4.	Bihar	25.2
5.	Goa	25.0

1	2	3
6.	Gujarat	48.9
7.	Haryana	42.2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	22.0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	38.7
10.	Karnataka	64.5
11.	Kerala	41.1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	48.4
13.	Maharashtra	72.8
14.	Manipur	41.7
15.	Meghalaya	16.7
16.	Mizoram	20.6
17.	Nagaland	15.7
18.	NCT of Delhi	73.6
19.	Orissa	42.5
20.	Punjab	38.7
21.	Rajasthan	45.1
22.	Sikkim	20.0
23.	Tamil Nadu	93.0
24.	Tripura	29.4
25.	Uttar Pradesh	27.2
26.	West Bengal	43.8
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	16.6
28.	Chandigarh	83.8
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21.3
30.	Daman & Diu	17.6
31.	Lakshadweep	7.7
32.	Pondicherry	33.8
	All India	55.5

[Translation]

Outstanding Amount of Direct Taxes

230. SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outstanding amount of direct taxes during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for continuous increase in this amount; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for recovery of outstanding amount of direct taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) The figures of total amount of outstanding demand of Corporation Tax and Income Tax for the last three financial years (as on 31st March), are indicated below :-

Fin. years	Total Outstanding demand (Rs. in crores)
1996-97	33585.12
1997-98	41230.03
1998-99	44143.72

(b) The entire outstanding demand is not recoverable. This amount includes demands not fallen due, demands paid but pending verification, demands stayed by courts/Settlement Commission/Appellate Tribunals and income Tax Authorities etc. The major reason for accumulating large arrears is on account of multiplicity of litigations on the same issue in different assessment years.

(c) The recovery of tax is a continuous process involving detailed statutory procedures. These include charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment of bank accounts, attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties etc. Periodical review and monitoring of cases of high demands are made by higher authorities on a continuous basis and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting the recovery of taxes.

[English]

Corruption in Departments of Ministry of Finance

231. 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 "Catch the Whales, let off the mackerels" appearing in 'The Indian Express' dated December 20, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts reported in the news-item;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to root out the rampant prevalent corruption in other Departments under his Ministry like Central Excise and Income Tax consequent to evasion taxes due to connivance, nexus amassing ill-gotten wealth both by officials and the business community?

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

(b) The news item mainly refers to action taken by the Government in respect of the CBI raid at Sahar International Airport and alleged smuggling of 1300 mobile hand sets worth Rs. 1.5 crores at Sahar Airport.

(c) 4 Officers have been placed under suspension, and 10 officers have been transferred.

(d) Steps have been taken for improving the vigilance administration, based on instructions issued from time to time, by the Central Vigilance Commission. Instructions have been issued to the field formations for toning up administration from vigilance angle. The Central Board of Excise & Customs have launched an on-line vigilance alert system to deal with complaints from the public.

Mishandling of Currency Notes

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

(a) whether currency notes are being spoiled/damaged by bank officials/others by writing on it and stapling it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to check the mishandling of currency notes so as to ensure its longevity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) There has been a practice of cashiers and public writing the number of pieces of the notes tendered in the water-mark window which spoils the notes. The note packets fresh and re-issuable were being stapled which reduced the life of the notes.

(c) The RBI has issued instructions to *all the commercial banks* not to staple the note packets. Instead, the note packets fresh or re-issuable should be banded. The commercial banks have in principle agreed to stop the practice of stapling the re-issuable note packets. However, this would take some time as procedure for such changeover is required to be worked out.

**Review of Progress of Ongoing
Projects in Maharashtra**

233. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of implementation of ongoing projects such as HPTs/L.PTs/Studios/upgradation DD Stations/establishment of Akashwani in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including projects completed, likely to spill over next year and provision of funds made/likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The progress of implementation of ongoing projects is monitored and reviewed regularly at various levels in Prasar Bharati.

(b) In so far as AIR is concerned, out of 8 projects, presently under implementation in Maharashtra, 4 projects have been completed and the remaining 4 projects are at different stages of implementation at a total Capital cost of Rs. 20.02 crores and are likely to be completed in the next year onwards in phases. Out of 16 Doordarshan projects, presently under implementation in Maharashtra at a total Capital cost of Rs. 39.41 crores, 4 projects have so far been completed and the remaining 12 projects, which are at various stages of implementation, are likely to be completed in phases by the end of the next year.

Review of Export Policies

234. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a working group consisting of the Government officials and trade representatives for the timely review of various policies to boost the exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of incentives provided by the Government to boost the exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has already constituted Board of Trade consisting of Government officials and trade representatives to advise the Government on Policy measures for preparation and implementation of both short and long terms plans for increasing exports as well as for reviewing export performance of various sectors.

(c) Various facilities have been provided by the Government from time to time for promoting exports which include, amongst others, import of capital goods at concessional/zero duty under EPCG scheme, duty free import

of inputs required for export production under Advance Licence, recognition of exporters as Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and Super Star Trading House, green card facility to eligible exporters and setting up of units under EOU/EPZ scheme.

Government Debt

235. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has expressed its concern over the growing Government debt and deterioration in its finances; and

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

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

(b) The action taken by the Government will be reflected in Budget, 2000-01.

News Reading from AIR National Channel

236. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to stop news reading in regional languages from AIR National Channel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have consulted with State Governments and other experts in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) National channel of All India Radio broadcasts News bulletins only in Hindi and English.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Vulgarity in Doordarshan Programmes

237. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Kanoon Ka Khuleaam Majak Ura Rahe Hein Vigyapan" appearing in the "Navbharat Times" dated February 1, 2000;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item relates to certain advertisements being carried by private satellite channels in violation of laws.

(c) Relevant laws are to be enforced by the local authorities of the respective State Governments.

[Translation]

DD Transmission Centres

238. SHRI DHARAM RAJ SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of DD Transmission Centre in Allahabad has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be commissioned; and

(d) the programmes likely to be telecast through this transmission centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) A High Power Transmitter is functioning at Allahabad since 1983. However, a TV studio project has been completed and is technically ready for commissioning.

(c) The studio would be commissioned as soon as the requisite staff is in position. Prasar Bharati has already initiated necessary action in this regard.

(d) All types of indoor programmes can be produced in this studio.

Loans to Small Farmers from Banks

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

(a) the target set by various scheduled banks for providing loans to small and marginal farmers and agricultural sector in Rajasthan during the last three years alongwith the target achieved;

(b) whether small farmers are facing difficulties in getting loans from banks; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate loans to farmers in the State for development of agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) As per the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), all scheduled commercial banks in the country are required to lend 18 percent of their net bank credit for agriculture under the priority sector. 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. However, the data relating to loans outstanding to small and marginal farmers in Rajasthan during the last three years, as reported by RBI, is as under :

Year ended	Loans Outstanding (Rs. in crore)
June 1996	207.37
June 1997	211.19
June 1998	247.25

(b) No, Sir. No such instances have come to the notice of the Government.

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

[English]

Allotment of New Customs and Central Excise Numbers

240. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Association of Chartered Accountants urged the Government to simplify the procedure for allotment of new customs and Central excise numbers without insisting on the permanent account number (PAN) of the I.T. Department;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) No such reference appears to have been received from the Association of Chartered Accountants urging the Government to simplify the procedure for allotment of new customs and Central excise numbers without insisting on the permanent account number (PAN) of the I.T. Department.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

State Share in Taxes

241. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tenth Finance Commission's recommendations on the devolution of States' share of revenues from Central income tax and excise duties is not being implemented; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government has approved in principle the Alternative Scheme of devolution of Central Taxes recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission subject to certain modifications. Under the approved scheme, a prescribed percentage of the net proceeds of almost all Central Taxes (excluding Stamp Duty, Excise Duty on medicinal/toilet items, Central Sales Tax, Consignment tax and Surcharge) will be assigned to the States in lieu of existing share in Income Tax and Basic/Special Excise Duties, Additional Excise Duties in lieu of Sales Tax on tobacco, cotton and sugar and Grants in lieu of Tax on Railway passenger fares. This will be effective from 1st April 1996 to 31st March, 2000. The percentage share of net proceeds during 1996-97 to 1999-2000 will be such that the States' share is 29% of the gross proceeds. The percentage share of States is to be reviewed by successive Finance Commission instead of freezing it for fifteen years as suggested by the Tenth Finance Commission.

Complaint Received by SEBI

242. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI has acted promptly on complaints from small investors on non-payment of dividend and replacement of lost certificates;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received by SEBI during 1998-99;

(c) the number of such complaints redressed by SEBI;

(d) the reasons for non-solution of remaining complaints; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to re-orient SEBI to be more sensitive to share holder matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) According to SEBI, under their investors' grievances redressal mechanism, complaints received by SEBI from investors against companies are acknowledged and a reference number is sent to the complainant. Each complaint is taken up with the concerned company with a periodical follow up by SEBI with a view to appropriately redressing the complaint. SEBI have informed that the rate of redressal including those pertaining to non-payment of dividend and issue of duplicate shares by companies is 95.55 per cent.

(b) and (c) During the year 1998-99, SEBI received a total of 2685 complaints pertaining to non-receipt of share certificates against duly executed indemnity bond sent to the company and a total of 22,668 complaints pertaining to non-receipt of dividend. During the same period, 2590 and 24,087 complaints of the aforesaid types respectively were redressed through SEBI. However, these resolved grievances include grievances brought forward from the previous period.

(d) The reasons for non redressal of grievances by companies are generally companies becoming sick. Closing of operation and financial difficulties.

(e) SEBI, the statutory market regulator, has been established to protect investors in securities. SEBI is sensitive to matters relating to small investors. This can be inferred from the rate of redressal of grievances of investors pursuant to efforts made by SEBI.

Export of Traditional Items

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

(a) whether the exports of traditional items like tea, coffee, rice, leather, and minerals have declined during the last one year, till date;

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

(c) whether any steps have been taken to protect the exports of traditional items; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics

provisional data, the exports of tea, coffee, rice, leather and ores and minerals during April-Oct, 1999-2000 as compared to the same period last year are as follows :

(US\$ Million)

Item	April-Oct 1998-99	April-Oct 1999-2000
1	2	3
Tea	325	261
Coffee	284	189
Rice	807	384
Leather & Manufactures	956	883
Ores & Minerals	455	438

The reasons for decline in exports are international factors such as recession in the world market, economic crisis in South-East Asian countries, Russian and some of the Latin American countries, infrastructural constraints, other impediments like low unit value realisation, lower production and increased domestic demand for items like tea.

(c) and (d) A number of steps taken to protect the exports of traditional items include 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 bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions, participation in major trade fairs etc.

Turn Around Plan of PGFIL

244. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has directed the calcutta based Peerless General Finance and investment Limited (PGFIL) to submit a turn around plan in the context of the Company's non-performance assets and its low deposit mobilization;

(b) if so, whether the company has since complied with this directive to the satisfaction of the R.B.I.; and

(c) if not, the action proposed by the Government against the company?

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

(b) RBI have reported that Peerless General Finance and Investment Ltd. (PGFIL) has since complied fully with the statutory requirements in respect of paragraph 6(1) of Residuary Non-Banking Companies Directions, 1987

regarding protection to depositors by investing in the approved categories of securities. However, the progress reported in its quarterly action reports is not considered up-to the desired extent in some areas.

(c) PGFIL has been advised by RBI on 4th October, 1999 to exert more efforts in achieving the targets under turn around plan in the areas where progress is not up to the desired extent.

Multinational Companies in Press/Electronic Media

245. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to allow multinational companies in press/Electronic media; and

(b) if so, the conditions laid down by the Government for the multinational companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Government has not taken any decision to allow multinational companies in the print media. Terrestrial FM radio broadcasting and electronic broadcasting has also not been opened up. Only activities relating to production of software and marketing of TV rights, air time, development etc. are available to foreign/multinational companies with the following conditions:

- (i) all future laws on broadcasting will be applicable to them and they will not claim any privilege or protection by virtue of this approval; and
- (ii) they will not undertake any broadcasting from Indian soil unless specifically permitted to do so.

[Translation]

Backlog of Reserved Posts

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to fill up the reserved backlog of other backward classes (OBC) in the banks, public enterprises, public undertakings and financial institutions by launching a special recruitment drive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to fill up these reserved backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB BIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. The Supreme Court in the case of *Indira Sawhney Versus Union of India*, has inter-alia held that the number of vacancies that can be filled on the basis of reservation including carried forward reserved vacancies should in no case exceed 50% of the total vacancies filled during a year. In view of this limitation imposed by the court orders, the Govt. have discontinued Special Recruitment Drives.

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

(c) Instructions have been issued by the Government to ensure timely filling up of reserved posts to avoid accumulation of backlog. The need to follow the procedure prescribed in this regard has also been emphasized. The recruitment and representation position of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the nationalised banks/financial institutions is reviewed through comprehensive proforma by the Boards of Directors of each of the nationalised banks every six months and the position is being reported to the Government. Monitoring is also done in the Department of Public Enterprises regarding public enterprises/public undertakings.

Smuggling of Vitamin-A

247. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "Vitamin 'A' being smuggled in grab of prawn feed" appearing in the 'The Pioneer' dated November, 27, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of the fact reported therein;

(c) whether the Government are incurring a loss of Rs. 2400 crore annually due to this smuggling; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of Vitamin 'A'?

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

(b) The Import Policy for Vitamin A and Vitamin AD3 is Restricted. However, under the Advance Licensing Scheme, against the export of certain specified varieties of Shrimps (Headon, Headless - Block Frozen/IQF/Chilled) duty free import of the following items are allowed as inputs, namely, either Shrimps/Prawn Feed, or, certain specified ingredients of prawn feed, such as Soya meal, Squid Liver Oil/Powder, Wheat Gluton, Soya lecithin, Pro-biotics, Immunostimulants, Vitamin Pre-mixes consisting of Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Vitamin A/AD3, Vitamin B-1, Vitamin B2/B6 and Mineral mixes. Import of Vitamin Pre-mixes and Mineral Mixes are allowed only in mixed form along with Fillers and it should essentially contain Vitamin C. Also, quantity of

Vitamin A and AD3 taken together should not be more than 1.5% of Vitamin Pre-mixes on weight basis. Further, Vitamin pre-mixes of two or more vitamins indicated above, subject to the fulfilment of conditions as above can also be allowed. The Advance Licensing Scheme provides for import of Vitamins only in Pre-mixed form along with the mineral mixes and fillers. Unauthorised import of Vitamins is therefore possible in such cases only through misdeclaration of description of imported inputs. It is possible to detect such cases of actual misdeclaration/fraud only through intensive physical examination of the contents of import consignments of Prawn Feed/Animal Feed by the Customs Authorities so that items like Vitamin A/AD3 did not pass through under the grab of Prawn Feed/Animal Feed.

58 advance licences (including split up licences) pertaining to three firms of Bhubneshwar, which were apparently not in conformity with the provisions of the policy, were found to have been issued by the Cuttack licensing office for a total value of more than Rs. 200 crores. In these cases, it has been decided to issue Show Cause Notice proposing cancellation of the licences as well as for imposition of fiscal penalties. In some cases, the Adjudication proceedings have been completed and penalties have been imposed. The firm have gone to Bombay and Cuttack High Courts against imposition of penalties.

(c) Although certain instances have come to the notice of the Government where attempts were made to import Vitamin 'A' unauthorisedly by resorting to misdeclaration or misclassification, it is not correct to say that the Government has incurred a loss of Rs. 2400 crores annually, as stated in the news report.

(d) In order to thwart such attempts of unauthorised import of pure Vitamins by misdeclaring the same as Prawn Feed/Animal Feed, a clarification was issued by DGFT to all licensing Authorities/Commissioner of Customs stating that Vitamins like Vitamin A/AD3 etc. cannot be allowed to be imported as Prawn/Shrimp/Poultry Feed under Heading No. 23.09 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import items. It was further clarified by a Policy Circular dt. 25.11.99 that only Pre-mixes containing Vitamins or pro-vitamins, aminoacids, coccidiostats etc. for use exclusively in animal feed as supplements would continue to be classified under the said Heading 23.09 as per Explanatory Notes to harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System.

Show Cause Notices have been issued in some cases where certain firms had managed to obtain licences which were not strictly in accordance with the Standard Input-Output Norms. Action has already been initiated proposing cancellation of such advance licences.

[English]

Payment to Overseas Lawyers in Foreign Exchange

248. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to permit companies to carry out payments in foreign exchange to their Overseas Lawyers and bankers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian companies have been unable to firm up their loan agreements; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) As per guidelines on External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), Indian companies are permitted to make payments in foreign exchange to their overseas lawyers and bankers from out-of-pocket expenses and this is provided for as a part of ECB approvals. Operating and out-of-pocket expenses incurred for potential ECBs that do not result in loans, are allowed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as per prevailing RBI's guidelines on current account transactions, subject to a cap.

Import of Cotton

249. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cotton import by private millers during the current crop season is likely to be higher despite the Government's decision to ban on import of cotton from Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expected production of cotton during the current year;

(d) whether the ban on import of cotton from neighbouring Pakistan would divert the attention of importers;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the cotton advisory board has projected imports to fall to five lakh bales during the current year; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) As per preliminary estimates of the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), in its meeting held on 19/11/1999, the import of cotton during the current cotton season 1999-2000 (October-September) would be around 5 lakh bales (of 170 Kg. each) as compared to 7.87 lakhs bales imported during 1998-99 (October-September).

(c) As per the estimates of the CAB (as on 19.11.1999), cotton production for the current cotton year 1999-2000 (October-September) is around 175 lakhs bales (170 Kg. each).

(d) and (e) Depending on the price and quality parameters of the cotton, it is likely that some of the intending importers of Pakistan cotton may look to other cotton exporting countries for fulfilment of their requirement in view of the ban on import of Pakistan cotton.

(f) and (g) The Cotton Advisory Board, in its meeting held on 19-11-1999, has made preliminary estimates of imports of 05 lakh bales (of 170 Kg. each) during the current cotton year 1999-2000 as against 7.87 lakh bales during last cotton year 1998-99, mainly on the basis of domestic prices of cotton vis-a-vis price of cotton in the international market, estimates of domestic cotton production and likely consumption in the domestic market. Such estimates are reviewed from time to time.

Import of Cotton

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

(a) whether the Government have increased the import of cotton during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the total bales of cotton imported during 1999-2000;

(c) the extent of increase in the import of cotton during 1999-2000; as compared to the previous two financial year;

(d) whether the production of cotton has increased in these years;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the Government proposes to review the import policy of cotton, in view of increase in production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Import of cotton is under Open General Licence (OGL) since 19th April, 1994. However, from the current year's budget an import duty of 5% (with 10% surcharge) has been imposed. The user mills and others relating to cotton and textile industry can import cotton within the framework of the Government policy.

(b) and (c) Import contracts of 10,95,360 bales (of 170 kg. each) have been registered with the Textile Commissioner during the period 1.1.2000 to 15.2.2000, however, the details of the actual import are yet to be reported. During the cotton years 1997-98 and 1998-99 import of cotton was 4.13 lakh bales and 7.87 lakhs bales respectively.

(d) and (e) The production of cotton during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under :

Year (Oct-Sept.)	Production (In lakh bales of 170 kg. each)
1997-98	158
1998-99	163
1999-2000	175*

* as estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board in November, 1999.

(f) The import policy of cotton is reviewed by the Government from time to time. Import of cotton has been made compulsory for registration with the Textile Commissioner, from 23-12-1999. Further, the Government has imposed ban on import of cotton into India from Pakistan since 11/01/2000 on phyto-sanitary grounds.

[Translation]

Wholesale Price Index

251. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to change the present wholesale price index;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the differences between the two indices and the reason therefor?

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

(b) With a view to reflecting adequately the changes that have taken place in the economy since 1981/82, a Working Group was constituted to consider the modalities for revision of the existing Wholesale Price Index series (WPI) with base 1981-82 = 100. The Group has now submitted its report to the Government and the new WPI series with base 1993-94 will be made operational very shortly.

(c) **Comparison of the new and the existing WPI series**

Details	New WPI	Existing WPI
1	2	3
Base Year	1993-94	1981-82
No. of items	435	447
No. of Price Quotations	1918	2317
Weights		
All Comm.	100	100

1	2	3
Primary Articles	22.02	32.29
Fuel Group	14.23	10.66
Manufactured Products	63.75	57.04
Items added	136	75
Items deleted	150	54

— A more recent base year 1993-94 has been adopted so that the new series would capture the structural changes that have undergone in the economy since 1981-82.

— The composition of the new series has been rationalised by incorporating newly emerging and important items and deleting some unimportant items.

— Items with traded value of Rs. 120 crores or more as per Annual Survey of Industries 1993-94 are included in the manufactured products group in the new series. As against this, the 1981-82 series, had included items with value of output of Rs. 20 crores or more as per ASI 1980-81.

— Due to the relatively slower growth of the agricultural sector, the weight of the primary group has declined while that of manufactured products group and fuel group has increased.

[English]

Export of Tea, Coffee, Spices and Tobacco

252. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of countries to which coffee, tea, cardamom, chilli and tobacco exported during each of the last three years alongwith the quantity thereof;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the percentage share of India in the world export of these items; and

(d) the States in the country which contribute maximum share of above items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The details of country-wise figures of export are published by the DGCI&S, Calcutta and the same is available in the Parliament House Library.

(c) Percentage share in the world exports during the year 1998-99 of coffee was 4.46%, cardamom 3.7%, chilli 54%. The share in respect of tea during the year 1998 was 16.7% and for unmanufactured Tobacco it was 5%.

(d) The maximum contribution to the export of coffee and cardamom comes from the States of Karnataka and Kerala respectively. In the case of chilli and tobacco the maximum contribution comes from Andhra Pradesh.

Tea is exported in blended form either in bulk or in packets. In the process, origin of tea is lost at the time of blending and hence it is not possible to identify the States which contribute maximum share of tea exported from India. The maximum production of Tea however is in the State of Assam.

Assistance to Develop Textile Sector

253. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Union Government to develop textile industry in various States during the last two years, particularly those functioning in backward areas, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to develop the industry further in the Eastern and North-Eastern States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Union Government acts as facilitator for development of textile industry in the country. The expenditure incurred by the Union Government under plan head during 1997-98 and 1998-99 were to the tune of Rs. 254.84 crores and Rs. 233.36 crores respectively.

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. 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 and financial norms of the concerned Financial Institutions. Government funding is limited to reimbursement of interest at 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme.

Apart from the above, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton to improve the production, productivity and quality of cotton, schemes for upgradation and establishment of new laboratories, liberalisation of Industrial Licensing Policy for setting up new industrial units and expansion of the existing units, etc.

Certain other important schemes by the Union Govern-

ment to develop the textile industry in the country, including Eastern and North-Eastern States, are given below :

- (i) Handloom Sector : Workshed-cum Housing Schemes; Project Package Scheme; Handloom Development Centres/Quality Dyeing Units; Group Insurance Schemes etc.
- (ii) Powerloom Sector : Establishment of Powerloom Service Centres & Computer Aided Design Centres; Group Insurance Scheme etc.
- (iii) Silk Sector : Project for Development of Sericulture; Action Plan for Sericulture Development in North-East States; Catalytic Development Programmes etc.
- (iv) Wool Sector : integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project; Area Based Project for Wool and Woolens Development; Wool Testing Centres and Weaving and Design Training Centre etc.

Website of CBEC

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

(a) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has launched a Website to invite complaints from clients dealing with Customs;

(b) if so, the extent to which this Website been useful;

(c) whether there is no confidentiality involved; and

(d) if so, the purpose of CBEC in floating such a website?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Central Board of Excise and Customs has launched a computerised Vigilance Alert System to deal with complaints against the officers & staff of the Department from the public. It is in the early stages of implementation. Steps have been taken to ensure confidentiality in the system.

New Schemes for upgradation and Modernisation of Doordarshan Network

255. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce some new schemes to upgrade and modernise Doordarshan network in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the Doordarshan Kendras proposed to be upgraded, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI

ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Upgradation and modernisation of existing facilities is a continuous process and schemes in this regard are formulated and implemented from time to time depending on the availability of resources. At present, scheme for upgradation of 2 studios and 60 transmitters are at different stages of implementation. A statement showing State-wise details is enclosed.

Statement

Details of location where facilities are being upgraded

S. No.	Name of State	Modernisation of Studio	Increasing power of HPT	LPT to HPT	VLPT to HPT	VLPT to LPT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	Rajmundry	Warangal	--	--
2.	Assam			Guwahati DD2 Silcher DD2	--	--
3.	Bihar	Ranchi		Jamshedpur Patna DD2	--	--
4.	Goa			Panaji DD2		
5.	Gujarat			Surat Vadodara		
6.	Himachal Pradesh			Shimla DD2		
7.	J & K			Kathua Jammu DD2 Srinagar (Kashir channel)	Naushera Samba Kupwara Gurej Tithwal	Poonch Udhampur
8.	Karnataka			Hassan Mangalore Mysore Raichur		
9.	Kerala		Calicut (Pmt.) Cannanore Cochin DD2 Trivendrum DD2			
10.	Madhya Pradesh			Ambikapur Guna Shahdol Bhopal DD2		
11.	Maharashtra			Chandrapur Jalgaon Ratnagiri Nagpur DD2		
12.	Manipur			Churachandpur		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Meghalaya			Tura DD2		
14.	Orissa		Sambalpur	Sambalpur DD2		Nayagarh
15.	Punjab		Fazlika Amritsar			
16.	Rajasthan		Barmer	Ajmer Jaipur DD2		
17.	Tamil Nadu			Kumbakonam		
18.	Tripura			Agartala DD2		
19.	Uttar Pradesh			Banda Lakhimpur Lucknow DD2		Gopeshwar
20.	West Bengal			Balurghat kharagpur Krishnanagar Shantiniketan Murshidabad DD2		Jhalda
21.	Delhi	Delhi				
22.	Pondichery			Pondicherry		

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Banking Sector

256. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to allow foreign investment in the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the names of banks in which the Government propose to allow the foreign investment; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Foreign investment in nationalised banks is governed in terms of the provisions of section 3(2D) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 & 1980 which provides that no individual or company resident outside India shall at anytime hold or acquire by transfer or otherwise shares of nationalised banks more than 20 percent of their paid up capital. There is no specific provision in the State Bank of India Act, 1955 regarding holding of shares by Non Resident Indians (NRIs) or Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs). However, RBI has

prescribed similar ceiling of 20 percent in case of State Bank of India also, as provided for nationalised banks under the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980.

Production and Sale of Cars

257. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the production and sale of cars has been increasing constantly in the country for the last few years;

(b) if so, the total number of cars manufactured during the years; and

(c) the number of cars sold in the country and in foreign countries during the above period and till the end of December, 1999 during the current financial year, separately, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Since liberalisation in 1993-94, the production and sale of passenger cars have been increasing constantly except during 19978-98 and in

1998-99, when there was a decline. However, production has again picked up during the current financial year. The production, sale and export of cars during the last four years and for 1999-2000 (up to December) is given below :-

	(in nos.)				
Passenger car	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Apr.-Dec.)
Production	348240	411145	401002	390709	407535
Sale	345340	411305	417720	409966	456238
Export	28851	37161	29705	25464	14657

[English]

Closure of Weak Banks

258. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMER :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry have criticized the recommendations of CII to close down the weak public sector banks;

(b) if so, whether the Government have not extended freedom to the banks to recover their dues from the defaulting corporates;

(c) if so, the new initiatives Government propose to take in this regard;

(d) the total outstanding Non-Performing Assets of Banks and Financial Institutions as on 31 December 1999, sector-wise; and

(e) the percentage of bank recovery dues written off during the last three years, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The CII have withdrawn the recommendation, of a Task Force appointed by it, regarding the closure of the weak public sector banks. There had been varied reaction on the recommendation of C.I.I. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has reported that they have not criticized any such recommendation.

(b) Banks are totally free to recover their dues from all defaulters.

(c) As per the directions of the Reserve Bank of

India/Government of India, the Public Sector Banks have taken various steps not only to check the fresh incidence of NPAs but also to ensure recovery of NPAs. These steps include, inter-alia, pursuing recovery through Debt Recovery Tribunals effectively, upgradation of credit appraisal skills, preparation of documents of loan recovery policy, negotiated settlements to ensure maximum recovery at minimum expenses, setting up of Recovery Cells at Head Offices etc.

(d) The amount of gross NPAs of Public Sector Banks as on 31.3.99 was Rs. 51,711 crores. The amount of NPAs of Financial Institutions as on 31.03.99 was Rs. 16,624 crores. As per the available information, the sector-wise break-up of gross NPAs of Public Sector Banks as on 31.03.99 was as under :-

Name of Sector	Amount (Rs. in crores)
Public Sector Units	Rs. 1495.50
Non-Priority Sector	Rs. 27607.89
Priority Sector	Rs. 22607.11

(e) RBI's data reporting system does not generate this information sector-wise.

State Bank of India

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

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to reduce the stake of the Reserve Bank of India in the State Bank of India;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the maximum stake that foreign funds can hold in the State Bank of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The committee on Banking Sector Reforms (Narasimham Committee-II) has recommended reduction of minimum level of Reserve Bank of India's shareholding in State Bank of India from the existing level of 55% to 33% with a view to enable the bank to raise equity from market to enhance its capital base to be able to achieve prescribed levels of capital adequacy norms. The recommendation is under examination.

(c) and (d) There is no specific provision in the State Bank of India Act, 1955 regarding holding of shares by Non Resident Indians (NRIs) or Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs). However, a limit of 20% on the lines of Section

3(2D) of Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 & 1980, has been made applicable in the case of State Bank of India also.

Rolling Settlement System

260. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that SEBI's move to expand the rolling settlement (daily) system adding 100 more scrips to the list of ten scrips (at present) has been opposed by the brokers and investors;

(b) if so, whether the promoters of companies are opposing the move since the valuation of their shares under the system are being adversely affected;

(c) if so, whether SEBI's move is derogatory in nature and will result in drop in volumes and consequent adverse effect on liquidity;

(d) if so, whether the volume in ten scrips which are already in compulsory rolling settlement list have declined sharply;

(e) if so, the reasons for which SEBI is adamant to introduce 100 more scrips under rolling settlement system; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to interfere in this matter and defer the move of SEBI in the light of present growth of capital markets since 1999, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) According to information furnished by SEBI, no broker or investor has opposed SEBI's move to expand rolling settlement. Further, excepting in one case, no promoter has approached SEBI and opposed rolling settlement.

(c) and (d) According to information provided by SEBI, on several days the trading volume, delivery and also price of some of the scrips in the first lot of 10 scrips has been higher than the average volumes prior to the introduction of rolling settlement, based on data of the average of six settlements.

(e) and (f) Rolling settlement has several benefits for investors. It reduces risk and speeds up clearing and settlement giving investors greater liquidity. It is for this reason that rolling settlement prevails in all developed markets and in almost all emerging markets. The transition to rolling settlement would bring trading practices in India's capital markets closer to international standards.

[Translation]

Printing of Currency Notes Abroad

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

(a) the details of currency notes got printed abroad by the Government during each of the last three years alongwith number and denominations thereof, country-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred on printing of these currency notes during the above period;

(c) the reasons for getting these currency notes printed from the foreign countries;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to discontinue the printing of currency notes from the foreign countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The details are as under :

Denomination	Supplier	Country	Year	Quantity in million pieces
1	2	3	4	5
500	Geisecke & Devrient	Germany	1997-98	245.50
	-do		1998-99	541.50
	Francois Charles Oberthur	France	1997-98	133.60
	-do-		1998-99	348.40
	B.A. Bank Note	Canada	1997-98	50.00
	-do		1998-99	281.00
Total				1600.00

1	2	3	4	5
100	De La Rue Currency & Security Print	U.K.	1997-98	950.00
	-do-		1998-99	142.00
	Debden Security Printing Ltd.	U.K.	1997-98	90.00
	-do-		1998-99	183.00
	American Bank Note Co.		1997-98	160.00
	-do-		1998-99	475.00
Total				2000.00

(b) The information is as under :-

Period	Expenditure in Rupees
1.4.97 to 31.3.98	196,33,79,712=00
1.4.98 to 31.3.99	188,14,99,494=00
Total	384,48,79,206=00

(c) The above quantities of notes had to be imported as a one time measure for meeting the demand supply gap.

(d) and (e) Government does not have any proposal under consideration for further import of printed notes from abroad.

[English]

New Channels on Doordarshan

262. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan has recently launched some new channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other new channel is proposed to be launched in the near future including an exclusive DD channel for documentaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, 'Sports Channel' and 'News Channel' of Doordarshan were launched w.e.f March 20, 1999 and August 15, 1999 respectively. Besides this, an Educational Channel 'Gyan Darshan' has been launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Human

Resource Development, Department of Education on January 26, 2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Air and TV Transmitters on Indo-Bangladesh Border

263. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of steps taken by the Government since June, 1998 till now to strengthen the AIR and Television transmission in border areas of the country to combat the anti-India campaign, particularly by Bangladesh;

(b) the number of transmitters installed during this period in the bordering areas of Bangladesh;

(c) whether the Government are aware that as the maximum area of Karimganj District in Assam falls in Bangladesh border and it is most essential to install AIR Station and Television Centre at Karimganj for combating the anti-India campaign by Bangladesh there; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government propose to take such steps to strengthen the AIR & Television network there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) A special package for expansion of AIR and Doordarshan services in Jammu & Kashmir and border districts of Punjab has been approved by the Government in July, 1999 at an outlay of Rs. 430 crores. Since June, 1998, three TV Transmitter projects in the districts bordering Bangladesh have been commissioned to provide coverage to the border areas of the country. In addition, 44 TV Transmitter projects including 13 projects in the districts bordering Bangladesh are presently under implementation in the border districts of the country. In

respect of AIR, 5 AIR Transmitters in the districts bordering Bangladesh have been commissioned since June, 1998. In addition, 24 AIR Transmitter projects including 9 projects in the districts bordering Bangladesh are presently under various stages of implementation in the border districts of the country.

(c) and (d) Presently large parts of Karimganj District receive Radio and TV (DD-I) coverage from Transmitters located at Silchar. Metro Channel Services (DD-II) would also become available in parts of Karimganj District consequent upon commissioning of a High Power TV Transmitter presently under implementation at Silchar.

Agricultural Exports

264. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

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

(a) whether the agricultural exports have shrunk

during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps for quality upgradation to ensure fungus and bacterial free agricultural products to avoid rejection abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the agricultural exports to help the agricultural sector and to increase the employment and opportunities in the food processing and other related industries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) International trade in agricultural commodities is dependent on prevailing international demand coinciding with domestic ability to supply, prevailing world prices of commodities, the varieties being traded and consumer preferences. The value of agro items exported, excluding marine products, tea, coffee, rubber, castor oil and cotton during the last two years is as below :

1997-98	Rs. 15169 crores	April-Oct 1997-98	Rs. 7457.58 crores
1998-99	Rs. 15960 crores	April-Oct 1998-99	Rs. 8712.62 crores
		April-Oct 1999-2000	Rs. 7702.78 crores

Source : DGCI & S Calcutta

(c) and (d) As a measure to ensure fungus & bacterial free agricultural products to prevent rejection abroad, schemes have been developed for compulsory inspection and testing groundnuts for aflatoxin. The sampling & testing methodologies and the nomination of laboratories found capable to carry out checks and certify with reliability has been completed. Assistance is being extended to improve drying of agriculture products so as to ensure an environment that discourages development of fungus and bacteria in the product.

(e) The steps taken for enhancement of export of agricultural and processed food products including quality upgradation, augmenting employment opportunities in the food processing/agro industries inter alia include :

(i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers through demonstration, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers;

(ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units;

(iii) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for eliminating pest incubation in the product especially mangoes for gaining access to overseas markets;

(iv) 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 & floriculture products;

(v) providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, lack of contamination & ensuring freedom from bacteria & fungi;

(vi) Provision of soft loans for setting up of sheds granting/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(vii) 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);

(viii) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits and floricultural products;

(ix) Arranging promotional campaigns such as

buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

(x) Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.

Second Generation Reforms

265. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps since been taken to carry out second generation reforms indicating the main objectives to be achieved through these reforms and the modus operandi to be adopted for the purpose;

(b) the target fixed under the second generation reforms planned;

(c) whether the Government had indicated at the recent WEF annual meet at Davos a plan to further push ahead economic reforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The goal of economic reforms is "faster growth with employment and equity". To achieve this, rapid and broad-based growth of 7 to 8 percent is required which will help eradicate poverty and unemployment. As outlined in the Presidents' Address to Parliament on October 25, 1999, the nation's re-oriented strategy of development will have to rest on a triad in which the Government provides a strong policy and regulatory leadership, the private sector brings the dynamism and efficiency of the competitive environment; and local democratic institutions and the civil society brings enthusiastic participation by the people. This strategy demands a new pro-development mindset in every section of society, polity and administration, creating a strong national consensus for a bold departure from the past.

(c) and (d) The Finance Minister indicated at the World Economic Forum annual meet at Davos that the Government was committed to pursue reforms and foster higher economic growth with employment and equity.

[Translation]

Kisan Credit Cards

266. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there had been any proposal to provide loan facility to farmers under 'Farmers Credit Card Scheme' as per the declaration made in the Union Budget of 1998-99; and

(b) if so, the number of card holders and amount of loan sanctioned under 'Farmers Credit Scheme' by Regional Rural Banks during 1998-99, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) In pursuance of the announcement made in the Union Budget for the year 1998-99, public sector banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks in the country have introduced the Kisan Credit Card Scheme under which credit cards are being issued to eligible farmers to meet their financial obligations in purchase of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. and also draw cash for their production needs.

(b) As reported by National Bank for agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), 121834 Kisan Credit Cards have been issued by 155 Regional Rural Banks and the amount of loan sanctioned was Rs. 270.51 crores as on 31st December, 1999 (latest available). The State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and the amount sanctioned as on 31st December, 1999 (latest available)

Sr. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of RRBs.	Cards Issued	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	10114	1537.20
2.	Assam	3	181	34.12
3.	Bihar	20	2238	367.40
4.	Gujarat	7	5040	1173.69
5.	Haryana	4	3834	1989.63
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	104	39.89
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	201	28.11
8.	Karnataka	11	19142	4331.23
9.	Kerala	2	40162	7090.39
10.	Madhya Pradesh	19	3457	972.45
11.	Maharashtra	6	3500	875.00

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Orissa	8	13888	1801.85
13.	Punjab	5	1801	931.55
14.	Rajasthan	12	5381	2371.22
15.	Tamil Nadu	3	721	144.26
16.	Tripura	1	3	0.31
17.	Uttar Pradesh	26	11434	3292.35
18.	West Bengal	9	633	88.25
Total		155	121834	27050.9

[English]

Restructuring of DFP and DAVP

267. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp the Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) and the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds allocated to DFP has been misused by the DFO's and the other staff of DFP by Producing false or fabricated tour programmes during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of the action taken against them;

(e) whether there is any Monitoring Committee or Commission to look after the activities of DFP and DAVP;

(f) if not, the manner by which the Government ensure the funds allocated are properly utilised;

(g) whether the Government propose to open more Field Publicity Offices (DFO's) in the country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to revamp either the Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) or the Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP). The National Productivity Council have conducted the study of the DAVP to suggest measures for revamping the DAVP.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) There is no Monitoring Committee or Commission to look after the activities of DFP and DAVP. The physical/financial progress of activities and utilization of funds by the DFP and DAVP are monitored in the Ministry on the basis of monthly reports, submitted by them.

(g) and (h) Ten new Field Publicity units are envisaged to be set up in various parts of the country during the remaining part of the Ninth Plan, subject to approval of the scheme by the competent authority. The details are given below :-

S. No.	State	Location
1.	Nagaland	Wokha
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Roing
3.	Assam	Kokrajhar
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Haridwar
5.	Orissa	Bolangir
6.	Tamil Nadu	Nilgiri
7.	Maharashtra	Dhule
8.	Haryana	Kurukshetra
9.	Madhya Pradesh (W)	Khargone
10.	Madhya Pradesh (E)	Raigarh

Doordarshan Relay Centres in Villages of U.P.

268. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Azamgarh, Mau, Jaunpur, Ghazipur and Varanasi districts of Uttar Pradesh are linked with local relay centres and national network;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase their range;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The Doordarshan programmes are available throughout the country, via satellite. The terrestrial coverage in an area depends on range of the transmitters operating there and in nearby areas/districts. The data on number of villages getting coverage in each district is not maintained by Doordarshan.

(b) to (d) There is no approved scheme to upgrade the range of any transmitter located in these districts. However, a High Power Transmitter for DD2 service is under installation at Varanasi. Further expansion of Doordarshan network in the area is dependent on availability of resources with Doordarshan and inter-se priorities.

Child Labour in Bidi Industry

269. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether United States Customs Service has ordered that hand rolled Indian Bidi Cigarettes manufactured by the Mangalore Ganesh Bidi Works of Kamataka be seized at the border pending investigations over the company's reported use of child labour; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) In December 1999, the US Customs issued detention orders against the import of Bidis from M/s. Mangalore Ganesh Bidi Works on the basis of a "reasonable suspicion" that forced child labour was being used by the company in manufacturing bidis.

(b) The Government of India has taken up the matter with the appropriate US Government authorities.

[Translation]

Multinational Companies in the Consumer Goods Fields

270. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

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

(a) the number of multinational companies started working in the field of consumer goods during the last three years;

(b) the investment made by these companies; and

(c) the number of persons got the employment during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Between 1.1.97 to 31.12.99, 197 approvals to bring-in Foreign Direct Investment totalling Rs. 4383.44 crore have been granted to foreign companies, including multinationals, for producing/manufacture of consumer goods.

(c) Data on employment generation with specific linkage to Foreign Direct Investment is not centrally maintained.

[English]

Handing Over of NTC Land to State Governments

271. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a 70 acres of land belonging to NTC is lying vacant in Hingoli and Nanded district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to handover the said land to the State Government for their use in public interest; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) According to available information, Nanded Textile Mills has 70 acres of vacant land at Hingoli since the time of takeover. Though bids were invited for the sale of this land, the sale was not finalised. The bidder has filed a suit and maintenance of status-quo has been ordered by the court in respect of this land.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Foreign Investment

272. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the congentrix episode in the US investors have placed India on sort of "Watch List";

(b) if so, whether any perceptible change has also been noticed amongst potential and current foreign investors from other countries following the congentrix case; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to dispel the misgivings amongst U.S. and other foreign investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) No perceptible change in the attitude of the foreign investors including those from the United States has been noticed after M/s. Congentrix Energy Inc. opted out of the Mangalore Power Project.

(c) The Government is committed to continue the tempo of the economic reforms initiated in 1991. With a

view to further liberalising the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regime, the Government has, with the exception of a negative list, decided to place all items/activities under the automatic route for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)/Non-Resident Indian (NRI)/Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCB) investment. A press Note to this effect has been issued on 11.02.2000. The Indian delegation which undertake overseas visits from time to time, also help project investment friendly image of India and dispel the misgivings, if any, in this regard.

The resolve of the Government to promote FDI and create a congenial environment for it is also projected by the various delegations visiting abroad from time to time.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of SCs/STs

273. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some posts of various categories for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether employees working in these have been promoted during the last three years and new appointments have also been made;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details thereof till date;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed in regard to the recruitment and promotion; and

(f) if not, the corrective measures taken in this regard?

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

Guidelines for Bank Loan

274. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nationalized banks in Bihar, particularly in rural areas of Saharsa, Madhepura and Supoul districts are violating the guidelines issued for providing the bank loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide adequate bank loans to the people of above rural areas?

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

instances have been brought to the notice of the Government/Reserve Bank of India.

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

(c) RBI/NABRD have taken several measures to further strengthen the flow of credit to farmers in the rural areas. Some of these are :

(1) Introduction of cash credit facility for meeting composite credit requirement of farmers having a good track record;

(2) Introduction of the Kisan Credit Card Scheme for agricultural borrowers;

(3) Banks have been advised to open specialized agricultural branches to take care of financing of high-tech agricultural projects:

(4) RBI has introduced simplification of loan applications, delegation of powers to branch managers, introduction of composite cash credit limit to farmers, introduction of new loan products, cash disbursement of loans, discretion to banks on matters relating to margin/security requirements for loans above Rs. 10,000/- and dispensing with 'No Dues Certificates' as a compulsory requirement;

(5) Any shortfall in the target of lending to agriculture has to be contributed to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) which has been established with NABARD for assisting State Governments and State-owned Corporations in quick completion of on-going projects relating to rural infrastructure.

[English]

Bank Loan Defaulters

275. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banks, and financial institutions have submitted the list of wilful defaulters of Rs. 25 lakhs and above to the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to recover the amount from these defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that, as directed, banks and Financial Institutions are submitting information on wilful defaulters of Rs. 25 lacs and above to the Reserve Bank of India. Under the banking laws in force disclosure of names of borrowers of banks and financial institutions is not permissible except under the circumstances as provided

under various statutes. Banks and Financial Institutions are taking all possible steps by way of cash recovery, compromise and write off of amounts due from their borrowers. In doing so, they are to recover the maximum possible at the minimum cost.

Suggestion of IMF

276. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether IMF has recently suggested sweeping reforms including privatisation of state owned banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's action thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) On the basis of discussions at the Board on India, the IMF, on September 22, 1998 had, inter-alia, suggested for a stronger macroeconomic stance to help restore low inflation and improve market sentiment. In the financial sector they urged to accelerate implementation of the reforms suggested by Narsimhan Committee and also stressed that far reaching changes in public control and management of state owned banks would be required to facilitate the entry of private capital.

Policy making is the sovereign right of the Government of India and the policy decisions are taken on the basis of our national priorities. In the financial sector the Government is encouraging private sector to open banking companies and allowing Government owned public sector banks to diversify their activities and float issues in capital market to strengthen their capital base.

Financial Viabilities of Public Sector Undertakings

277. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken a study to take a closer look at the financial viabilities to public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Study of financial viability of PSUs is a continuous process and is a part of overall performance review monitored by the respective administrative Ministries.

[Translation]

Revival of Dhaurabhata Dolomite Mines

278. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to revive the Dhaurabhata dolomite mines located in Bilha at Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to make arrangements for the rehabilitation of labourers affected due to its closure;

(d) if so, the efforts made/proposed to be made in this regard;

(e) whether any time limit has been fixed to rehabilitate these labourers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINE AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No Sir. As per records maintained by Indian Bureau of Mines, no mining lease for dolomite in Village Dhaurabhata, Tehsil Bilha, District Bilaspur is held by any Central Government Public Sector Unit.

(b) to (f) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Trade Deficit

279. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP :

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

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

(a) whether there has been an increase in the trade deficit during the last one year;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to minimize the trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics provisional data, the trade deficit has decreased to US\$ 7038.68 million during April-December, 1999-2000 from US\$ 7328.42 million over the same period last year.

(c) The trade deficit is the excess of imports over the exports and a large portion of our imports are necessary to sustain economic growth. The Government is taking conscious and continuous efforts to boost exports through changes in EXIM Policy and procedures with focus on improving the export competitiveness and providing a freer trading environment.

*[English]***Change in Design of Currency Notes**

280. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Notes of Rs. 100/- and Rs. 500/- denomination are almost of the same size and colour and the public is confused to make distinction amongst these notes;

(b) whether there is a demand from the public to change the colour and size of the note; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) In order to make Rs. 500 notes (new design) more distinct from Rs. 100 denomination note, it has been decided to change the colour scheme of Rs. 500 denomination note and the revised design is under finalisation.

*[Translation]***FM Radio Station in Uttar Pradesh**

281. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up F.M. Radio stations in Gorakhpur and Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said stations are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) 6 KW FM Transmitter is already operational at Faizabad since 17/6/93. There is no proposal to set up any FM Transmitter at Gorakhpur.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Agricultural Products

282. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a signatory of World Trade Organisation, the Government propose to lift the ban on import of foreign agricultural products in the ensuing few years;

(b) if so, the details of agricultural products for which the Government propose to lift the import ban;

(c) whether any scheme is under the consideration of the Government to protect the interest of the domestic farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The member countries of the WTO, are not allowed to have any quantitative restrictions on imports except on specific grounds as provided in the WTO agreements. India at present maintains quantitative restrictions on imports of 1429 tariff lines at eight digit level on the ground of Balance of Payments (BOP). However, the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) has adopted the report of the Dispute Settlement Panel and the Appellate Body in the dispute raised by the United States of America against India, concluding that the quantitative restrictions maintained by India on BOP grounds were inconsistent with our obligations under Articles XI and XVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and also Article 4.2 of the Agreement on Agriculture. In view of this decision of DSB, India would be phasing out its existing quantitative restrictions on imports, including those on agricultural products as have been maintained on BOP grounds.

(b) At present the import of 377 agricultural items at eight digit tariff lines, is covered by the Quantitative Restrictions which will have to be removed by 1.3.2001. Out of 377 agricultural items, 146 agricultural items are under the Special Import Licence (SIL), 33 agricultural items are under canalised list and 198 agricultural items are under the restricted list.

(c) and (d) Government of India extends support to the agricultural sector through various schemes designed for the welfare of the farmers in India such as the minimum price support mechanism and provision of agricultural inputs at reasonable prices. The import of agricultural items is suitably regulated by imposing appropriate tariffs so as to provide adequate protection to the farmers. Food security concerns are central to the agricultural policy of India. The export-import policy on agricultural products is principally governed by the concerns of food security, the need to maximize farmers' income and foreign exchange earnings and to augment domestic availability of agricultural products while protecting and providing avenues for rural employment.

LPT/HPT in North-Eastern States

283. SHRI TARUN GOGOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the low power transmitters and high power transmitters installed in the North-Eastern States, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend this facility in the entire North-Eastern Region;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Details of the existing transmitters is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) For further expansion of Doordarshan coverage in North-Eastern Region, 19 transmitters (5 High Power Transmitters, 6 Low Power Transmitters, 4 Very Low Power Transmitters and 4 Transposers) are at various stages of implementation and are expected to be completed in phases, by end of next year. Rest of the uncovered area will be taken up in the next plan period subject to the availability of resources.

Statement

Existing TV Transmitters in N.E Region (As on 15.02.2000)

State	Transmitters
1	2
Arunachal Pradesh	
	HPTs
	Itanagar
	LPTs
	Miao
	Passighat
	Tezu
	Itanagar (DD II)
	VLPTs
	Along
	Anihi
	Baririjo
	Busar
	Boleng
	Bomdilla
	Changlang
	Chayangtatajo
	Daporizo
	Darak
	Dirang

1	2
	Geku
	Gensi
	Hawai
	Hayuliang
	Hunli
	Inkyong
	Kalaktang
	Keying
	Khimyong
	Khonsa
	Liromoba
	Mariyang
	Mechuka
	Mukto
	Namsai
	Nampong
	Palin
	Raga
	Roing
	Rupa
	Sagalee
	Seijosa
	Seppa
	Tawang
	Taliha
	Tirbin
	Yomcha
	Ziro
	Transposer
	Sankhi View
Assam	
	HPTs.
	Dibrugarh
	Guwahati
	Silchar
	LPTs
	Bongaigaon
	Dhubri

1	2
	Diphu
	Goalpara
	Gohpur
	Golaghat
	Haflong
	Hatsinghimari
	Hojai
	Jorhat
	Kokrajhar
	Lumding
	Margherita
	Nagaon
	Nazira
	North Lakhimpur
	Sonari
	Tezpur
	Tinsukia
	Dibrugarh (DD II)
	Guwahati (DD II)
	Silchar (DD II)
	VLPTs
	Digboi
	Transposer
	Guwahati
Manipur	HPTs
	Imphal
	LPTs
	Ukhrul
	Imphal (DD II)
	VLPTs
	Chandel
	Churachandpur
	Jiribam
	Kangpokpi
	Moreh
	Senapati

1	2
Meghalaya	HPTs
	Shillong
	Tura
	LPTs
	Jowai
	Williamnagar
	Shillong (DD II)
	Tura (DD II)
	VLTPs
	Baghmara
	Nongstoin
Mizoram	HPTs
	Aizawl
	Lunglei
	LPTs
	Aizawl (DD II)
	Lunglei (DD II)
	VLTPs
	Champhai
	Saiha
Nagaland	HPTs
	Kohima
	Mokokchung
	LPTs
	Dimapur
	Tuensang
	Kohima (DD II)
	VLTPs
	Mon
	Phek
	Satakha
	Shamtora
	Wokha
	Zunheboto
	Transposer
	Kohima

1	2
Tripura	
	HPTs
	Agartala
	LPTs
	Teliamura
	Kailasahar
	Kailasahar (DD II)
	Agartala (DD II)
	VLTPs
	Dharmanagar
	Transposer
	Bellonia

Multinational Companies in Tea Industry

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

- the details and number of foreign multinational tea companies issued free import licences;
- the effect thereof on the domestic tea companies; and
- the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the domestic tea industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Tea is in the Restricted List of imports and is not permitted to be imported except against a licence. However, no import licence is required if tea is imported from SAARC Countries. Import of all items, whether or not in the negative list, is also permitted against Duty Free Licences if such import is required for export production. In the same manner, import of tea has been allowed free of duty for the purpose of blending and re-export, that is, in value added form, either through EDU/EPZ units or under Duty Exemption Scheme, subject to the exporter offering a prescribed minimum value addition for the export product.

During the period 1997-98, 7 Duty Free Licences for a CIF value of Rs. 13.91 crores with an export obligation of Rs. 35.22 crores and during the period 1998-99, 19 Duty Free Licences for a CIF value of Rs. 38.90 crores with an export obligation of Rs. 97.54 crores in the form of blended tea in consumer packs have been issued in favour of M/s. Lipton India Exports Limited, Calcutta. No advance licence to multinational companies for import of tea has been issued during the current year of 1999-2000.

Since import of tea has been allowed for export production, it will not have any adverse impact on the

indigenous tea companies. Further, to ensure that the imported tea is not diverted to domestic market and to ensure that it does not affect the indigenous market, following stringent conditions have been laid down under the policy for duty free import of tea :

- Import of tea is to be allowed on net to net basis without any wastage;
- The exporter shall furnish idemnity bond for full utilisation of imported tea in export;
- Licence shall be issued with Actual User and non-transferability conditions and the same shall not be allowed to be transferred even after fulfillment of the stipulated export obligation;
- The exporter shall indicate and declare to Customs Authorities the blend ratio of imported tea and domestic tea on the relevant Shipping Bills at the time of export;
- A minimum value addition of 100% shall be insisted upon;
- The Bank Guarantee for 100% of duty saved on imported tea shall be executed by the exporter with Customs Authorities at the time of import;
- The licence for import of tea under Advance Licensing Scheme shall be issued with prior import condition. They shall also submit certificate to the Licensing Authority from Chartered Accountant to the effect that the imported tea has been utilised/consumed in the exports made after blending.

[English]

Profit/Losses of Banks/Financial Institutions

285. SHRI VAIKO :

DR. C. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- the profit/losses of financial institutions of IDBI, IFCI, ICICI, SIDBI, Exim Bank and nationalised banks during the last three years;
- the Capital Adequacy Ratio of each of these institutions/nationalised banks during the last three years;
- the details of share holding pattern of each of these banks/institutions;

(d) the names of such institutions/banks which have implemented Employees Option Scheme; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning and profitability of these financial institutions and banks?

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

Vacancies of Top Posts in Public Sector Undertakings

286. DR. C. KRISHNAN :

SHRI VAIKO :

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

(a) the number and details of Public Sector undertakings which are without a permanent Chairman/Managing Director alongwith the date on which the vacancy has arisen and the steps taken to fill up the vacancy, as on date;

(b) the number and details of ad hoc Chairman and Managing Directors in PSUs;

(c) the number and details of cases in which the previous Chairman/Managing Directors has asked to continue;

(d) the details of formal orders issued in each case; and

(e) the details of Chairman/Managing Directors functioning without formal orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recording Studio at Bhuj

287. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a recording studio at Bhuj;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its implementation; and

(c) if not, the reasons and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) AIR Station at Bhuj is already equipped with studios for recording and playback facilities.

Investment by LIC

288. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has sought the permission of the Government to appoint a US base firm as its U.K. Fund Manager;

(b) if so, whether the permission has been accorded to LIC;

(c) the investable fund available with LIC;

(d) whether the Government propose to direct LIC to invest the fund in the domestic circuit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has sought the permission of the Government for appointment of M/s. Merrill Lynch Mercury Asset Management Ltd. as fund managers for its UK Branch. M/s Merrill Lynch Mercury Asset Management Ltd. is a UK based subsidiary of M/s Merrill Lynch Global Asset Management of US. The Government has accorded permission to LIC for appointment of M/s Merrill Lynch Mercury Asset Management Ltd. to manage part of the funds of LIC's UK Branch.

(c) to (e) The funds size of LIC's UK Business as on 31.3.1999 was UK Pound Sterling 37.321 millions. The investment of funds of LIC's UK operations is made as per the regulations governing investment of funds of insurance companies in UK. These regulations require that an insurance company invest at least 80% of its Long Term Business Assets in UK itself. In order to avoid the currency fluctuations which will bring in unwarranted risks to the portfolio, LIC considers that funds if invested outside UK should be invested in Pound Sterling denominated assets.

Outstanding Liabilities of States

289. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Reserve Bank Report on States outstanding raises concern" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated February 3, 2000;

- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the outstanding liability of the States is likely to be Rs. 409,258 crores by the current financial year;
- (d) if so, the details of liability, State-wise;
- (e) whether the matter has been taken up with all the concerned State Governments;
- (f) the reaction of the State Governments thereto; and
- (g) the remedial measures proposed by the Government in this regard?

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

(d) The news item highlights the issue brought out in the Reserve Bank Report on State Finances, 1999-2000 which is based on study of State Budgets. According to the RBI Report, the outstanding liability of the States, including NCT of Delhi at the end of 1999-2000 has been assessed at Rs. 409,258 crores. State-wise details as brought out on page-S 44 of this Report are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (e) to (g) State Governments who are autonomous under the Constitution take measures of their preference from time to time for improving their financial condition. Review of the finances of the Union and States and suggesting ways in which the Governments collectively and severally may bring about a restructuring of the public finances so as to restore budgetary balance and maintain macroeconomic stability, is within the terms of reference of the Eleventh Finance Commission which is currently in office.

Statement

State-wise Composition of Outstanding Liabilities As on 31.03.2000 (BE)

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	States	Internal Debt	Loans & Advances from Central Government	Provident Fund etc.	Total Debt
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8713.00	16306.00	2826.00	27845.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	279.00	634.00	191.00	1103.00
3.	Assam	2400.00	4737.00	1328.00	8466.00
4.	Bihar	6243.00	16347.00	5622.00	28212.00
5.	Goa	371.00	1235.00	331.00	1937.00
6.	Gujarat	4059.00	16037.00	2219.00	22315.00
7.	Haryana	2034.00	6200.00	3738.00	11973.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	959.00	3287.00	1848.00	6094.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1526.00	4068.00	1726.00	7320.00
10.	Karnataka	4527.00	10856.00	3664.00	19047.00
11.	Kerala	5236.00	6577.00	5938.00	17751.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4986.00	11045.00	6390.00	22420.00
13.	Maharashtra	5741.00	27056.00	4429.00	37226.00
14.	Manipur	592.00	409.00	239.00	1240.00
15.	Meghalaya	439.00	362.00	146.00	946.00
16.	Mizoram	302.00	303.00	279.00	884.00
17.	Nagaland	698.00	381.00	461.00	1541.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Orissa	4873.00	8497.00	4538.00	17908.00
19.	Punjab	3434.00	14800.00	4697.00	22932.00
20.	Rajasthan	6793.00	12281.00	6628.00	25702.00
21.	Sikkim	279.00	224.00	150.00	652.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	5977.00	12580.00	4140.00	22697.00
23.	Tripura	507.00	656.00	507.00	1669.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	13385.00	35142.00	8542.00	57068.00
25.	West Bengal	6288.00	28834.00	3937.00	39060.00
26.	NCT of Delhi		5251.00		5251.00
Total		90639.00	244106.00	74514.00	409258.00

* Derived from Budget Documents of respective State Governments.

Performance of Public Sector Enterprises

290. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of profit making Public Sector Enterprises came down during 1998-99 as compared to 1997-98;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with factors responsible for this; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure full capacity utilisation, replacement of outdated technology with modern ones and modernisation of machinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The number of profit making public sector enterprises during 1997-98, till which period the information is available, has increased to 134 as compared to 130 during 1996-97.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The various measures adopted for enhancement of capacity utilisation include modernisation of plant and machinery, technology upgradation, training and human resource development, provision of captive power plants, improved marketing strategy, etc. Technical collaborations are entered into for modernisation. Machinery is replaced wherever situation permit. Joint venture formation, business and financial restructuring are also restored to in order to technologically upgrade plants.

Cotton Monopoly

291. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton growers in Nagpur city have been agitating over the neglecting of the cotton growers' problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main demands of the cotton growers in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government was approached by the State Government to help the State Government in meeting the cotton growers' problems;

(d) if so, whether cotton growers all over the country have been facing the same problem;

(e) if so, whether any concrete steps were taken by the Union Government to help the cotton growers of each state; and

(f) if so, the extent to which these problems have been solved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Neither the State Government of Maharashtra has informed nor the Government of India is aware of any agitation of the cotton growers in Nagpur city for neglecting the cotton growers' problem.

In Maharashtra, Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme is run by the State Government of Maharashtra. The Procurement prices are fixed by the State 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. The Government of Maharashtra approaches the Government of India for extension of the Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme from time to time. Presently, the scheme is in operation upto June, 2000.

(d) to (f) Government of India 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.

Further, the Government of India has launched a Technology Mission on Cotton Development, from the current financial year with objectives of research, dissemination of technology to farmers, improvement in Marketing infrastructure and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.

[Translation]

Export of Meat

292. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries to which the meat of various animals exported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether various religious organisations/social organisations have submitted requests/suggestions to the Government to stop the meat export;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) During the last three years, meat of various animals has been exported to Albania, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Peoples Republic of China, Comoros, Congo, Czech Republic, Denmark, Arab Republic of Egypt, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Gibraltar, Greece, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore,

South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, UK, USA, West Samoa, Yemen Republic and Zimbabwe.

(b) and (c) Various religious/social organisations have been representing to the Government from time to time to stop the export of meat on religious ground as also due to their apprehensions that it would lead to the depletion of livestock wealth of India. Prominent among these organisations include Ahimsa Research Foundation, New Delhi; Animal Rights International, New Delhi; Ahimsa Mahasangh, Mumbai; The Bombay Humanitarian League, Mumbai; Maharaja Kumarapal Jeevadaya Trust, Chennai; Jain Samaj in various States; Ahimsa Priya Samaj, New Delhi; Akhil Bharatya Maans-Niryat Virodh Parishad and its branches in various states.

(d) Government has considered, with necessary gravity, the requests to ban export of meat and meat products from India. Exports of meat have not led to depletion of livestock wealth of India. According to the livestock census of 1987 and 1992, the livestock population has reportedly increased from 445.28 millions in 1987 to 470.14 million in 1992, thereby registering an annual growth rate of 1.1%. Moreover, the meat exports of India amount to only about 4% of meat production in the country. The livelihood of a sizable number of people is connected with the meat industry involving rearing of animals, slaughtering of animals and meat processing. As such, a ban on meat export may result in unemployment as well as loss of foreign exchange earnings. Moreover, unproductive animals will not be tended and thereby become carriers of livestock diseases affecting productive cattle and milk production. Such unproductive animals will also require to be fed, thus depriving healthy productive animals of the care they would need.

[English]

Dumping of Fibre Glass Insulation

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item in "Business Standard" dated December 22, 1999 to the effect that some multinationals are restoring the large scale dumping of fibre glass insulation in India to the detriment of Indian manufacturers;

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

(c) if so, whether their selling price in India does not cover even their production and transportation cost; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to protect the interests of Indian producers?

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

(b) to (d) As per the Rules of Anti-Dumping, initiation of Anti-Dumping investigation is undertaken only when the domestic industry files a Petition to the Designated Authority, with prima facie evidence, of dumping, injury and casual link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury to the domestic industry. In this case, the domestic industry has not filed any Petition before the Designated Authority in the Anti-Dumping Directorate for initiation of investigation on dumping of Fibre Glass Insulation and, therefore, no investigation has been initiated as on date.

[Translation]

Branches of Regional Rural Banks

294. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new branches of Regional Rural Banks during 1999-2000 in different States, particularly in Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Government have not imposed any restriction on Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) setting up more branches. Licences for opening of new bank branches are granted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) based on merits of each case specially looking into the financial viability of such branches, the service area approach to rural lending and the existing branch network in the area.

[English]

Setting up of Cashew Board in Kerala

295. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up the Cashew Board in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

BHEL, Bhopal

296. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Bhopal is the profit-making industrial unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to protect this profit making industrial unit from the tricky competition of Multi-national companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BHEL, Bhopal is a profit making unit of the company. Some of the major performance indicators for the Bhopal Unit for the last three years are given below :

(Rs. in crores)			
Year	Turnover	Value Added	Profit before tax
1996-97	1008	424	113
1997-98	1070	430	124
1998-99	1159	431	91

(c) The Government has given increased autonomy to BHEL by according it 'Navratna' status. The Board of BHEL has been strengthened by inducting part-time Directors. BHEL is updating its manufacturing facilities, product technology and improving the delivery cycle to remain competitive.

[English]

Funds for Panchayat Raj

297. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government for release of funds 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 for the Panchayati Raj Institutions of Kerala a total grant of Rs. 178.81 crores during 1996-2000. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 156.455 crores has already been released. The balance amount will be released on completion by the State Government of the requirements stipulated in the guidelines.

Vasudev Committee on NBFCs

298. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the report of Vasudev Committee constituted for suggesting prudential norms for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs);

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations/observations made by the committee; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Task Force relating to (i) higher entry level Net Owned Fund (NOF); (ii) higher capital to Risk Asset Ratio (CRAR) for NBFCs seeking public deposit; (iii) ceiling on exposure to real estate and unquoted investments; (iv) disclosure in application form and advertisement for public deposits; (v) tightening of norms for exposure to connected companies; (vi) review of particulars to be disclosed in advertisements and (vii) unincorporated bodies to have access to loans from corporates have been implemented by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by way of issue of appropriate directions. Recommendations relating to (i) unsecured depositors to be given first charge on liquid assets; (ii) setting up of a Depositors' Grievance Redressal Authority; (iii) Speedy winding up of errant NBFCs on the lines of commercial banks; (iv) empowering RBI to direct a particular NBFC or a class of NBFC to seek prior approval for appointment of statutory auditors; (v) attachment of assets of fraudulent NBFCs by notification by RBI and the management of such assets to be vested with a custodian to be appointed by RBI; (vi) unauthorised deposit taking by unregistered NBFCs to be made a cognizable offence; (vii) unauthorized deposit taking by unincorporated bodies to be made a cognizable offence; (viii) ban on issue of advertisement soliciting public deposits, - requires changes in legislation. Action has been initiated for enactment of a new Act for NBFCs to give effect to recommendations to Task Force requiring statutory amendments.

In addition, as per the recommendations of Vasudev Committee, State Governments have been provided with the list of NBFCs who have been granted registration and those whose applications for registration have been rejected. To ease flow of credit from banks to NBFCs, the ceiling on bank lending to NBFCs registered with RBI has been removed in May, 1999. To have a better coordination between regional offices of RBI and the regional offices of the Company Law Board, Regional Level Coordination Committees have been set up in four metro centres. RBI has also started publicity campaign for educating the depositors. RBI has started annual inspection of NBFCs accepting public deposits. A

separate Executive Director has been appointed for NBFCs with effect from September 1, 1999.

Supply of Coal to Uttar Pradesh for Power Plants

299. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh get the supply of coal from various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited for its generating plants;

(b) if so, the estimated quantum of coal is being received so far in a year;

(c) the total amount of money outstanding against the U.P. Government towards supply of coal for the year 1999-2000; and

(d) the total amount of money outstanding so far against Uttar Pradesh Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Annual estimated quantity despatched to various power generating plants in U.P. is around 36 million tonnes.

(c) Against supplies made so far to UPSEB in 1999-2000, the outstanding dues as on 31.1.2000 are Rs. 17.71 crores.

(d) Total dues outstanding against UPSEB as on 31.1.2000 are Rs. 463.48 crores.

[Translation]

Carpet Weaving Centres

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

(a) the existing rules to set up carpet weaving centres in the country;

(b) the number of carpet weaving centres in the country, State-wise;

(c) the number of such centres opened/proposed during the last two years, till date; and

(d) the number of such centres proposed to be opened in near future, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The basic rules followed for setting up of carpet weaving training centres in the country depend upon the training need of a particular area; availability of trainees and numbers of carpet manufacturing units in the vicinity of training areas for absorption of trainees after the completion of training. The

training centres are run departmentally as well as through other agencies like State Handicrafts Development Corporations & NGOs.

(b) The number of carpet weaving training centres in the country, State-wise is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No departmentally run training centre has been opened in the last two years till date and no such new centre is proposed to be opened in the near future. However, 2 carpet weaving training centres through other agencies, one each in Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have been sanctioned by the Government during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (till date) respectively. In near future the proposal to set up such type of centres through other agencies shall depend upon the need of the sector and its viability.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State	Number of Carpet Weaving Training Centres	
		Departmental	Through Other agencies
1.	Uttar Pradesh	90	37
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	175	--
3.	Bihar	23	01
4.	West Bengal	03	--
5.	Madhya Pradesh	15	10
6.	Andhra Pradesh	14	--
7.	Punjab	02	14
8.	Himachal Pradesh	01	--
9.	Rajasthan	10	--
10.	Haryana	02	--
11.	Gujarat	--	14
12.	Orissa	--	08
13.	Sikkim	--	05
14.	Manipur	--	06
15.	Nagaland	--	01
16.	Maharashtra	--	02
Total		335	98

[English]

Foreign Channels

301. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the law to bring foreign channels under control as these channels are using local infrastructure, gadgets and decoders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign companies are liable to pay tax in India;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore;

(e) the total amount collected by these foreign channels from the common viewers through the cable operators;

(f) whether the Government have received any Memorandum from Members of Parliament suggesting to tax the collection of foreign channels; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Government propose to introduce a comprehensive legislation before the Parliament with a view to provide for a regulatory mechanism for various aspects of Broadcasting.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Such details are not maintained by the Government.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Parbhani Station of AIR

302. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Parbhani Station of All India Radio has been granted the status of full-fledged station of AIR a few years back;

(b) if so, whether AIR, Parbhani (Maharashtra) prepares and relay its own programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in providing necessary staff and infrastructure to AIR, Parbhani, to enable it to prepare and relay its own programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Daily 65 minutes programme produced in the studios at Parbhani is broadcast from that station.

(d) Does not arise.

Vanished Companies

303. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to recover the amount and punish those promoters, companies or the likes who took advantage of stock market boom and vanished after collecting over Rs. 25000.00 crore from common people and financial institutions but still are operating in the circuit;

(b) if so, whether most of these operators are not listed;

(c) the reasons for which these operators are still operating and how the Government are proposing to deal with them;

(d) whether the Government propose to disclose their names into the media; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Action against several companies which have defaulted in their commitments made to the public while mobilizing funds, has been taken by the regulatory agencies, namely, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)/Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/Department of Company Affairs (DCA). A Central Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee has been set up with representatives of SEBI and DCA. The Committee has also set up seven task forces to identify defaulting companies and to take action against them under

the respective laws. As per available information, 129 companies have been identified as 'Vanished' companies. These were all listed companies.

(c) As per available information, SEBI has passed orders against 51 companies and 142 promoters/directors, debaring them from associating with any capital market activity for a period of 5 years; RBI has issued prohibitory orders to 73 NBFCs; winding-up petitions have been filed against 10 and prosecution proceedings have been launched against 17; DCA has launched prosecution in terms of the Companies Act, 1956 in respect of 54 companies.

(d) The names of the companies which did not comply with listing requirements and could not be traced at their registered office addresses have been published in newspapers by SEBI.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Modern Food Industries

304. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :

SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sold their Delhi-based public sector undertaking Modern Foods Industries to Hindustan Lever Ltd.;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of employees working therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) 74% of the Government held equity in Modern Foods Industries Ltd. have been sold to Hindustan Lever Ltd. at a price of Rs. 105.45 crores. This has been done as per the policy of the Government for disinvestment of upto 74% equity in non-strategic PSUs.

(c) Adequate provisions in this regard have been made in the share holders Agreement.

Revival of Sick Textile Mills in SC/ST Dominated areas

305. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of textile mills in Maharashtra and other States including mills in tribal and scheduled castes dominated areas have been sick for more than three years;

(b) if so, the details of such mills and performance of these mills, mill-wise;

(c) the steps taken to make them viable and upgrade them and the funds provided by the Government for this purpose;

(d) the details of further action plan under consideration of the Government for making these sick mills viable; and

(e) the names of the mills in Maharashtra and other States which are likely to be closed down and the action plan drawn up regarding rehabilitation of those workers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) During the period from 1996 to 9th Sep., 142 mills including 27 mills from the State of Maharashtra, are registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(b) Out of 142 mills registered with BIFR as on 9th Sept. 99, only 17 mills are closed as on 31/12/99. The status of the above 142 mills registered with BIFR is as under :-

Status with BIFR as on 9/9/1999	No. of Mills
Scheme Sanctioned under section 18(4) by BIFR	3
Non maintainable	7
Draft Scheme	6
Winding up recommended under Section 20(1) by BIFR	2
Others	2
Winding up Notice issued by BIFR	2
Under enquiry	118
Stay orders by court/stayed by AAIFR	2
Total	142

(c) and (d) The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, SICA, 1985 and established the BIFR with a view to timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial

measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies, change of management, provision for working capital and terms loans by banks and financial institutions.

(e) The sickness of mills can not be pre-decided. However, in pursuance of the Statement of Textile Policy, 1985, Government have set up the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to protect the interest of workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure or partial closure of textile mills in the private sector only, in the country, including in Tamil Nadu. The objective of the TWRFS is to provide interim relief to the eligible workers only for a period of 3 years on a tapering basis, 75% of wage equivalent in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year as per norms of the scheme.

Cooperative Banks

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

(a) whether any task force was constituted by Reserve Bank of India to review the functioning of Cooperative Banks in the country;

(b) if so, the main observations and recommendations made by the task force; and

(c) the reaction of the Government/Reserve Bank of India thereto and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

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

(b) The Task Force is yet to submit its report.

(c) Does not arise.

Irregular Foreign Exchange Transactions

307. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of foreign missionaries rounded up in various parts of the country for their involvement in irregular foreign exchange transactions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the length of their stay in India and to which country they belong to; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Clearance to Film Water

308. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the Hindu religious sensitivities associated with the sacred traditions of the "Ganges" and "Varanasi" in according clearance to the shooting of Deepa Mehta's film titled "Water".

(b) the changes have been agreed to between the Government and Deepa Mehta vis-a-vis the original text in the light of protests from religious leaders;

(c) whether the Government had consulted and associated Hindu scholars in vetting the text of the film in view of the religious sensitivities associated with it; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The permission to shoot the film 'WATER' has been accorded as per procedure prescribed for clearance of scripts for shooting of films by foreigners in India in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs who give clearance from security and location angle. The procedure regarding shooting of feature films in India by foreigners is specified in the Visa Manual brought out by the Ministry of External Affairs. Accordingly permission to shoot the film was given subject to certain conditions which were specified in the permission letter.

As per procedure, any material deviation from the script approved by the Government should be with the prior permission of this Ministry. In view of this condition, Ms. Deepa Mehta approached this Ministry with a revised version of the script which was duly examined and approved on 02.02.2000, subject to the conditions in the original permission letter.

Shooting of the film is to be done while ensuring that nothing detrimental to the image of India is shot, according to procedure laid down in the Visa Manual. As per procedure, prior to the release of the film anywhere in the world, it has to be shown to a representative of the Government of India in India or in Indian Mission abroad to ensure that it contains nothing objectionable. Further, before release of the film in

India, clearance of Central Board of Film Certification is required. One of the guidelines followed by the Board is to ensure that nothing derogatory to any religion is portrayed.

(c) and (d) In view of the above, (c) & (d) are answered.

White Paper on Heavy Industries

309. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out a white paper on the financial condition of heavy industries under the public sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the exact cause of deterioration of financial condition of public sector heavy industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps the Government propose to take to improve their financial conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) A White Paper on the Public Sector Undertakings under the Department of Heavy Industry is under preparation.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Industrial Units in Madhya Pradesh

310. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether cent percent export oriented industries have been set up by the Union Government in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the firms approved for setting up such industries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Eleven Export Oriented Units have been approved by the Government of India in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the last two years. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*List of Firms approved for setting up of 100% EOU in the State of Madhya Pradesh*

S.No.	Name & Address	Location	Date of Approval	Items of Manufacture
1.	Gujarat Ambuja Ambuja Towers, Ahmedabad	Dhar	4/2/98	De-Oiled cake of soyabean etc.
2.	Jaibab Agro Products, Civil Lines, Raipur	Raipur	4/2/98	Non-Basmati Rice
3.	Shanti Lal Subhash Road, Raipur	Raipur	29/1/98	Non-Basmati Rice
4.	Vredestein Shahpur, Bhopal	Bhopal	21/1/98	Tyres and Tubes
5.	Suryavanshi Spinning 105, SPP Road, Secunderabad	Chhindwara	28/5/98	Knitted Fabric, Cotton yarn etc.
6.	Nirsons Exports Pvt. Ltd. Vandana Bhavan, Raipur	Raipur	28/5/98	HQ Finished Rice
7.	Wollworth India Ltd. 3A, Gurusadya Road, Calcutta	Raipur	19/6/98	Yarn of wool etc.
8.	Coloron India Pvt. Ltd. 35/2, Shilnath Camp, Indore	Indore	30/3/99	Canvas etc.
9.	SII India Ltd. 13/1, New Palasia, Indore	Mhow Indore	10/6/99	Cotton Fabric
10.	SII India Ltd. Sonvay Rau Pithapur Mhow Indore	Mhow Indore	4/6/99	Cotton Hosiery Yarn
11.	Steel Tubes of India Steel tubes, Madhya Pradesh	Phithampur Link EMP	22/7/99	Cotton Hosiery Yarn

*[English]***Seizure of Heroin**

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

(a) whether the Customs officials had arrested some persons in the last week of January, 2000 at the Indira Gandhi International Airport and seized heroin from them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the nationality of the persons arrested;

(d) the source of the heroin; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to check such activities of drug peddlars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes. On 28.1.2000, the customs officers at the Indira Gandhi International Airport intercepted 11 Nepalese National travelling to Bangkok - Five were to travel by All Nippon Airways, flight NH-926 and Six (including one woman) by Thai Airlines flight TG-316. All the Eleven passengers after interrogation admitted to have swallowed heroin filled capsules. After initial recovery of 372 capsules yielding 3.2 kgs. of heroin, the 11 Nepalese Nationals were admitted to RML Hospital on orders of ACMM, New Delhi. They were discharged on 4.2.2000 after complete recovery. In all, the 11 Nepalese evacuated 1029 capsules yielding 8.820 kgs. of heroin. All the 11 persons were arrested under NDPS Act, 1985. In follow up the Air Customs Preventive Officers seized 874 gms. of heroin from the hotel room of another Nepalese national Shri Sita Lama Tamang at Hotel yak

House, Majnu Ka Tilla, Delhi on 30.1.2000 and he was also placed under arrest.

In further follow-up, Shri Anil Kumar Tamang, who in the preliminary investigations was identified as one of the main organisers in Pakistan, was intercepted on 31.1.2000 when he arrived from Lahore at IGI Airport, New Delhi by Pakistan International flight PK-814. 18 gms. of heroin packed in two capsules concealed by Shri Anil Tamang in the rectum was recovered from him and he was also placed under arrest.

(d) Initial investigations have revealed that the heroin was sourced from Pakistan and is of South-west Asian Origin.

(e) All the field formations and intelligence units of Customs & Central Excise (including DRI) as well as units under Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau are alert to guard against narcotics smuggling/drug peddling. Effective steps are being taken to collect intelligence in this regard and a close watch is being maintained on sensitive border areas, International Airports, Sea Ports, ICDs, Attari Rail and other sensitive areas, the thwart any attempt of smuggling of narcotics. At Delhi IGI Airport Sniffer Dogs are also deployed by Customs to detect drug smuggling and a special Narcotic Cell constituted for concerted efforts against drug trafficking. Deterrent penal action by launching prosecution as provided under the NDPS Act, 1985 is initiated against the Drug Traffickers.

Khetri Copper Complex

312. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Khetri Copper Complex (KCC), the prime copper producing unit of Hindustan Copper Limited is suffering very serious set-backs owing to the financial crunch, lowering of import duty by the Central Government and bad planning;

(b) whether this unit has suffered drop in production and heavy losses of over Rs. 162 crores during the last two years due to liberalisation of copper imports from the cheaper markets without caring to meet the requirement of the KCC; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) The Khetri Copper Complex (KCC) unit of Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) has suffered losses for the last three years due to unfavourable market conditions like severe drop in the International price (LME) of copper, competition from private copper producers who have access to cheap imported concentrate, poor ore grade in Khetri mine etc. This has

resulted in a situation where HCL is unable to provide for the essential plant inputs which has adversely affected the production. In spite of severe financial constraints, KCC produced 26,120 MT of copper Cathode during 1997-98 and 25,489 MT of Cathode during 1998-99.

The Govt. has taken the following steps to improve the performance of the HCL :

- (i) Conversion of Outstanding loans of Rs. 180.73 crores as on 31.3.1998 into Equity and Waiver of Outstanding interest of Rs. 167.43 crores;
- (ii) In principle approval for grant of non-plan loan of Rs. 414 crores to HCL during 1998-99 to 2001-2002, to reduce surplus workforce through Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Out of which Rs. 60 crores has been released during 1998-99 and Rs. 100 crores during 1999-2000. An additional amount of Rs. 40 crores has been provided in RE 1999-2000 for this purpose.
- (iii) Government guarantee was provided to HCL to raise a Working Capital Term loan of Rs. 75 crores from IDBI in August, 1999. Govt. has also agreed to extend its guarantee to enable the Company to raise further loan of Rs. 75 crores from IDBI.

Import of Poly-Urethane

313. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Poly-urethane and items connected thereto are being imported;

(b) if so, the details of import which took place during the last three years, year-wise; item-wise, country-wise and the value thereof;

(c) whether use of natural rubber has been affected due to substitution by Poly-urethane;

(d) whether rubber growers have raised objection to the import of Poly-urethane and the reduction of import duty thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to save rubber growers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Import of Poly-urethanes, classified under Exim Code Nos. 390950 00 or 391690 05 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, is Free. Details of imports made during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (from April to February, 99)

year-wise, and item-wise, country-wise are given in the Statement annexed.

(c) to (e) Representations have been received by the Government for banning/restricting the import of Polyurethanes. Since the quantity of imported Polyurethane consumed by the foam industry is not substantial enough to pose a threat to natural rubber/latex, the import of Polyurethane has not been restricted. Moreover in view of Government's policy of removal of restrictions on imports, the restrictions on import of any item already allowed to be imported freely may not normally be re-imposed.

(f) To enable the rubber growers to get a remunerative price for their produce, the Government has authorised procurement of 30,000 M.T. of Natural Rubber on Government account. Import of natural rubber under duty exemption scheme has been restricted since February, 99.

Statement

Import of Polyurethane (Exim Code 390950 00) during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 (upto Feb. '99)

Countries	Qty. in Tons					
	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99 April-Feb. '99	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Australia	13	33.01	21	50.10	36	96.63
Germany F. Rep	364	661.20	542	798.15	419	829.34
Italy	212	328.24	199	296.23	198	267.86
Japan	10	42.93	48	122.80	32	109.69
Korea RP	55	46.13	06	7.70	28	10.08
Spain	36	60.64	47	74.08	58	99.89
Singapore	73	109.74	20	34.30	22	34.15
UK	126	173.67	83	148.35	96	199.84
USA	167	429.51	205	330.66	150	389.19
Others	101	174.15	133	178.42	97	167.85
Total	1157	2059.22	1304	2040.79	1140	2204.52

Import of Polyurethane (Exim Code 391690 05) during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 (upto Feb. '99)

Countries	Qty. in Tons					
	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99 April-Feb. '99	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Germany F. Rep	3	5.7	---	---	---	---
UK	1	3.8	---	---	---	---
Japan	11	39.55	---	---	---	---
Chinese Taipei	0.159	0.75	---	---	0.48	1.20
Singapore	---	---	0.271	0.58	---	---
Others	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total	15.159	49.8	0.271	0.58	0.48	1.20

SOURCE : DGCIS

Illegal Export Benefit

314. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Preventing Wing of the Air Cargo Unit, Delhi Customs have detected five cases of illegally availing export benefit under the exemption passbook scheme and duty drawback scheme by some firms;

(b) if so, the details of the firms;

(c) the modus-operandi adopted by the firms; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government against these firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Preventive Wing of the Air Cargo Unit, Delhi Customs have detected five cases of availing unduly high export benefits under Duty Exemption Passbook Scheme and Duty Drawback Scheme by five firms.

(b) The details of the firms are as under :-

(i) M/s Hindustan Overseas Limited, Ludhiana.

- (ii) M/s Orient Auto Industries, New Delhi.
- (iii) M/s Manjeet Overseas, New Delhi.
- (iv) M/s Khayati International, New Delhi.
- (v) M/s Skintouch International, Aligarh.

(c) The modus-operandi adopted by above firms was to export cheap quality goods at unduly high export prices with the objective of claiming unduly high Duty Drawback or unduly high credit entitlement under Duty Exemption Passbook (DEPB) Scheme.

(d) In one case where the exporter had attempted to claim unduly high Duty Drawback benefit, the goods with declared export value of Rs. 32.45 lakhs were seized and the exporter was also arrested. In another case, wherein the exporter attempted to claim unduly high credit entitlement under Duty Exemption Passbook Scheme, the goods with the declared export value of Rs. 6.25 lakhs were seized. In this case, adjudication has been completed and D.E.P.D. credit entitlement of Rs. 81,000 claimed by the exporter has been denied. A penalty of Rs. 75,000 has also been imposed on the exporter. The exporter has also been allowed to redeem the seized goods on payment of redemption fine of Rs. 40,000.

In other 3 cases, wherein the exporters had attempted to claim unduly high D.E.P.B. credit entitlement the exporters have surrendered D.E.P.B. credit entitlement of Rs. 24.94 lakhs. Investigations are in progress so that further action can be taken against the exporters under the provisions of law.

Public Sector Undertakings in Maharashtra

315. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Public Sector Undertakings functioning in Maharashtra, particularly in Panvel district;

(b) the number of farmers whose land was acquired by the Government for establishment of these PSUs in Maharashtra, particularly in Panvel district;

(c) the amount of compensation given to the affected farmers;

(d) whether compensation has been given to all the affected people;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) 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) The names of Central Public Sector Undertakings having registered office in Maharashtra are given in the Statement-I. Central PSUs having operations/units in Raigarh District which include Panvel Taluka are given in Statement-II.

(b) to (f) Such information is not centrally maintained as the same come under the purview of the respective project authorities.

Statement-I

List of Public Sector Undertakings having Registered Office in Maharashtra State

S. No.	Name of PSU
1	2
1.	Air India Charters Ltd.
2.	Air India Ltd.
3.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
4.	Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.
5.	Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.
6.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.
7.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.
8.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
9.	Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.
10.	Indian Oil Blending Ltd.
11.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
12.	Indian Rare Earths Ltd.
13.	Indo Hokke Hotels Ltd.
14.	Lubrizol India Ltd.
15.	Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
16.	Maharashtra Elektros melt Ltd.
17.	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.
18.	Mazagon Dock Ltd.
19.	Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.
20.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.

1	2
21.	National Film Development Corporation Ltd.
22.	NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.
23.	NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.
24.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.
25.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.
26.	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.
27.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
28.	Western Coalfields Ltd.

Statement-II

*Central Public Sector Undertakings having Operations/
Units in Raigarh District which include Panvel Taluka*

S. No.	Name of PSU	Tehsil
1.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	Alibag
2.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	Alibag
3.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	Alibag
4.	Indian Petro Chemicals Ltd.	Roha
5.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	Panvel
6.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	Panvel
7.	Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	Uran
8.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	Uran
9.	Mazagaon Dock Ltd.	Panvel
10.	Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.	Panvel
11.	Food Corporation of India Ltd.	Panvel

Financial Condition of States

316. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to
state :

(a) whether the financial health of most of the State Governments has reached a critical position;

(b) If so, the details thereof by standard parameters;

(c) whether a number of State Governments have sought waiver of loans from the Centre to ease debt burden;

(d) If so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government are considering to bring out White Paper on present financial health of State Governments; and

(f) If so, the details thereof with radical action proposed to halt the deteriorating financial health of State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Financial health of State Governments has deteriorated over the years as is evidenced from the following gross fiscal deficit and revenue deficit levels :

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Gross Fiscal Deficit	Revenue Deficit
1997-98	44200	16333
1998-99 (RE)	75256	40491
1999-2000 (BE)	77893	40724

(c) and (d) While some States have approached the Centre for waiver of their debt, it has been clarified to them that as per the terms and reference of the Eleventh Finance Commission, the Commission would make an assessment of the debt position of the States as on 31st March, 1999 and suggest such corrective measures as are deemed necessary keeping in view the long term sustainability for both the Centre and the States. The States would have also submitted their memoranda to the Eleventh Finance Commission.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The financial management of the States is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and it is for the respective State Governments to initiate remedial action.

Free Trade with Sri Lanka

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

(a) whether the Governments have signed any agreement for free trade with Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the provisions under agreement;

(c) whether the Government are considering to make such agreements with some other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these agreements are likely will be made?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Free Trade Agreement was signed between India and Sri Lanka on 28th December, 1998 in New Delhi.

(b) The Agreement envisages phasing out of tariffs on all products, over a period of time, except for a limited number of items in the Negative List and on some other items of a sensitive nature. While India would complete the process of tariff elimination over a period of 3 years, Sri Lanka would achieve this over 8 years. The list of items on which tariff concessions shall be granted and items on which no concessions shall be granted were exchanged between the two sides on 2nd February, 2000. Under the Agreement, products having a domestic value addition content of 35% will qualify for preferential market access. Sri Lanka's exports with a domestic value addition content of 25% will also qualify for entry to the Indian market if they have a minimum 10% Indian content.

(c) to (e) To strengthen economic ties amongst SAARC countries, an offer was made by the Prime Minister to all the SAARC member countries during the Colombo Summit in July, 1998 that India would be willing to enter into bilateral free trade agreements with them to accelerate the pace of trade liberalisation in the region. Only Sri Lanka has responded positively to this offer and the FTA was signed accordingly. While there is no time frame by which fresh Free Trade Agreements are likely to be entered into with other countries, at the SAARC Summit in Colombo, it was decided that a Committee of Experts from all the seven SAARC countries will be set up to commence negotiations on an Agreement or Treaty for a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). This agreement will spell out binding schedules for freeing trade and is expected to be finalised and put in place by 2001.

[Translation]

Benefits of Liberalisation to Masses

318. SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

DR. SUSHEEL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the benefits of liberalisation have not reached the masses;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The economic reforms initiated in the last few years have had a favourable impact in terms of acceleration in overall growth of the economy, build up of a comfortable foreign exchange reserve position, lower rate of inflation and substantial inflow of foreign capital.

The goal of economic reforms is faster growth with employment and equity. Unless the economy grows in the coming years at a rate of at least seven to eight per cent, it will be difficult to eradicate poverty and unemployment. For achieving rapid and multi-sectoral growth, it is necessary to pursue a bold strategy of economic reforms.

Schemes to Boost Export

319. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

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

(a) the details of the schemes being run by the Government to boost export;

(b) whether the Government propose to review the said schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some of the schemes are misused; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Various schemes have been launched from time to time by the government for promoting exports which include, amongst others, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme allowing import of Capital goods at Concessional/zero duty, Duty Extension Scheme allowing duty free import of inputs required for export production, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Scheme allowing import and replenishment of the inputs at concessional duty, scheme allowing setting up of various units under EOU/EPZ, and the scheme to recognise established

exporters as Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and Super Star Trading House.

(b) and (c) As an ongoing exercise, the Government reviews these export promotion schemes in the light of suggestions received from various trade representative bodies and also with a view to plugging loopholes which come to light in the operation of such schemes.

(d) and (e) No major incidents of fraud/misuse have come to the notice of Government during the last 3 years. However, there have been some cases, in which the exporters have misused the facilities given to them under various schemes.

Remedial steps like imposition of fiscal penalty, debarring such exporters from receiving further licences and suspension/cancellation of importers code. (IEC number) are taken against such defaulting exporters.

[English]

Strengthening of Indian Investment Centre

320. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to strengthen the Indian Investment Centre for better coordination with NRIs to attract foreign direct investment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action initiated by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Government has taken up for consideration a proposal to restructure and strengthen the Indian Investment Centre to address the needs of the Non-Resident Indian and other foreign investors particularly of small and medium enterprises.

[Translation]

Decline in Export

321. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the garments, jute products, textile products exported to different countries during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been a sharp decline in the export of these products during the said period as compared to the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The value of exports of garments and textiles, including jute during the last three years have been as follows :

Value in Million Us Dollars			
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Readymade Garments	4762.1	4910.7	5268.4
Textiles	5288.2	5629.3	5367.3
Jute	144.8	127.3	149.5
Total	10195.1	10667.3	10785.2

(b) No, Sir.

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

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

- 1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector.
- 2) The New Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 has been 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) Threshold limit under the Zero Duty Export promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme has been reduced to Re. 1 crore in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery.
- 5) Export of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units has been liberalised.
- 6) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments has been allowed.

[English]

Quantitative Restrictions on Imports

322. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries with which India has arrived at an agreement on removing the quantitative restrictions on imports; and

(b) its impact on goods manufactured in India and on our agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) India has signed bilateral agreements with the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Switzerland, Japan and the United States of America for removal of quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India on Balance of payments grounds.

(b) There has been no perceptible impact of the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports on goods manufactured in India and on our agricultural products.

I.T. Arrears

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

(a) whether the Income Tax Arrears of nearly 40,000 crores of rupees is due from 14,444 persons in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons who owe more than Rs. 10, 50 and 100 lacs as I.T. arrears;

(c) the steps being taken to recover the arrears within time bound limit; and

(d) the reasons for not recovering the arrears so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The total gross arrear demand of Corporation Tax and Income Tax as on 30th September, 1999 is Rs. 44638 crores in 47,51,141 cases. There are 12299 cases in which demands of over Rs. 10 lakhs but not exceeding Rs. 1 crore is outstanding and 5119 cases against which demands of over Rs. 1 crore is outstanding as on 30th September, 1999.

(c) and (d) Income Tax Act prescribes a statutory procedure for collection and recovery of taxes. The recovery of the outstanding tax is a continuous process. The process starts after the demand falls due after 30 days of the service of the Demand Notice. Thereafter, action is taken by Assess-

ing Officer in respect of unstayed demand by attaching bank accounts, charging interest, levying penalty etc. In difficult cases, matter is referred to Tax Recovery Officer who takes various coercive measures as per the Act like attachment and sale of defaulter's movable and immovable properties, arrest of defaulter and his detention in prison, appointment of Receiver for the management of the defaulter's movable and immovable properties. The recovery action taken by the Assessing Officer and TROs is closely monitored by the higher Income-tax authorities.

Further dossier cases having outstanding demand of Rs. 10 lakhs and above are monitored by higher authorities on a regular periodic basis and necessary instructions are issued for taking various coercive measures for effecting the recovery of demand.

The entire outstanding demand is not recoverable. This amount includes demands not fallen due, demands paid but pending verification, demand stayed by courts/Settlement Commission/Appellate Tribunals and Income Tax Authorities etc. The major reason for accumulating large arrears is on account of multiplicity of litigations on the same issue in different assessment years. The Government is regularly monitoring and analysing the outstanding large arrears and taking necessary steps in this regard.

Performance of Export

324. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance of export during the current financial year in general and agricultural products in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith emerging trends during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is formulating any big term agro-export policy to tap huge potential in this segment; and

(d) if so, the present status of New Agro-export Policy and strategies worked out to expand, upgrade and modernise the required infrastructure to make agro-export possible?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Export Promotion is a continuous process. The Government is taking conscious and continuous efforts to boost export including agriculture exports through changes in Exim Policy and procedures with focus on improving the export competitiveness and providing a freer trading environment.

(b) As per the Director General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics data, India's exports of agricultural products during the last three years are as follows :

Year	US\$ million
1996-97	4596
1997-98	4237
1998-99 (p)	3952

P=Provisional

(c) and (d) Agricultural Export Policy is principally governed by the concerns of our food security and maximising farms income. Initiatives taken recently to enhance exports of agricultural and processed food products include providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries; upgradation of technical know-how; training of farmers; providing soft loans to this sector for modernisation and making it competitive; providing financial assistance for development of infrastructure like cold storage; grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and selected fresh fruits and vegetables and fruits and arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

Export of Textiles

325. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of textiles and clothes exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the growth in the export of cotton garments in the total textile exports during the above period; and

(c) the efforts made/being made by the Government to provide latest modern technology to the textile sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The value of exports of textiles and clothes during the last three years have been as follows :

Year	Value in million US\$
1996-97	10050.3
1997-98	10540.0
1998-99	10635.7

(b) The export of cotton garments during the last three years have been as follows :

Year	Value in million US\$
1996-97	3418.4
1997-98	3411.4
1998-99	3761.5

(c) Government has operationalised the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme with effect from 1.4.1999 to provide the capital at internationally comparable rates to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile sector. Further, in the new Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy (2000-2004), the quota for new investments under Manufacturer Exporters' Entitlement (MEE) and New Entitlement (NIE) Systems have been linked to plant and machinery identified as necessary for technology upgradation under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme. Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Re. 1 crore is also a step to help import of modern technology.

Commitments with WTO

326. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

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

(a) whether the European Union has said that India has failed to honour its commitments made with World Trade Organisation;

(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 European Union has not made any general statement recently that India has not honoured its WTO commitments. However, if any Member country feels that any other Member country is not honouring its WTO commitments or has any measure which is inconsistent with its WTO obligations, it can be pointed out at the time of Trade Policy Review of such a Member country or a dispute can be raised under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of WTO. Both EU and India have, from time to time, used these mechanisms.

[Translation]

Mineral Wealth in Rajasthan

327. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether vast mineral wealth has been found in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the percentage of this mineral wealth is being exploited;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to stop illegal mining;

(d) the details of plans of the Government for the optimum utilisation of mineral wealth found in the State; and

(e) the details of steps being taken by the Government for the protection of minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rajasthan is rich in mineral resources and most of the workable mineral deposits are being exploited.

(c) States Governments are empowered to take action under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for preventing illegal mining. Recently the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act has been amended and further provisions added to strengthen the hands of State Governments in curbing illegal mining. State Government of Rajasthan has informed that they have set up vigilance teams comprising of mining engineers for checking of illegal mining.

(d) In tune with the National Mineral Policy, State Government of Rajasthan has formulated investor friendly policies for exploiting minerals and for setting up large number of mineral based industries to maximise production of finished goods in the State itself. Further State Government is providing better infrastructure facilities for optimum utilisation of mineral wealth.

(e) The Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 framed by the Central Government provides for conservation, systematic and scientific development of the mineral deposits. Efforts are also being made by the Rajasthan Government to avoid mineral wastage by adopting better technology for conserving mineral wealth.

[English]

Import of Steel

328. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed to import scrap-steel in zero-duty tax to the customers of Advance Licensing Scheme with a view to increase the export of steel; and

(b) If so, the figures in terms of rupees of imported scrap and the export of steel by the Advance Licensing Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. There are a number of entries in the Standard Input/Output Norms where import of steel scrap is allowed duty free under Advance Licensing Scheme.

(b) Statistical data regarding import of individual inputs covered by various import – output norms is not maintained either by the Ministry of Commerce or by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS). Hence it is not possible to readily provide information as asked for in Part (b) of the question.

[Translation]

Investment of NRIs in PSUs

329. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

The details of the amount of investment made so far by the Non-Resident Indians in Public Sector Undertakings, PSU-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : PSU-wise details of investments in terms of equity and loans of public enterprises by foreign parties, as on 31.3.98, till which period the information is available are given in statements 17 & 18 respectively of Volume I of the Public Enterprises Survey 1997-98 laid in both the Houses of Parliament on 26.2.99. This is a published document.

[English]

Free Trade Pacts with Pakistan

330. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pakistan Government has said that there will be no free trade with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Government have seen recent media reports that the Government of Pakistan has ruled out the possibility of free trade with India till the resolution of the Kashmir issue. Even in the past, statements have occasionally emanated from the Government of Pakistan linking the grant of MFN status to India to extraneous issues. Contrary to its commitments under WTO, Pakistan has not extended MFN treatment to India. India has taken necessary action to protect its trade interests vis-a-vis Pakistan. It may be mentioned that Member Countries of SAARC, including India and Pakistan, are exchanging tariff concessions under the SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA). Further, during the SAARC Summit held in July, 1998 in Colombo, it was agreed that

an agreement for a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) will be signed by 2001.

Procurement of Minerals by MMTC for Export

331. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of iron ore, bauxite, manganese and other minerals procured by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) from the barbil-barajamda and gandhamardan sector in Orissa during the last three years for export purpose.

(b) whether there is a sharp decline in the export of these minerals, particularly procurement has declined from the Orissa mines;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the procurement of these minerals from banspani-barbil-barjamda and gandhamardan sectors?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Sir, only iron ore is procured by the MMTC from barbil-barajamda and gandhamardan sector in Orissa for export purpose, the quantum of iron ore procured during the last three years for exports from this sector is as follows :

Mining Sector	(Qty. in lakh tonnes)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Estimated)
Barbil-Barjamda	6.00	5.72	7.50
Gandhamardan	0.09	0.10	0.40
Daitari	Nil	Nil	0.60
Total	6.09	5.82	8.50

(b) and (c) The exports from Paradeep port during the last three years which is mainly from Orissa and Bihar as consolidated parcels are as follows :

Year	Figure in lakh tonnes
1997-98	9.86
1998-99	6.29
1999-2000 (estimated)	9.00

The decline in export is due to lesser intake by importing countries owing to recession in the steel industry world over.

(d) MMTC has taken following steps to increase from this sector :

1. To sustain iron ore exports, MMTC has concluded five year contracts with Japanese steel mills, Posco and Souht Korea.
2. Due to shift in type of iron ore available for exports on account of domestic demand, new markets have been developed e.g. low/medium grade lumps and fines to China and high density aggregates and iron ore concentrates to the middle east etc.
3. MMTC has also located new markets for iron ore fines for pipe coating applications where the unit value realization is more.
4. Enlarging product range to such customized demand for seized ore by setting up crushing and screening plants.
5. Improving market share in potential and growing markets such as China.
6. Enhancing competitiveness by cost reduction and through greater emphasis on quality.
7. Seeking higher quantitative ceiling for export of high grade iron ore.
8. Using Leverage of high grade ore to promote and develop exports of low and medium grade iron ore.

[Translation]

Internet Banking Service

332. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Bank of India has formulated any scheme to launch Internet Banking and E-Commerce services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether some special branches have been selected for this service;

(d) if so, the number of such branches and the details in this regard;

(e) whether the State Bank of India is getting assistance of international consultants for formulating policy on Information Technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it is presently evaluating internet banking solution offered by different vendors. No estimate can be made at this stage about the expenditure likely to be incurred.

(c) and (d) The Bank proposes to cover about 25-30 of its NRI branches, Corporate Accounts Group branches and selected Personal Segment oriented branches identified for this purpose.

(e) and (f) SBI has reported that it has initiated the process of selecting international consultants of repute for assisting the Bank in formulating an Information Technology Plan.

[English]

Upgradation of Mines of ECL

333. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by the Government so far for upgradation of mines of E.C.L.;

(b) the amount invested for purchase and installation of foreign machinery, including the import of foreign technology thereof;

(c) the additional production capacity created as a result of such investment;

(d) the actual productivity shift in coal mining achieved so far due to installation of foreign machinery in ECL mines;

(e) whether the Government have claimed damage from the supplier of foreign machineries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) An amount of Rs. 2902.85 crores has been spent by the Government for upgradation of mines of ECL.

(b) An amount of Rs. 905.09 crores has been invested for purchase and installation of foreign machinery including the import of foreign technology.

(c) The additional capacity of 17.12 million tonnes

per year has been created as a result of investment in the mines of ECL.

(d) The productivity capacity (OMS) achieved due to installation of foreign machinery in the mines of ECL during 1998-99 :

Rajmahal OC	10.2 TE
Sonepur Bazari OC	5.34 TE
Kottadih UG	0.95 TE*
Jhanjra UG	1.59 TE
Chora 10 Pit	0.74 TE

* Productivity was 1.61 TE when longwall face was operating.

(e) Damage from supplier has been claimed for Kottadih UG.

(f) A claim through arbitration for compensation has been lodged at the International Court of Arbitration, International Chamber of Commerce, Paris in Dec.' 99.

Export of Wheat

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to export wheat to some countries;

(b) if so, the possibility explored in this regard;

(c) whether Russia has agreed to import wheat from India; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to export wheat to Russia and other countries from which requests have been received?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) As per EXIM Policy, the export of wheat is allowed freely subject to quantitative ceilings announced by DGFT from time to time. For the year 1999-2000, a ceiling of 1 million tonnes of wheat and unlimited quantity of wheat products have been announced.

While the Russian authorities have indicated that presently the Russian side has no requirement of import of food grade wheat, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been authorised to supply 50,000 MT of Indian wheat to His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Reserve

335. SHRI AJIT SINGH :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an unprecedented increase in the foreign exchange reserves of the country during the last few months;

(b) if so, the time when the foreign exchange reserve was maximum during the current financial year and quantum thereof;

(c) whether the currency in this reserve is accrued from various sources; and

(d) if so, the names of the sources and the amount of foreign exchange accrued through each of the sources so far in the current financial year and the purposes for which the currency is withdrawn from this reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The foreign exchange reserves of the country have generally shown an upward trend during the financial year 1999-2000 so far, and the accretions to reserves have been significant since November, 1999.

(b) As per the latest information available for the period upto February 11, 2000, the foreign exchange reserves, including gold and SDRs, during the current financial year so far peaked at US\$ 35170 millions on January 21, 2000 compared with US\$ 32490 millions at the end of March, 1999.

(c) and (d) The accretions to India's foreign exchange reserves reflect the net outcome of the international transactions put through the RBI as well as the surplus conditions in the foreign exchange market, facilitating net purchases by the RBI from the market. Major transactions put through the RBI include some part of aid receipts and interest and discount earned on investment of foreign exchange reserves. Early indications are that the foreign exchange market displayed surplus conditions, reflecting sharp recovery of exports, buoyancy in invisible receipts, sharp turnaround in portfolio investments by FIIs and significant net accretions to NRI deposits.

[English]

Minerals in the Country

336. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of minerals being extracted in the country, till date, alongwith the names of States where these are being extracted, separately; and

(b) the basis on which the royalty on these

minerals is being given to the related States indicating the rate of royalty, mineral-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) The names of the minerals (other than petroleum and natural gas) extracted in the county, State-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The royalty on minerals is collected by the concerned State Government itself as per the rates specified in the Second Schedule to the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 under Section 9 of the said Act. Charging of royalty on minerals removed or consumed from the leasehold areas is either on unit of production basis or advalorem basis. The rates of royalty are uniform for all States except West Bengal, where the rates w.e.f. 5th May, 1987 are in force. The Second Schedule to the Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 specifies the rates of royalty applicable to each mineral. The current Second Schedule to the Act was laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 8.5.1997.

Statement

Andhra Pradesh :	Minerals extracted are Coal, Chromite, Gold, Iron ore, Lead Conc., Manganese Ore, Apatite, Asbestos, Ball Clay, Barytes, Calcite, Clay (Others), Corundum, Dolomite, Felspar, Fireclay, Fuch Quartzite, Garnet (Abrasive), Graphite r.o.m., Kaolin, Kyanite, Laterite, Lime Kankar, Limeshell, Limestone, Mica (crude), Ochre, Pyrophyllite, Quartz, Sand (others), Shale, Silica Sand, Slate, Steatite, Vermiculite.
Arunachal Pradesh :	Minerals extracted are, Limestone.
Assam :	Minerals extracted are Coal & Limestone.
Bihar :	Minerals extracted are Coal, Chromite, Copper Ore, Gold (as by-product), Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Asbestos, Barytes, Bauxite, Dolomite, Felspar, Fireclay, Garnet (Abrasive), Graphite r.o.m., Kaolin, Kyanite, Laterite, Lime-stone, Mica (crude), Ochre, Pyrites, Quartz, Sand (Oth-ers), Silica Sand, Steatite.

Delhi :	Minerals extracted are Kaolin.	Calcite, Clay (Others), Corundum, Diamond, Diaspore, Dolomite, Felspar, Fireclay, Kaolin, Laterite, Limestone, Ochre, Phosphorite, Pyrophyllite, Quartz, Sand (others), Silica Sand, Sillimanite, Slate, Steatite, Vermiculite.
Goa :	Minerals extracted are Bauxite, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Silica Sand.	
Gujarat :	Minerals extracted are Agate, Lignite, Copper Ore, Calcite, Clay (Others), Bauxite, Ball Clay, Felspar, Dolomite, Fireclay, Fluorite (Conc.), Fluorite (Graded), Graphite r.o.m., Gypsum, Kaolin, Laterite, Limestone, Ochre, Perlite, Quartz, Sand (Others), Silica Sand, Steatite, Vermiculite, Chalk & Calcerous sand.	
		Maharashtra :
		Minerals extracted are Bauxite, Chromite, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Barytes, Corundum, Dolomite, Felspar, Fireclay, Fluorite (graded), Kaolin, Kyanite, Laterite, Limestone, Ochre, Pyrophyllite, Quartz, Sand (others), Silica Sand, Sillimanite, Steatite & Shale.
Haryana :	Minerals extracted are Iron ore, Dolomite, Felspar, Kaolin, Lime Kankar, Limestone, Quartz, Silica, Sand, Slate, Calcite.	Manipur :
		Minerals extracted are Chromite.
		Meghalaya :
Himachal Pradesh :	Minerals extracted are Barytes, Gypsum, Limestone, Salt (Rock) & Shale.	Minerals extracted are Coal, Fireclay, Sillimanite & Limestone.
		Orissa :
Jammu & Kashmir :	Minerals extracted are Coal, Bauxite, Gypsum, Kaolin, Clay (others), Limestone & magnesite.	Minerals extracted are Coal, Bauxite, Chromite, Iron Ore, Lead Conc., Manganese Ore, Corundum, Dolomite, Fireclay, Graphite r.o.m., Kaolin, Lime-stone, Mica (crude), Pyrophillite, Quartz, Sillimanite, Stea-tite.
Karnataka :	Minerals extracted are Bauxite, Chromite, Copper Ore, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Asbestos, Clay (Others), Corundum, Dolomite, Dunite, Felspar, Felsite, Fireclay, Fuch-Quartzite, Gold, Kaolin, Kyanite, Limeshell, Limestone, Magnesite, Ochre, Quartz, Shale, Silica Sand, Steatite, Vermiculite.	
		Rajasthan :
		Minerals extracted are Copper Ore, Lead Conc. Zinc Conc., Asbestos, Ball Clay, Barytes, Calcite, Chalk, Corundum, Dolomite, Emerald, Fireclay, Felspar, fluorite, (granted) Garnet (Gem), Garnet (Abrasive), Graphite r.o.m., Gypsum, Iron Ore, Jasper, Kaolin, Kyanite, Laterite, Limestone, Magnesite, Mica (crude), Ochre, Phosphorite, Pyrites, Pyrophyllite, Quartz, Silica Sand, Sillimanite, Slate, Steatite, Tungsten Conc. Vermiculite & Wollastonite.
Kerala :	Minerals extracted are Ball Clay, Bauxite, Fireclay, Kaolin, Graphite r.o.m., Magnesite, Limeshell, Limestone, Mica (crude), Quartz, Sand (others), Silica Sand & Sillimanite.	
Madhya Pradesh :	Minerals extracted are Coal, Bauxite, Copper Ore, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Tin (Conc.), Asbestos, Barytes,	Sikkim :
		Minerals extracted are Copper Ore, Lead Conc. & Zinc Conc.

Tamil Nadu :	Minerals extracted are Lignite, Bauxite, Ball Clay, Barytes, Clay (others), Dunite, Felspar, Fireclay, Garnet (Abrasive), Graphite r.o.m., Gypsum, Kaolin, Laterite, Lime Kankar, Limeshell, Limestone, Magnesite, Mica (crude), Quartz, Sillimanite, Silica Sand, Steatite, Vermiculite.
Uttar Pradesh :	Minerals extracted are Coal, Diaspore, Dolomite, Gypsum, Limestone, Magnesite, Ochre, Phosphorite, Pyro-phillite, Steatite and Silica Sand.
West Bengal :	Minerals extracted are Coal, Tungsten Conc. Apatite, Clay (Others), Dolomite, Fireclay, Kaolin, Limestone.

r.o.m.- run of the mine

Import of Second hand Textile Machines

337. PROF. UMMAREADDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to encourage exports of made-up and fabrics in the textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the textile sector has demanded removal of restrictions on import of second hand weaving machines;

(d) if so, the reasons of imposing restrictions on import of second hand textile machinery;

(e) the details of steps taken/to be taken to boost the export of finished or semi-finished goods in the textile sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a), (b) and (e) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to promote exports of textiles including made-up and fabrics. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under :

(i) The Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme, which has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.

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

(iii) Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Rs. one crore.

(iv) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.

(v) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received from textile sector regarding removal of restrictions on import of second hand weaving machines. With the on-set of liberalisation and globalisation in trade and consequential integration of world economy, it has become imperative for the textile sector to upgrade its technology level to the world class. With a view to encourage technology upgradation of the industry and to stop import of obsolete machinery in garb of old machinery, the Government has imposed restriction on the import of second hand Capital Goods in general including textile machinery.

Export of Iron Ore

338. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the export of Iron Ore;

(b) whether negotiations have been made with some countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the countries to which Iron Ore is proposed to be exported in the coming years; and

(d) the quantum of Iron Ore proposed to be exported to those countries from various Iron Ore producing States?

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

(b) Discussions are scheduled with Japan to be followed by South Korea to renew the annual contract for exports for 2000-2001 by the main canalising agency, MMTC. Since China imports mainly on spot basis, quantities are finalised on an annual/spot basis.

(d) Japan, South Korea and China are the main

markets for Indian Iron Ore at present as well as in the near future.

(d) Quantum of Iron Ore exports depends on the international supply-demand situation for different grades of iron ores. Indian exports of iron ore are likely to be in the range of 30-35 million tonnes during the year 2000-2001 from various iron ore producing States like Karnataka, Bihar, Orissa, Goa and Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Leather Industry

339. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to modernise the leather industry;

(b) if so, the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other steps taken/being taken to revamp the leather industry of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) With a view to promoting the holistic development of the leather sector, a Tannery Modernisation Scheme has been launched with effect from 18.1.2000. The Scheme, which will initially be in operation till 2001-2002, proposes to cover about 30% of the tanneries.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The following steps have been taken under various programmes to revamp the leather industry :

(i) Augmentation of capacities by attracting fresh investments and permitting the establishment of integrated tanning units.

(ii) Rationalisation of duty structure through annual budget exercises.

(iii) Upgradation of training systems for design and manufacture of footwear, garments and leather goods.

(iv) Creation of institutional facilities of international standards to meet the needs of manpower training.

(v) Strengthening of the linkages between organised and unorganised sectors.

(vi) Establishment of 25 Carcass Recovery and By-product Utilisation Centres in different States to augment the domestic availability of raw materials.

(vii) Support to the artisanal sector by providing better design, equipment, training and exposure to domestic and international markets.

(viii) Establishment of common effluent treatment plants in the major tanning clusters.

[English]

Loans to Big Business Houses

340. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether big business houses and Members of Confederation of Indian industry (CII) who are in default of making payment of their outstanding bank loan are again given fresh loans by the same banks or other banks;

(b) if so, the reasons for advancing loans to defaulters again and again; and

(c) the details of bank defaulters who have again been given loans alongwith reasons therefor, bank-wise both public and private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under a scheme introduced in April, 1994 by RBI it has been collecting from and disseminating to, banks and financial institutions information on defaulters of banks and financial institutions with outstanding aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above whose account have been classified as doubtful or loss assets and where suits have been filed by banks and Financial Institutions for recovery of their dues. Banks and financial institutions make use of the information while considering, on merits, the requests for new and additional credit requirements by existing constituents and new constituents. Under the current provisions of law, disclosure of information about the borrowers of banks and financial institutions is prohibited except under circumstances as provided under the Statutes.

[Translation]

Personnel Banking Schemes

341. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India has introduced a scheme namely "Personnel Banking Scheme" in their selected branches in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details of scheme alongwith the names of those branches where this scheme is being implemented; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to introduce this scheme in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) State Bank of India have reported that they do not have any such scheme designated as "Personnel Banking Scheme" which has been made operational at some of their metropolitan branches.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Marble Mining

342. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places in the country where mining of Marble and Granite has been undertaken along with the quantum of Marble and Granite extracted during the last three years;

(b) whether the mining and production of Marble and Granite has been reducing constantly;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the names of countries to which Marble and Granite has been exported during the last three years alongwith the quantity thereof; and

(e) the income earned by the Government on account of export of Marble and Granite, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) Marble and Granite are minor minerals defined under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and therefore information on production of these minerals are not centrally maintained. However leading marble producing State is Rajasthan followed by Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar. Similarly major granite producing States are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu followed by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Kerala, Haryana, Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. As per information given by the Centre for Development of Stone, an autonomous body of the Government of Rajasthan, production figures in respect of Marble and Granite for the period 1995-1998 were estimated as under :-

	Procdution (in '000 tonnes')		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Marble	3186	3712	3622
Granite	4555	4550	4950

(d) and (e) Marble and Granite are exported to a large number of countries including South Korea, Taiwan, Israel & USA etc. Total quantity and value of exports during 1995-1998 were as under :-

Mineral	(Qty. in '000 tonnes') (value in million Rs.)					
	1995-96		1996-97		1997-89	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Marble	59	899	66	1,080	74	1,301
Granite	1,277	10,827	1172	11,388	708	9,577

NABARD Loan under RIDF-III Scheme

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

(a) the amount provided to Haryana Government under RIDF-III Scheme by NABARD during the last three years to provide basic infrastructure and cold storage facility in rural market to the farmers as against the total amount demanded for this purpose; and

(b) the details of amount provided to Haryana during the current financial year and purposed to be provided during the following year for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that all the projects submitted by Haryana Government under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-III were sanctioned. The amount sanctioned during the last three years under RIDF-III is as follows :

(Rs. in crore)			
1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total
42.09	32.89	---	74.98

NABARD has further reported that no project proposal for cold storage in rural market was received from Haryana State Government under RIDF-III.

(b) NABARD has reported that it has sanctioned amount for availment by Haryana Government during the current financial year and the following years under RIDF-IV and RIDF-V as under :-

(Rs. in crore)

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total
79.81	42.51	15.62	137.94

[English]

Sick Tea Estate in Assam

344. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the most deplorable condition of Pathini Tea Estate, a Government of India Undertaking in the District of Karimganj in Assam;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the condition of the garden;

(c) whether the Government have decided to sell out the garden to some private party;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(e) whether the TICI has failed to pay off the workers' bonus, gratuity and wages for which the workers of the garden have been suffering and a few of them have already suffered starvation deaths;

(f) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of workers; and

(g) the time by which the Government propose to sell out this garden to private party?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (g) Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TICI) is a wholly owned subsidiary of STC, which manages the administration of five tea gardens in the States of West Bengal and Assam including Pathini Tea Estate. The company is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss making company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. The total liability of the Company is estimated around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.1997.

TICI management filed a petition in Calcutta High Court for liquidation of the company. The case is pending in the Court. TICI is in the condition of ill economic health and it is not possible for the company to generate funds for the revival of its gardens.

[Translation]

Aerial Survey for Gold Reserves

345. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval to conduct an aerial survey of 67 thousand square kilometers of area in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra in order to explore the possibilities of reserves of gold, silver and other precious metals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on date, the Central Government in the Department of Mines have accorded its approval under Section 5(1) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to the grant of 65 prospecting licences covering a total area of around 90,142 Sq. Kms. for aerial prospecting in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in order to explore the possibilities of reserves for gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, cadmium, bismuth and associated minerals. This includes 53 effective prospecting licences granted to various companies covering an area of around 73,925 Sq. Kms. in Rajasthan. So far, aerial prospecting has been done only in the State of Rajasthan and the progress made by various licencees as reported by the State Government of Rajasthan is appended as statement.

Statement**Progress of Aerial Prospecting made by various Licencees in Rajasthan****A. M/s HZL AND BHP MINERALS :**

M/s HZL and BHP Minerals are jointly conducting exploration programme in the State. Initially they had eight PL areas covering around 16315 Sq. Kms., out of which around 8400 Sq. Kms. area has been relinquished after preliminary survey. Subsequently, they have acquired an additional area of around 9255 Sq. Kms. under another 11 PLs.

Airborne geophysical survey and ground follow-up work in the PL blocks is being carried out and by airborne survey, 242 anomalies have been identified. In ground survey mapping for 172 anomaly sites, geophysics for 114 anomaly sites and geochemistry for 66 sites have been completed. Further drilling in 55 anomaly areas has been carried out with a total of 9844.30 m. drilling spread over 85 bore-holes. Most of the bore-holes are short (90-110 m. deep). In Kakalwar, Malikhera, Ranla, Maha Khurd, Lampiya, Malikhera, Salara, Asaholi, Somi, Lasariya Ka Khera, Samodi, Rampura, Urja Ka Kheda areas, Copper from 50 to 500 ppm has been reported.

B. M/s. ACC RIO TINTO EXPLORATION LTD. :

Out of sanctioned area of around 2432 Sq. Kms., an area of around 1222 Sq. Kms. has been relinquished.

Airborne survey has been completed and data is to be processed subject to clearance from Defence Department.

**C. M/s. MERIDIAN MINERALS INDIA LTD.
(MMIL) :**

MMIL has six prospecting licences in which aerial survey, LANDSAT MSS image studies, regional geological studies etc. Have been completed and a total of 47 target areas have been identified, out of which, field assessment of 27 areas have been done so far and five principal prospects have been identified. Results are encouraging and a number of anomalous zones for lead, zinc, copper, silver values have been observed. Around 318 Sq.Kms. area has been relinquished after preliminary work.

D. M/s. WSIL MINERALS SANDS INDIA (P) LTD.:

M/s. WSIL Minerals Sands has 5 prospecting licences. Out of the areas sanctioned, airborne survey in Udaipur, Bhilwara and Ajmer districts have been completed. Data have also been processed but M/s. WSIL Minerals Sands have not submitted the report. Recently in Bhilwara and Chittorgarh district, preliminary sampling from streams has been done and samples have been sent for processing. Result will be available in 2/3 months. Further airborne survey will be planned on the basis of the results.

[English]

Film Festival

346. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "So, whose festival is it anyway" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated January 20, 2000;

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

(c) the criteria and norms adopted for films to gain entry into the recent International Film Festival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is "to provide a common platform for the

cinematographies of the world to project the excellence of their film art; contributing to the understanding and appreciation of the film cultures of different nations in the context of their social and cultural ethos; and promoting friendship and cooperation among different peoples of the world". With this objective in view, the DFF endeavours to screen some of the outstanding films from all over the world during the festival. While there was not full attendance in theatres, other than those for delegates, for some films during the festival, it remains the endeavour of the DFF to promote good cinema and inculcate a greater appreciation of film cultures.

The Business Centre was set up during the Festival with a view to facilitating business between the participants, which was the objective of the market section as well. While the format of the section was changed, in as much as there were no rental stalls, enhanced facilities were provided for conducting business which included display of promotional material and secretarial assistance for business meetings organised by the NFDC, that organisation also conducted transactions worth Rs. 27 lakhs. The mainstream section of IFFI, one of the most popular sections of the Festival, is organised in collaboration with the Film Federation of India. Among the film personalities who attended the Festival were Anil Kapoor, Akshaye Khanna, Sharmila Tagore, Shabana Azmi, Javed Akhtar, Subhash Ghai, Shyam Benegal, Nandita Das, Aparna Sen, Mammooty, Dr. Mohan Agashe, Ketan Mehta, Dr. Jabbar Patel.

(c) Selection of films is done keeping in mind the overall objectives of International Films Festival of India. In the Cinema of the World Section, only films of high quality which have been entered in, or have won awards in other International Film Festivals, or are of extraordinary merit, are included. While juries select films for the Indian Panorama Section, films for the Mainstream section are selected by the Film Federation of India.

[Translation]

Regional Rural Banks

347. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Regional Rural Banks are in a bad state due to negligence in recovery of loans and financial irregularities;

(b) if so, whether the Government have constituted any Commission to examine this;

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

(d) whether the Government are considering to recapitalise the Regional Rural Banks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been showing steady progress in their recovery performance since 1994 particularly after the commencement of restructuring programme for RRBs on "Stand alone" basis. The recovery level of RRBs which stood at 46.23% during 1993-94 progressively increased to 60.54% during 1997-98.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of the steady progress in the recovery performance of RRBs, appointment of such a Commission has not been considered necessary.

(d) and (e) The process of recapitalisation of RRBs was initiated during the year 1994-95 and during the period 1994-2000, additional equity support of Rs. 2188.42 crores has been provided to 187 RRBs.

[English]

Export Performance

348. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the export performance during the last three years in terms of dollar value and percentage of growth rate;

(b) whether there has been a consistent growth in Foreign Direct Investment approvals and inflows;

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

(d) the new measures taken by the Government to enhance the Foreign Direct Investment approvals and inflows in India; and

(e) the export performance of Tamil Nadu in various sectors during the last three years and the scope for the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The export performance of India during the last three years in terms of dollar value and percentage of growth rate are as under :-

(Value in US\$ millions)

Year	Exports	Growth rate (in percentage)
1996-97	33469.76	5.3
1997-98	35007.85	4.6
1998-99@	33641.00	3.7
1999-2000@	27419.23	12.9#

@ Figures for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are provisional

Figures for 1999-2000 are for April-December, 1999 and growth rate is over the corresponding period in 1998.

(b) and (c) The details of total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals and inflows for some major sectors during the last three calendar years are as follows :

(Amount in crores)

Total approval and inflow of FDI					
Amount of FDI Approved			Actual Inflows		
1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
54891.35	30813.5	28366.53	16425.82	13339.86	16867.81

Sector-wise details :

S. No.	Name of the Industry	Amount of FDI Approved			Actual Inflows		
		1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
1.	Metallurgical Industries	2516.72	2219.84	1400.15	101.44	125.9	164.18
2.	Fuels	26432.61	13891.77	5673.47	1524.59	563.55	748.46
3.	Electrical Equipment	2192.99	1427.49	2546.85	1331.24	786.59	703.61
4.	Telecommunications	7185.6	3100.13	3901.78	1185	1741.02	215.56
5.	Transport Industry	3790.07	1562.88	6223.7	1513.83	1476.92	1130.2

Note : The inflow of FDI is provisional and as provided by RBI, Mumbai

(d) Measures to enhance Foreign Direct Investment in India is a continuing process and the Government has taken a number of steps to attract more investment. Some of the recent measures include, placing of all items under the automatic route for Foreign Direct Investment/ Non Resident Indian and Overseas Corporate Body Investment except for a small negative list, automatic route for all proposals for investment in public sector units as also for EOU/EPZ/EHTP/STP units subject to the some parameters, Reserve Bank of India to continue to be the concerned agency for monitoring/reporting as per existing procedure, etc.

(e) Department of Commerce does not maintain State-wise export details.

[Translation]

Foreign Tours

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards some cases of foreign tours undertaken by the officers of the State Governments of Delhi and U.P. without obtaining the necessary permission from the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of each such case detected during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for this violation of existing rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the concerned State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Smuggling of Drugs

350. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether smuggling of drugs and other goods along the border have increased manifold during the past few years;

(b) if so, whether the various agencies and the present laws are not sufficient to check the smuggling;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) if not, the reasons for frequent occurrence of such incidents;

(e) whether the Government propose to make any stringent laws to check it; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Smuggling is a clandestine activity which generates large monetary gains. However, the enforcement agencies are maintaining strict vigil and making concerned efforts to check smuggling.

(e) and (f) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act, 1985 and Customs Act, 1962 provides for stringent punishment for drug traffickers and smuggling of goods, respectively.

Recommendations of Disinvestment Commission

351. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission in a time-bound manner and clear obstacles in the way of privatisation of PSUs;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to either divest its share in loss making PSUs or consider closing them;

(c) whether the Government also propose to consider revamping the boards of various PSUs with the induction of professionals to guide the management and install a greater sense of accountability; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Disinvestment is an on-going process and is done keeping in view the Government policy, market conditions, financial performance of the company and in consultation with the Administrative Ministry and, no time-bound programme has been drawn for disinvestment.

(b) There is no separate policy for disinvestment in regard to the loss making PSUs. The disinvestment policy of the Government is to bring down the equity stake of the Government upto 26 percent in the generality of

cases. Government will however continue to retain majority holding in strategic areas.

(c) and (d) Necessary instructions have been issued by the Department of Public Enterprises for professionalising the Board of Directors of PSUs by inducting outside experts.

[Translation]

Sick/Closed Industrial Units

352. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

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

(a) the number of sick and closed units in the country as per the latest estimates, sector-wise;

(b) the total outstanding dues of those units against the bank and financial institutions;

(c) whether any measures are being taken to revive these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country are compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. According to the latest available report, as at the end of March, 1998, the position of industrial sickness in the country and outstanding bank credit is as follows :

(Rs. in crore)

Category	No. of units	Outstanding Bank Credit
1. SSI sick	221536	3856.64
2. Non-SSI sick/weak	2476	11825.25
Total	224012	15681.89

During the years 1997 to 1999 closure of 441 industrial units has been reported.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, inter-alia, include, guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund etc.

Vacant Posts for SCs & STs

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

(a) whether some posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in these departments and undertakings have been given promotions during the last three years and new appointments have also been made;

(d) whether prescribed rules have been followed in regard to appointment and promotion of persons belonging to SCs and STs; and

(e) if not, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

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

AIR and FM Network in Bihar

354. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of projects launched or proposed for All India Radio and FM network development in Bihar, especially in Saharsa and Supaul districts during the Ninth Five year Plan; and

(b) the present status of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Schemes launched during the 9th Five Year Plan along with their present status are given in enclosed statement. No scheme of All India Radio has been proposed in Saharsa and Supaul districts during the 9th Five Year Plan and these districts are adequately covered by the existing transmitters.

Statement

S. No.	Project	Present Status
1	2	3
1.	Ranchi-6 kW FM Tr. for Vividh Bharati Services	The project is technically ready. Posting of staff is in progress.

1	2	3
2.	Jamshedpur-6 kW FM Tr.	Project is ready. Posting of Staff through re-deployment is under progress.
3.	Patna-Installation of addl. unit of 3 kWFM Tr. and Stereo playback facilities	The existing 3 KW FM Tr. has been augmented to 6 KW power and commissioned on 16/12/98. Stereo playback facility is under implementation.
4.	Ranchi-50 KW SW Tr.	Commissioned w.e.f 16/9/99.

[English]

Cooperative Credit Institutions

355. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a task force to examine the problems being faced by co-operative credit institutions and suggest measures for making them viable in the long run;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith problems being faced by them;

(c) whether the State Governments have been given representation in the task force;

(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) and (b) Government has constituted a Task Force headed by Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India to study the functioning of co-operative banks in the country and to suggest package for their revival/restructuring. The other members of the Task Force are : Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Banking Division and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture. The terms of reference of the Task Force are :

- i. To review the functioning of the cooperative credit structure and suggest measures which would make them member driven professional business enterprises;
- ii. To study aspects relating to the costs, spreads and effectiveness at various tiers of cooperative credit structure and make suitable recommendations for their rationalisation and improvements;
- iii. To study the financial performance of the co-operative bodies and make recommendations

for improving their financial health so that they can become efficient and cost effective instrument for delivery of rural credit;

- iv. To review the existing supervisory and regulatory mechanism for cooperative credit institutions and suggest measures for strengthening the arrangements.

(c) to (e) There are no representatives of the State Governments in the Task Force. However, the Task Force has had extensive consultation with State Governments, Co-operative Banks and representatives of the co-operative sectors.

Foreign Investment

356. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign investment proposals received and approved by the Government during each of the last three years as well as during the current year, till date;

(b) the amount of foreign investments involved therein;

(c) the number of cases cleared by F.I.P.B. during the said period and the number of cases still pending with it alongwith the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) During the period from January, 1997 to December 1999, 4583 proposals with Foreign Direct Investment of Rs. 114071.38 crore have been considered and approved by the Government.

(c) and (d) During the said period 3757 proposals were cleared by FIPB. As on date, 19 proposals have been pending for consideration of FIPB for more than 30 days. Due care is taken to dispose of the cases within the time frame of 30 days as per the extant FIPB guidelines. The delay in the disposal of the cases referred to above has been on account of policy considerations, want of requisite information from the applicant, requirement of detailed examination in cases involving the establishment of multiple ventures in the light of the Press Note No. 18 dated 14-12-98 and non-receipt of the recommendations of the Administrative Ministry concerned.

[Translation]

LPT/HPT in M.P.

357. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPT/HPT installed/to be installed in Madhya Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) the number of LPT/HPT not yet completed, location-wise;

(c) the time by which telecast is likely to be started;

(d) whether the Government propose to end regional disparity in providing facilities to the State;

(e) If so, the measures taken in this regard; and

(f) the scheme formulated for modernisation and upgradation of AIR and Doordarshan Kendras in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) At present 88 transmitters of varying power are functioning in Madhya Pradesh. Beside, 20 transmitters are at various stages of implementation in the State. Locations of above transmitters are given in enclosed statement.

(c) The above mentioned transmitter projects are expected to be completed in phases, by the end of IX plan period.

(d) and (e) It has been the constant endeavour of AIR and Doordarshan to strengthen Radio/TV coverage in hitherto uncovered areas of every State. 20 Doordarshan projects and 8 AIR projects as detailed in the statement are at various stages of implementation and this is expected to enhance the coverage substantially.

(f) Modernisation and upgradation of facilities is a continuous process and schemes in this regard are formulated and implemented from time to time subject to availability of resources.

Statement

A. Existing DD Transmitters

I. HPTS (7 Nos.)

Bhopal

Indore

Gwalior

Jabalpur

Jagdalpur

Raipur
Raipur (DD 2)
LPTs (71 Nos.)
Ailrajpur
Ashoknagar
Ambikapur
Balladilla
Balaghat
Betul
Bhind
Bijalpur
Bilaspur
Burhanpur
Chanderi
Chhatarpur
Chhindwara
Damoh
Datla
Dungargarh
Guna
Harda
Itarsi
Bhander
Ganderwara
Narayanpur
Piparia
Pendra Road
Jaora
Jhabua
Kanker
Khandwa
Khargaon
Khurai
Korba

Kukdeswar
 Kurasia
 Kurwai
 Lehar
 Malanjkhanda
 Mandla
 Mandsaur
 Manindergarh
 Murwara
 Nagda
 narsimhapur
 Neemuch
 Panchmarhi
 Maihar
 Bada Malhera
 Sitamau
 Bhopal (DD 2)
 Panna
 Raghogarh
 Raigarh
 Rajgarh
 Rajhara Jharandili
 Ratlam
 Rewa
 Sagar
 Sironj
 Satna
 Seoni
 Shahdol
 Shajapur
 Sheopur
 Shivpuri
 Sidhi
 Singrauli

Tikamgarh
 Ujjain
 Kelaras
 Sakti
 Garot
 Bhanpura
 III. VLPTs (10 Nos.)
 Budhni
 Bijapur
 Parasia
 Sarangarh
 Koylibeda
 Singrauli
 Diamond Mining project
 Jashpurnagar
 Kondagaon
 Pakhanjore

B. Doordarshan

Transmitters under implementation

- I. HPTs (6 Nos.)
1. Ambikapur
 2. Guna
 3. Shahdol
 4. Bhopal (DD 2)
 5. Indore (DD 2)
 6. Jabalpur (DD 2)
- II. LPTs (12 Nos.)
- Badwani
 Bareilly
 Champa
 Kukshi
 Agar
 Lakhnadon
 Karalra
 Kharod
 Konta

Sindhwa

Multai

Pandaria

III. VLPTs (2 Nos.)

Pathalgaon

A lot

AIR Transmitters under implementation

1. Jabalpur — 10 KW FM Tr. Studios.
2. Saraippalli — Local Radio Station with 1KW FM Tr.
3. Mandla — Local Radio Station with 1KW FM Tr.
4. Rajgarh — Local Radio Station with 3KW FM Tr.
5. Bhopal — 3 KW FM Tr. and Stereo Playback facilities.
6. Indore — 3 KW FM Tr. and Stereo Playback facilities.
7. Indore — Replacement of 100 KW MW Tr. by 200 KW MW Tr.
8. Ambikapur — Replacement of 20 KW MW Tr. by 20 KW MW Tr.

[English]

Modernisation of Textile Industry

358. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any National Action Plan for modernisation of textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by the Government for modernisation and upgradation of traditional weavers in the handicraft, powerloom and handloom sector in the country, particularly in the State of Manipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF) 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/co-opted institutions to the identified segments of the industry for the projects in conformity with the scheme from their own resources. Government funding is limited to reimbursement of interest at 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme.

(c) For extending technical assistance and impart training facilities to powerloom weavers, Government has set up 43 powerloom service centres (PSCs). Out of the 43 PSCs, 21 PSCs have been selected for modernisation of their loomage and other training facilities. Government has taken up a programme of setting up CAD centre to provide design development, support, and support to powerloom sector. So far, 12 such CAD centres have already been set up under different TRAs.

To upgrade the traditional skill of carpet weavers and artisans in the country including in the state of Manipur, the steps taken include : upgradation of Regional Design and Technical Development Centres at Guwahati, Bangalore, Bhopal, Calcutta and Delhi; setting up of National level design centre at Moradabad and Delhi to cater to design requirement of handicrafts sector; setting up of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadohi with an objective to provide much needed support to carpet industry with facilities like designing, colour matching etc.; implementation of UNDP assisted project in wood crafts, cane & bamboo & carpets; training and holding of design workshop.

Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) extends assistants to the State Governments under developmental and welfare schemes for the over all development of the handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers. In order to upgrade skill of weavers, enhance their productivity and income, financial assistance is extended for training, acquisition and modernisation of looms, purchase of accessories, engagement of designers, design and infrastructural support, etc.

[Translation]

Jobs to Dependents of Bank Employees

359. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision to provide jobs on compassionate grounds to the dependents of the employees of nationalised banks who died during service;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the nationalised banks have framed their own schemes for giving compassionate appointments to

their eligible employees. These schemes have been framed/ revised keeping in view the Government guidelines and the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 4th May, 1994 in the case of Umesh Kumar Nagpal vs State of Haryana and others. Some of the important features of these schemes are as under :-

- The compassionate appointment is to be granted to a dependent family member of the bank employee dying in harness.
 - A dependent of bank employee retired on medical grounds before attaining the age of 55 years is also eligible for compassionate appointment.
 - Compassionate appointments are to be made in the clerical and subordinate cadres only.
 - The applicant should be eligible and suitable for the post in all respects as prescribed in the scheme.
 - Application for compassionate appointment should be made within one year of the death of the employee.
 - The family is indigent and deserves immediate assistance for relief from financial destitution.
- (c) Does not arise.

Price Rise of 'Employment News' and 'Rozgar Samachar'

360. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of weekly "Employment News" and "Rozgar Samachar" has been raised from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 with effect from February 6, 1999; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as the said newspapers are mainly read by the unemployed persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes.

(b) The price has been raised to offset the production cost.

Intellectual Property Rights

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

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation has rejected the appeal of India regarding the Intellectual Property Rights;

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

(c) the impact likely to be on the country's trade; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) The Appellate Body of WTO had upheld finding of a Dispute Settlement Panel of WTO to the effect that India had not complied with its obligations under the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights relating to putting in place a mail box for receipt of applications for patents in areas of technology not protected by product patents in India so far and a system for the grant of Exclusive Marketing Rights (EMRs) to the applicant fulfilling certain conditions. Accordingly, the Patents (Amendment) Act, 1999 was passed during Budget Session of Parliament and notified after receiving the assent of the President on 26th March, 1999. However, no application for EMRs has been received in India so far.

[English]

Disinvestment Commission Report

362. SHRI VAIKO :

DR. C. KRISHNAN :

SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has submitted the report of the Government;

(b) if so, its general recommendations and the action taken thereon;

(c) the names of Public Sector Undertakings recommended for partial/total disinvestment;

(d) the details of each PSU including its share holding pattern;

(e) the number and names out of these have been disinvested;

(f) the number and names out of these were loss making PSUs;

(g) whether any profit making PSU has also been disinvested;

(h) if so, the details thereof in each case along with the reasons therefor; and

(i) the present policy of the Government in regard to disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in Investment in India by International Finance Corporation

363. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Finance Corporation is planning to increase its investment in India;

(b) if so, the extent to which the investment is to be increased and the sectors where this is to be invested;

(c) whether the Government have identified the projects where the increased investment will be utilised; 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, as per information provided by International Finance Corporation (IFC), IFC is planning to increase its investment in the country to about \$ 200 million for the current fiscal year ending June 2000. In addition to more traditional manufacturing sectors, IFC plans to focus on the power, infrastructure, financial, knowledge-based and Small Medium Enterprises sectors in the current and next fiscal years.

Being the private investment part of the World Bank Group, IFC receives proposals from private sector and majority private sector owned projects.

India's withdrawal from Membership of International Jute Organisation

364. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has withdrawn its membership from International Jute Organisation;

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

(c) whether India has since taken a decision to rejoin UN body; and

(d) if so, the conditions and circumstances which compelled India to rejoin this body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India had withdrawn from the membership of

International Jute Organisation (IJO) w.e.f. 22nd April, 1998 as it was felt that the organisation has failed over the years to contribute in meaningful way towards development of jute. Further there was a tendency on the part of some member nations to dilute the next jute agreement in favour of importing nations and under mine the interest of India as regards our role in the Organisation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. India has since rejoined IJO w.e.f. 23rd December, 1999 since it was felt that India's staying away could have led to the liquidation of IJO w.e.f. 11 April, 2000. India's rejoining is also based on the understanding that its concerns will be addressed in the new agreement.

Infrastructure Status to Coal Industry

365. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives in granting infrastructure status to coal industry to facilitate healthy and accelerated growth of the Coal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of perspective plan of action under consideration for boosting up investment in coal sector;

(d) the details of foreign funds/investment made available for coal sector during the Eighth Plan and actual utilisation alongwith funds likely to be available during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) the details of updated performance review of the ongoing projects aided by foreign institutions, project-wise with the reasons for delay, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) On 13th October, 1998 a Note for the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure was submitted to the Government by the erstwhile Ministry of Coal proposing grant of infrastructure status to the coal industry and extending the same concessions to the coal sector as already made available to the infrastructure industries in the ports, telecommunications, roads and power sectors. The proposal is under consideration of the Government. The Department of Coal has been directed to workout the economics of coal mining on a representative basis for underground and opencast mines of different sizes.

(c) to (e) The Coal India Limited (CIL) obtained a loan from the World Bank under the Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project (CSRP) envisaging an investment of US\$ 1697.6 million in order to increase productivity in 24 opencast mines of subsidiary companies of CIL. The 24 opencast mines of 5 subsidiaries of CIL (3 mines in Central Coalfields

Limited, 6 mines in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, 5 mines in Northern Coalfields Limited, 5 mines in South Eastern Coalfields Limited and 5 mines in Western Coalfields Limited) are covered under CSRP. As per the financing plan of this project, US\$ 530 million are being financed by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development loan and US\$ 2.0 million by International Development Association. EXIM Bank of Japan is also co-financing to the extent of US\$ 530 million. CIL's contribution would be of the order of US\$ 581.6 million and suppliers' credit would be to the extent of US\$ 54 million. Performance of the CSRP activities is being regularly monitored by Department of Coal under the existing mechanism of Performance Review of Coal Projects. CIL also monitored the activities. There has been no perceptible slippage in CSRP activities.

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

366. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposal for disinvestment of some public sector industries during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the public sector industries going to be disinvested during the above period, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for disinvestment;

(d) the amount realised or likely to be realised through disinvestment; and

(e) the specific provisions made for protection of the interests of the employees in such PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) During 1999-2000, the Government had proposals to disinvest the Government equity in various PSEs including VSNL, GAIL, IOC, MTNL, IPCL, Modern Foods. However, disinvestment is carried out keeping in view various factors including market conditions, financial performance of the companies under consideration, sale conditions etc. Similarly, for the year 2000-2001, the Government would pursue disinvestment in various PSUs in accordance with its announced policy and keeping in

view the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission and views of the Administrative and other concerned Ministries in this regard. There is no separate policy State-wise.

(c) Disinvestment is being carried out in line with the Government policy as announced in the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister as under :-

"In the generality of case, the Government shareholding in public sector enterprises will be brought down to 26 per cent. In cases of public sector enterprises involving strategic considerations, Government will continue to retain majority holding.

(d) The target for the year 1999-2000 from disinvestment was Rs. 10,000 crores upto 31.1.2000. An amount of Rs. 1585 crores has been raised.

(e) As announced by the Finance Minister in this Budget Speech for the year 1998-99, the interest of workers shall be protected in all cases. Specific provisions are made in the shareholder's agreement on a case to case basis in this respect.

Coal Mines in Maharashtra

367. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of coal mines operating presently in Maharashtra, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some new coal mines in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct a survey for this purpose in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) The names of coal mines presently operating in the State of Maharashtra alongwith location of the mine under the command areas of Western Coalfields Limited are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Survey/prospecting for coal deposits is done much before a mine is proposed to be opened. Once potentially viable deposits are located, Project Reports are formulated keeping in view the future demand of coal, availability of investible fund and some other considerations. However, formulation of a Project Report does not mean that the project will be ultimately taken up for execution. Approval of project for execution depends on a number of factors like financial viability (IRR), environmental impact etc.

Following new mines are proposed to be opened in the State of Maharashtra during IXth & Xth Plan period (as per Annual Plan 2000-2001, Department of Coal).

- i) Adasa (UG)
- ii) Chinchala (UG)
- iii) Waghoda (UG)
- iv) Bhatadih (OC)
- v) Bhanegaon (OC)
- vi) Dhurwasa (OC)
- vii) Gauri Deep (OC)
- viii) Gatrohana (OC)

- ix) Junakunda (OC)
- x) Kamptee (OC)
- xi) Kalgaon (OC)
- xii) Makardhokra (OC)
- xiii) Navin Kunada Expansion (OC)
- xiv) Murpur Expansion (UG)
- xv) Nand-1 (UG)
- xvi) Baranj (OC)
- xvii) Gauri/Pauni (OC)
- xviii) Sasti (OC)

Statement

List of Working Mines in Maharashtra as on 01/02/2000

S. No.	Name of Area/Mine	District in which located	UG/OC/Mixed	Status Working Non-Working
1	2	3	4	5
Chandrapur Area				
1.	H. Lalpeth Mine No. 1	Chandrapur	UG	Working
2.	HLC No. 3 + Mana	Chandrapur	UG	Working
3.	Nandgaon Incline	Chandrapur	UG	Working
4.	Mahakali Colliery	Chandrapur	UG	Working
5.	C. Rayatwari Colliery	Chandrapur	UG	Working
6.	D. Rayatwari Colliery	Chandrapur	UG	Working
7.	HLC OC + HLC OC Extn.	Chandrapur	OC	Working
8.	Durgapur OC	Chandrapur	OC	Working
9.	Padampur OC	Chandrapur	OC	Working
10.	Bhatadi OC	Chandrapur	OC	Working
Ballarpur Area				
11.	Ballarpur UG	Chandrapur	UG	Working
12.	Sasti UG	Chandrapur	UG	Working
13.	Wirur UG@	Chandrapur	UG	*
	Chincholi @	Chandrapur	UG	**
14.	Ballarpur OC	Chandrapur	OC	Working

1	2	3	4	5
15.	New Dhuptala	Chandrapur	OC	Working
16.	Sasti OC	Chandrapur	OC	Working
17.	Gouri OC-I	Chandrapur	OC	Working
18.	Gouri OC-II	Chandrapur	OC	Working
19.	Pouni OC	Chandrapur	OC	Working
Majri Area				
20.	New Majri OC Sector-B	Chandrapur	OC	Working
21.	Kawadi OC	Chandrapur	OC	Working
22.	Chargaon OC/Sirna OC	Chandrapur	OC	Working
23.	Telwasa OC	Chandrapur	OC	Working
24.	New Majri UG No. 2	Chandrapur	UG	...
25.	New Majri UG No. 3	Chandrapur	UG	Working
Wani Area				
26.	Ghughus	Chandrapur	OC	Working
27.	Neeljai South	Yavatmal	OC	Working
28.	Neeljai	Yavatmal	OC	Working
29.	Naigaon	Yavatmal	OC	Working
30.	Mungoli	Yavatmal	OC	Working
31.	Nakoda	Chandrapur	UG	Working
Wani North Area				
32.	Ukni	Yavatmal	OC	Working
33.	Pimpalgaon	Yavatmal	OC	Working
34.	Kolarpimpri	Yavatmal	OC	Working
35.	Junad	Yavatmal	OC	Working
36.	Rajur Pit	Yavatmal	UG	Working
37.	Bhandewara Incline	Yavatmal	UG	Working
38.	Kumberkhani	Yavatmal	UG	Working
Nagpur Area				
39.	Silewara	Nagpur	UG	Working

1	2	3	4	5
40.	AB Incline	Nagpur	UG	Working
41.	Walni	Nagpur	UG	Working
42.	Pipla	Nagpur	UG	Working
43.	Patansaongi	Nagpur	UG	Working
44.	Saoner Mine No. 1	Nagpur	UG	Working
45.	Saoner Mine No. 2	Nagpur	UG	Working
46.	Saoner Mine No. 3	Nagpur	UG	Working
47.	Inder	Nagpur	UG	Working
48.	Kamptee OC	Nagpur	OC	Working
49.	Gondegaon OC	Nagpur	OC	Working
50.	Kamptee UG	Nagpur	UG	#
Umrer Area				
51.	Umrer OC	Nagpur	OC	Working
52.	Makardhokra-II UG	Nagpur	Mixed	Working
	Umrer Extn. OC	Nagpur		Working
53.	Murpar Project	Chandrapur	UG	Drilling work is being done. No production.

Note :- @ Wirur & Chinoholi UG are under One Manager.

* Production stopped from 16.6.1999.

** Production stopped from May, 1997.

*** Production stopped due to exhaustion of reserve.

Production suspended due to conversion from UG to OC Mine.

Financing Share Capital Market

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

(a) whether banks, financial institutions and mutual funds have started functioning the subscribers in the primary market to raise the index of the capital market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) According to SEBI, it has been observed that banks have participated in recent public issues. As per RBI guidelines, banks can provide advances to individuals for subscribing

to rights or new issues of shares, debentures/bonds against shares, subject to certain prudential limits imposed by RBI. Further, mutual funds are not permitted to advance any loans for any purpose as per SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996. In this context, it may be mentioned that financing of subscribers in the primary market does not have a direct impact on stock market indices. Such indices are more a reflection of the secondary market activity.

[Translation]

Strike by Employees of Public Sector Undertakings

369. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Trade Unions had observed

a token strike on February 2, 2000 in the country in protest against Government's bid to destroy the public sector undertakings and its coercive economic policies.

(b) whether the Union Government have received any request from these trade unions about their demands;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the union Government are taking steps or propose to take steps to accept the demands of the Central Trade Unions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) Workers of some Public Sector Undertakings observed a one day strike on February 2, 2000 in response to a call by three Central Trade Unions, viz., All India Trade Union Congress, Centre of Indian Trade Unions and Hind Mazdoor Sabha. The Strike notice of the trade unions was against all forms of privatisation and disinvestment, non-revival and closure of sick PSUs, Non-payment of wages in many PSUs, guidelines of DPE on wage revision, alleged attack on trade union rights and labour laws. A Group of Ministers has been reconstituted to go into various issues relating to CPSUs.

[English]

Aid to Develop Border Areas

370. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have given any bid to develop border areas in the Punjab during the last three years;

(b) if so, the amount given with details thereof; and

(c) whether the amount of aid given was used for the purpose for which it was given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission however supplements the efforts of the State Government in this regard through the allocation of Special Central Assistance under Special Area programmes such as Hill Area Development Programme and Border Area Development Programme. The border blocks of Punjab are allocated Special Central Assistance under the Border Area Deve-

lopment Programme (BADP). The amount released during the last three years is as follows :

(Rs. in crore)

1996-97	8.54
1997-98	8.54
1998-99	7.72

Individual schemes to be taken up under BADP are decided by a State Level Screening Committee presided over by the Chief Secretary. The State Government in their quarterly progress reports have reported expenditure against the schemes approved by the Screening Committee which is as per the guidelines of the programme.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units

371. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

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

(a) number of export oriented units working in the country particularly in tribal areas at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of such export-oriented units which have fulfilled their export commitments;

(c) the number of units which have not fulfilled their export commitments and the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of problems being faced by these units; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure fulfilment of export commitments by these export oriented units and to monitor the units?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) 1348 export oriented units (EOUs) were working in the country as on 22.2.2000. State-wise details are given in the enclose statement. No separate record is being maintained regarding location of EOUs in tribal areas.

(b) and (c) Export Oriented Units have a five year period to fulfil their export commitments. However, the monitoring of their performance is done on annual and cumulative basis subject to their having completed one year or more of production. Accordingly export performance of 846 units which have completed one year or more of production as on 31st March, 98 was monitored which reveals that 443

units have either achieved the export commitment or there was marginal shortfall in their case. In case of 134 units the shortfall in export performance was not more than 10% and their performance was kept under watch. In the case of 269 units the shortfall in export performance was more than 10% and these cases were referred to Director General of Foreign Trade as per guidelines. The reasons for poor performance were lack of markets and financial or managerial problems.

(d) The problems being faced by these units include lack of adequate markets, terms finance at international rates, infrastructure related problems and overall competitiveness of goods.

(e) The performance of Export Oriented Units is reviewed by the Government annually on the basis of monitoring reports of Development Commissioners of Export Processing Zones. Since the units have a minimum five year period under the scheme to fulfil their export commitments, cases of marginal shortfall in achievement are kept under watch by Development Commissioners while cases of serious default are referred to Director General of Foreign Trade for penal action under Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

Statement

State-wise break up of Functional EOUs (as on 22.2.2000)

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Functional EOUs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	157
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	7
4.	Gujarat	139
5.	Haryana	49
6.	Himachal Pradesh	7
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0
8.	Karnataka	193
9.	Kerala	29
10.	Madhya Pradesh	34
11.	Maharashtra	202
12.	Meghalaya	0

1	2	3
13.	Orissa	12
14.	Punjab	37
15.	Rajasthan	46
16.	Sikkim	3
17.	Tamil Nadu	256
18.	Tripura	0
19.	Uttar Pradesh	61
20.	West Bengal	47
21.	A & N Islands	1
22.	Chandigarh	1
23.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	9
24.	Delhi	27
25.	Goa, Daman & Diu	20
26.	Pondicherry	9
27.	Indian EEZ	1
Total		1348

[English]

Tax Evasion by Companies

372. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of multi-national companies/corporate houses have indulged in evading Income-tax, Central Excise and other taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of tax evasion in each case during the last three years;

(c) whether the income tax, central excise etc. conducted any raids in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the measures taken to recover the amount of income-tax evaded by them and also the fine imposed on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

CCCT Machines in CCL/BCCL

373. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Cross Country Conveyor Transportation machines in Central Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited alongwith the names of the places where these machines are being used or lying unused;

(b) the place-wise and number-wise details of machines closed down in the said companies;

(c) the details of the profit incurred or loss suffered due to closure of CCCT machines; and

(d) the logic behind setting up of CCCT machines at the places where these have been closed down along-with the manner in which the lying idle machines are likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) The total number of cross country conveyor transportation machines place-wise is as under :-

Name of the Company and washery	Number of CCCT machines	Status
CCL-Kargali Washery	1	Not in use and being dismantled.
BCCL-Madhuban Washery	2	One in operation and the other is under commissioning.

(c) and (d) CCCT at Kargali Washery was set up and commissioned in the year 1986 at a cost of Rs. 4 crores as sufficient coking coal was available at CCCT area to supply coal from linked mines to the washery.

Because of the drying up of linked sources of coking coal, the washery was converted to non-coking coal washery from 1.6.1999.

Washery is now receiveing non-coking coal from other sources making the use of CCCT redundant.

According to a study conducted in 1998-99, the cost

of coal transportation at that given time was Rs. 44.76 per tonne through CCCT against present cost of transportation of Rs. 28.28 per tonne for non-coking coal.

The conveyor structure and other parts of CCCT are in the process of dismantling and shall be used at suitable places in the company as and when required.

With dismantling of CCCT at Kargali, coking coal blocked by this structure will be released for mining, as structures are falling within mineable area of Bokaro OCP.

[English]

Import of Artificial Rubber

374. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the production of artificial rubber in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the quantity of artificial rubber imported during each of the last three years, item-wise, country-wise and value thereof?

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

Raid on CCI

375. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Raid on Cement Corporation of India elicits evidence of ex-chief financial bungling" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated December 28, 1999.

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

(c) the number of CCI units raided;

(d) the outcome of the raids;

(e) the time by which the investigation team is expected to give its report; and

(f) the further 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) to (f) This Department received various complaints against the management of M/s. Cement Corporation of India including its Ex-CMD. In order to find out the facts on these complaints, an Inquiry Committee consisting of a representative of Central Vigilance Commission, Central Bureau of Investigation, Coal Controller and a nominee of Department of Heavy Industry was constituted. The team visited the Company's units at Tandur, Nayagaon, Akaltara, Delhi Grinding Unit and Head Office. The Committee has submitted interim reports. The final report of the Committee is awaited. Delhi High Court has, however, restrained action on the basis of the report until further orders. The matter is sub-judice.

Revival of Sick Textile Mills

376. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to invite foreign textiles giants to revive sick NTC units;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

New Textile Policy

377. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI B.N. REDDY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the latest status of new textile policy;
- (b) whether all the State Governments would be consulted before formulating this policy;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) An Expert Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam to, inter-alia, review the impact of the existing Textile Policy and suggest policy measures for the industry to focus on changes resulting from over-all trade policy reforms. The Committee drew up its report after wide consultation with institutions and organisations representing the various sectors of the

industry, including State Governments. The Committee has submitted its report. The recommendations of the Committee mostly focus on measures to secure progressive increase in production and exportable surplus, removal of technological obsolescence, strengthen the competitive framework of all segments of the textile industry, removal of avoidable regulations and facilitation for orderly transition of the industry to that of a market oriented forward looking industry. The New Textile Policy, that takes the Expert committee Report into account, is still under consideration and may take some more time to finalise.

P.A.N.

378. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have made it mandatory to mention Permanent Account Number at the time of financial deals of certain limits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the P.A.N. has been allotted to all the applicants till date;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the number of applications pending with Income Tax Department till date; and
- (f) the time by which the P.A.N. will be allotted to all the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Quoting of PAN has been mandatory for following transactions :

- (i) application for opening an account with a Bank;
- (ii) application for installation of a telephone connection (including a cellular telephone);
- (iii) documents pertaining to sale or purchase of a motor vehicle;
- (iv) documents pertaining to sale or purchase of immovable property valued at Rs. 5 lakhs or more;
- (v) documents pertaining to a time deposit exceeding Rs. 50,000/- with a Bank;
- (vi) documents pertaining to deposits exceeding Rs. 50,000/- in any account with a Post Office Savings Bank;

- vii) documents pertaining to a contract of a value exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs for sale or purchase of securities (shares, debentures etc.)
- viii) payment to hotels & restaurants against their bills for an amount exceeding Rs. 25,000/- at any one time.

(c) to (f) As against 1,86,41,245 applications for allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) received upto 31.01.2000, 1,67,67,937 applications have been processed and 1,54,37,157 PAN allotted upto 31.01.2000. The delay in allotment of PAN to the remaining applicants is mainly due to incomplete information given in the application forms submitted by the applicants. This necessitates issue of deficiency letters. In all such cases, further processing can be done only after deficiencies are removed by the tax payers. Moreover, a large number of applications have been received in the recent months, which are being processed for allotment of PAN. The work of allotment of Permanent Account Numbers is in full swing and all out efforts are being made for expeditious allotment of PAN to the applicants. Wide publicity is also being given on the subject by the Department requesting the applicants to reply to the deficiency letters sent to them by the Department.

[Translation]

Industrial Growth

379. SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

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

(a) whether there has been a continuous decline in the rate of industrial growth since November, 1999 in the country;

(b) if so, the rate of industrial growth stood in November, 1999;

(c) the estimated rate of industrial growth by the end of January, 2000;

(d) the reasons for such decline in the rate of industrial growth; and

(e) the details of Industries lagging behind the average rate of industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The latest data on the Index of Industrial Production

(IIP) released by Central Statistical Organisation reveals that the rate of industrial growth in November and December 1999 are 3.2% and 5.2% respectively.

(c) Government has not made any estimate of rate of industrial growth by the end of January, 2000.

(d) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b).

(e) The industries at the 2-digit level of NIC classification, lagging behind the average industrial growth rate during April-December 1999 are :

Food Products,
Cotton Textiles,
Jute and other Vegetable Fibre Textiles,
Textiles products (including Wearing Apparel)
Wood and Wood Products; Furniture and Fixtures;
Paper & Paper products and Printing, Publishing & Allied Industries,
Rubber, Plastic, Petroleum and Coal Products,
Basic Metal and Alloy Industries,
Metal Products and Parts, except Machinery and Equipment,
Transport equipment and parts,
Other Manufacturing Industries.

Safeguarding Interests of Small Investors

380. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of those legal and administrative measures through which the interests of small and individual investor can be safeguarded;

(b) the steps have been taken by the Government in this regard and the manner in which these steps are different from the steps taken earlier; and

(c) the role of SEBI alongwith the details of efforts made by SEBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Companies which mobilise resources through public issues in the capital market come under the regulatory purview of

the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). In the primary market, for initial public offer, SEBI has introduced requirements of a track record of distributable profits for at least three years out of the immediately preceding five years and a pre-issue net worth of Rs. one crore in three out of the preceding five years. SEBI's regulations for collective investment schemes have been recently notified. In the secondary market, SEBI has advised all stock exchanges to augment their Investor Protection Funds and to set up Trade Guarantee/Settlement Guarantee Funds. Other measures by SEBI include a margining system, implementation of circuit filters, gross exposure limits for stock brokers linked with capital adequacy and dematerialisation of securities.

Companies which take deposits from the public are regulated by the Department of Company Affairs. A Bill has been introduced proposing an amendment in the Companies Act, providing inter-alia, that every company which accepts deposits from small investors shall intimate to the Company Law Board any default made by it in repayment of such deposits; to hold directors of the company responsible for any contraventions of the provisions of the Act; and to provide that the small shareholders will have a right to elect at least one director in public companies. This Bill is currently before Parliament.

The Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) are under the jurisdiction of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Reserve Bank of India Act has been amended providing for compulsory registration and prudential financial norms for NBFCs.

[English]

Power Plant by BHEL

381. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has decided to set up an energy efficient and environment friendly co-generation power plant on turn-key basis to meet the requirement of Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of IOC plants likely to be covered by these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. BHEL have recently been awarded a contract by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for setting up energy efficient & environment friendly co-generation power plants on turn-key basis for their refineries at Panipat and Barauni. These plants besides

providing power will also supply steam to the refineries. The capacity of Gas Turbine Generator to be installed at Panipat is 30 MW and that of Heat Recovery Boiler is 125 tph. The capacity of Gas Turbine generators to be installed at Barauni is 40 MW and that of Heat Recovery Boilers is 96 tph.

Export of Handicrafts to Latin America/Canada

382. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is lot of scope for export of handicrafts to Latin America/Canada;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to help the entrepreneurs in exporting their products to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken/being taken to help the entrepreneurs in exporting their products to Latin America/Canada include : sponsoring of sale-cum-study team; participation in international fairs and exhibitions; organisation of buyer-seller's meets; conducting of seminars and workshop; overseas publicity and publication of catalogues; visit of handicrafts delegation to Argentina & Brazil in 2000-2001; participation in Regala Gifts show, Argentina and holding of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair and Indian Carpet Expo as an annual feature.

[Translation]

T.V. Relay Centres in Rajasthan

383. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of T.V. relay centres set up/proposed to be set up in Rajasthan showing the transmission capacity of each;

(b) the funds made available for each centre;

(c) the reasons for non-commissioning of such relay centres which are ready for commissioning;

(d) whether any representations have been received by the Government for starting the closed relay centres;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these relay centres are likely to be fully equipped and commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) 89 transmitters of varying powers as given below have been set up in Rajasthan :-

- i. High Power Transmitter (HPT) of 10 KW power - 4 Nos.
- ii. HPTs of 1 KW power - 1 No.
- iii. LPTs of 300 W/100 W power - 61 Nos.
- iv. VLPTs of 2x10 W power - 15 Nos.
- v. Transposer of 10 W power - 2 Nos.

All the above mentioned transmitters except 5 LPTs and one VLPT have been commissioned. In addition, 21 transmitter projects are under implementation in Rajasthan. A statement showing location of such projects alongwith approved capital cost is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Non-availability of requisite staff.

(d) to (f) None of the commissioned relay centres has been closed down. Action for deployment of staff at technically ready relay centres is already underway and these relay centres would be commissioned as soon as the requisite staff is in position.

Statement

Name of the Project	Capital Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2
A. HPTs (10 KW)	
1. Ajmer	391.60
2. Barmer (pmt. set up)	1720.58
3. Jaipur (DD II)	574.00
4. Jodhpur (DD II)	494.00
B. LPTs	
1. Pirrawa	76.00
2. Nagar	76.00
3. Nasirabad	76.00
4. Bhinmal	76.00
5. Sujat	76.00

1	2
6. Bali	76.00
7. Sanchor	76.00
8. Kishangargh (Dist. Ajmer)	76.00
9. Vijaynagar	96.00
10. Kushalgarh	76.00
11. Taranagar	76.00
12. Sagwara	76.00
13. Makrana	100.70
14. Navalgarh	76.00
C. VLPTs	
1. Tibi	77.65
2. Laxmangarh	70.81
3. Kotra	59.20

[English]

Discontinuation of Production in ECL

384. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to discontinue the production at various collieries of ECL, particularly in Madhaipur Colliery;

(b) if so, the names of other collieries where production is likely to be discontinued; and

(c) the reasons behind taking such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) No such decision has been taken at the Government's level. On the other hand, 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.

[Translation]

Programme on Sex Education

385. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the

Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether sex related programmes are increasing on Doordarshan in the name of social programmes which have influenced everyone, particularly youths; and

(b) the reasons for not paying attention by the Censor Board towards the wrong messages conveyed in the name of sex education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

LPT/HPT in Tribal Districts

386. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Low Power Transmitters and High Power Transmitters installed in the tribal districts of the country, particularly in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to expand A.I.R. and T.V. network in the tribal areas; and

(c) if so, the details of expansion programmes drawn up for the tribal areas and backward districts of Orissa during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The details of transmitters functioning in the tribal districts are as under :-

State	T.V.	Radio
Orissa	55	08
Madhya Pradesh	47	11
Bihar	15	05
All India	366	93

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) during the 9th Plan, Nine Doordarshan transmitters and two Local Radio Stations are proposed to be set up in the tribal districts of Orissa.

Trade Round at WTO

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

(a) whether India has proposed convening another ministerial meeting to consider a new trade round of WTO;

(b) if so, whether the United States has opposed such proposal;

(c) Whether India is taking initiatives to bring other developing countries in her stride to counter the pressure of the developed countries in the trade talks at WTO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Though India is disappointed with the failure of talks at the Seattle Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), it is her stand that another ministerial meeting should be convened only after arriving at a broad consensus on major issues by the membership of WTO, including removal of the contentious non-trade related issues, and the taking on board the concerns of the developing countries regarding the implementation of the existing WTO agreements, the chairperson of the third ministerial conference of the WTO, who is also the United States Trade Representative (USTR), has entrusted Director General, WTO with the task of building consensus amongst the WTO membership to prepare the way for resumption of the suspended ministerial conference.

(c) and (d) It continues to be India's strategy to build up solidarity with the like-minded developing countries so as to effectively protect her core interests besides projecting the developing country perspective in WTO negotiations. The major initiative in this regard after the Seattle talks has been during the Unctad-X Conference in Bangkok (12-19 February, 2000) when the group of 77 comprising developing countries, of which India is a member, worked to obtain a favourable recommendation in the plan of action of Unctad for commitment to a multilateral trading system which is more consistent with overall development objectives and, in the context of developing countries supports ways and mean to ensure that trade makes a more decisive contribution to alleviating poverty.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Spare Parts

388. SHRI AJIT SINGH :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether any condition to manufacture spare parts of car indigenously was imposed on car-manufacturers at the time of giving them permission in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to waive the said condition for the time being;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is steady increase in the production and sale of cars in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) No such condition was imposed on car manufacturers at the time of giving them permission in the country. Further the Foreign Collaboration approvals granted for manufacturing of cars were subject to the condition of dividend balancing and for manufacturing of auto-components/spare parts, no specific condition was imposed as per the existing Foreign Direct Investment Policy.

(e) and (f) There has been no steady growth in the production and sale of cars in the country during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99.

Advance ACA for Externally Aided Projects

389. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a provision to provide 2.5 percent advance of the budget allocation to the State Governments at the beginning of each financial year for the implementation of foreign aided projects so that there is no cost escalation and the projects complete in time;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have provided the advance to State Governments, particularly to Bihar and U.P.;

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

(d) whether a number of claims of Bihar and U.P. for the foreign aided projects are pending with the Union Government;

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

(f) the time by which these Claims are proposed to be entertained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The normal procedure for release of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is on reimbursement basis. However, release of advance ACA has been undertaken by way of assisting the States in effective aid utilisation. The amount of advance ACA has varied from year to year.

(b) and (c) During 1999-2000, Rs. 670.57 crore was released as Advance ACA. Out of this Rs. 10.14 crore was released to Bihar and Rs. 120.26 crore to U.P.

(d) to (f) As on 17.2.2000 claims worth Rs. 72.86 crore in respect of externally aided projects in Uttar Pradesh are being processed for lodging with the concerned donors. Amounts against these will be due for release after the disbursement is received from the donor. No claims in respect of externally aided projects in Bihar are pending.

[English]

Demand and Availability of Raw Silk

390. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the annual production of raw silk in the country;

(b) the estimated annual demand of raw silk in the country;

(c) whether there is a gap between availability and demand of raw silk in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The annual production and the estimated demand of raw silk in the country during the last three years is indicated below :

(in tonnes)

Year	Production	Demand
1997-98	15236	18,500
1998-99	15544	20,000
1999-2000	16190 (estimated)	22,000

(c) and (d) To meet the shortfall in the domestic availability of raw silk vis-a vis demand Government has permitted import. Presently Government has permitted import under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) wherein, the exporters are allowed to bring in duty free silk which is linked to export obligation. In addition, to meet the demand

for superior quality mulberry raw silk, the Government has permitted import of mulberry raw silk of Grade 2A and above by canalisation through Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation (HHEC), National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) and other State Corporations dealing with Handlooms/Powerlooms and silk.

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&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 sericulture practices for production of quality silk.

Restructuring of BIFR

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

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from the Indian Banks Association (IBA) requesting for winding up of BIFR;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to restructure the BIFR; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to review the Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985 (SICA) with a view to tackling the problem of sickness in an effective manner and to take a view on the functioning of BIFR.

Diversification of Textiles Industry

392. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to diversify the textile industry with a view to achieve a greater stake in the global market;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued to the textile industry in this regard; and

(c) the various steps taken by the textile industry on its diversification to promote export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to encourage exports of more value added products for achieving a greater stake in the global market. Some of the important initiatives taken specially in respect of the textile sector are as under :-

- 1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector.
- 2) The New Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 has been announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.
- 3) In the New Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy, the quota for new investments under Manufacturer Exporters Entitlement (MEE) and New Investors Entitlement (NIE) Systems have been linked to plant and machinery identified as necessary for technology upgradation under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Threshold limit under the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme has been reduced to Rs. 1 crore in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery.
- 6) Export of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units has been liberalised.
- 7) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments has been allowed.
- 8) Jute Manufacturer Development Council (JMDC), a statutory body of Government of India has commissioned market research and disseminated information on diversified jute goods by participating in important fairs and exhibitions abroad.

Shortage of Lead and Zinc

393. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any shortage of lead and zinc in the country;

(b) if so, the details of demand and supply of lead and zinc during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of major consumer industries of lead and zinc in the country;

(d) the total consumption of lead and zinc by these industries during each of the last three years;

(e) whether the Government propose to import lead and zinc scrap;

(f) if so, whether the Government are aware that import of lead and zinc is not environmentally viable; and

(g) if so, the reasons for such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is shortage of lead and zinc produced in the country.

(b) to (d) The details of supply of lead and zinc including imports during each of the last three years are as follows :

	(In tonnes)	
	Lead	Zinc
1996-97	91,810	2,11,149
1997-98	1,02,626	2,42,592
1998-99	1,08,912	2,43,958

In the absence of details of consumption, it is assumed that total supply of lead and zinc was consumed. Shortage in indigenous production was met through imports.

Galvanised steel products, dry batteries, oxides and chemicals, alloys and die-cast, are major zinc consuming industries. In case of lead, lead acid batteries, oxides (major part of which goes into battery production), alloys, galvanising and others and cables are the major consuming industries.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

NABARD Loan

394. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH :

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD has started any subsidy scheme for construction and extension of cold storages and other developmental activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy allocated to each State, particularly to Uttar Pradesh for the above purpose under this scheme during the last three years and the amount likely to be allocated in this regard to each State during 1999-2000;

(d) the amount utilized by each State along with the funds lying unutilized with State Governments; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure the proper utilization of the funds by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that a new scheme called 'Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce' is being implemented by National Horticulture Board in the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with NABARD/ National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) in the Ninth Five Year Plan period starting from 1999-2000 at a cost of Rs. 175 crore. Cooperatives, Companies, Corporations, Partnership and Proprietary firms, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees/Boards, Agro Industries Corporations and Growers' Associations are eligible to avail loan/subsidy under the scheme. Commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks and the other cooperative credit institutions which are eligible to obtain refinance from NABARD are eligible for refinance under the scheme for giving loans to the borrowers. Under the Scheme, capital investment subsidy upto 25% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 50 lakhs per project would be made available in States/Union Territories who do not administer/control rentals for cold storage. Projects in North-Eastern States would get higher Subsidy @ 33.3% of the project with a ceiling of Rs. 60 lakhs. NABARD would provide refinance @ 90% of the loan amount at the interest rate of 8.5 p.a. The repayment period would depend upon cash flow and will be upto 9 years including the grace period of 2 years.

(c) and (d) No State-wise allocation for subsidy has been made by Ministry of Agriculture. Since the scheme has become operational only from January, 2000, information for previous three years does not arise.

(e) National Horticulture Board (NHB) would

monitor the progress of the scheme. Commissioning certificates obtained by the financing banks would be forwarded to NABARD for onward transmission to NHB. NABARD/NHB would monitor the progress regarding construction, operation, etc. of the cold storages/storages from time to time by conducting field visits to the project site along with the representatives from financing banks, wherever necessary. The progress report of these projects shall be reviewed by the State Level Bankers Committee Meetings/District Level Bankers' Committee Meetings.

[English]

World Bank Loan to Orissa

395. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approached the World Bank for securing loans at low interest for relief and rehabilitation of Orissa cyclone victims and restoration of their economy; and

(b) If so, the details thereof indicating the response of World Bank thereto and the terms of loan sought and accepted by the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Upon a request from the Government of Orissa, the World Bank has been approached to provide loan assistance for cyclone reconstruction and hazard mitigation in Orissa. The World Bank has proposed a three-phased approach in this regard. In the first phase, an amount of about US\$ 100 million could be utilised for undertaking work of immediate nature in the sectors of power, irrigation, other infrastructure, housing, etc. The second phase could include a larger investment on the sectors mentioned above. In the third phase, long term hazard mitigation works could be undertaken to improve the State's capacity to handle such emergencies in future. The details like final loan/credit amount, terms and conditions, etc. would be known only after negotiations have been completed and the projects approved by the World Bank.

[Translation]

Publications of Journals from U.P.

396. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of daily, weekly, fortnightly, monthly and other journals started in different districts of Uttar Pradesh during the period from January, 1997 to January, 2000;

(b) the amount provided to each of them for the advertisements during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have received the complaints that the small and medium newspapers are given less and low-valued advertisements;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The details are given in statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details showing the quantum of advertisements released in terms of space and amount to various categories of newspapers/periodicals published from Uttar Pradesh and empanelled with DAVP during the last three years viz. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in statement-II enclosed.

(c) to (e) Representations have been received from time to time that Small and Medium newspapers are given lesser number of advertisements than big papers. During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto 31.1.2000), the number on insertions issued to Small and Medium newspapers was 1,13,329, 1,02,926 and 86,573, respectively. The corresponding figures for the big newspapers for the three years were 44,151, 53,021 and 54,972 respectively. The amount paid for any advertisement by DAVP depends on the rate structure, which is worked out on the basis of circulation of the newspapers.

Statement-I

Statement Showing the Category-wise Details of the Newspapers Registered with RNI from the State of Uttar Pradesh during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999.

Periodicity	1997	1998	1999	Total
Daily	19	20	15	54
Weekly	252	169	151	572
Fortnightly	37	26	20	83
Monthly	21	13	38	72
Others	12	12	16	40
Total	341	240	240	821

Statement-II

Statement Showing the details of Quantum of Advertisements in terms of Space and Amount Released to Newspapers/Periodicals published from Uttar Pradesh and Empanelled with DAVP during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Year 1997-98

Periodicity	Number of Newspapers empanelled	Space (in Col. Cms)	Amount (In Rs.)
Daily	365	8,09,419	2,83,90,546
Weekly	1606	8,16,763	1,39,26,265
Fortnightly	264	1,36,840	24,54,288
Monthly	73	30,427	7,80,103
Others	47	21,791	4,66,869
Total	2355	18,15,240	4,60,18,071

Year 1998-99

Periodicity	Number of Newspapers empanelled	Space (in Col. Cms)	Amount (In Rs.)
Daily	356	9,14,912	3,93,46,743
Weekly	1645	6,49,625	1,32,81,092
Fortnightly	273	1,06,620	21,92,089
Monthly	68	20,217	5,14,706
Others	47	14,911	4,02,722
Total	2389	17,06,285	5,57,37,352

Year 1999-2000 (upto 31-01-2000)

Periodicity	Number of Newspapers empanelled	Space (in Col. Cms)	Amount (In Rs.)
Daily	297	7,05,775	4,04,79,935
Weekly	1335	3,87,647	92,91,916
Fortnightly	217	63,956	15,88,544
Monthly	51	11,481	3,62,649
Others	43	10,530	3,53,222
Total	1943	11,79,389	5,20,76,266

[English]

Advertisement of Liquor and Tobacco on DD

397. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lift ban on advertisements of liquor and tobacco on Doordarshan;

(b) whether the Government under the pressure of liquor barons and Multinational Companies involved in tobacco propose to take such a step;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the adverse affect on youngsters and school going children as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) As per existing Doordarshan's Advertisement Codes, advertisements of liquor and tobacco are not permitted on DD channels. Indian satellite channels, which have been given permission to uplink from India are also required to adhere to the same code. However, liquor and tobacco advertisements are being carried by the satellite TV channels uplinked from outside India. Encrypted TV channels uplinked from India are required to adhere to the advertisement code prescribed under the Cable TV Network Rules framed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. As per these codes, there is no prohibition on advertisement of liquor and tobacco. A proposal to bring about an uniformity in the advertisement code of DD and encrypted satellite TV channels uplinked from abroad, is under consideration of the Government with a view to prohibit liquor and tobacco advertisements during the day and prime time when children are likely to be watching TV programmes and permit such advertisements only during the night after 11 PM and before 6 AM.

Counterfeit Auto Parts Business

398. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research's report on the counterfeit auto parts business incurs the revenue loss of three hundred crores to the Union Government and one hundred sixty crores to State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken by the Government to prevent counterfeit auto parts trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) The National Council of Applied Economics Research (NCAER) was commissioned by Automotive Components Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) in 1999 to conduct a study on counterfeit auto parts on a national basis. Based on a survey of production of spurious auto components, NCAER has estimated that the value of production of twelve specified automobile components in 1997-98 was Rs. 1459 crore. On this basis and on certain assumptions, the NCAER has estimated that the revenue loss to the Central Government in the shape of Central Excise Duty and corporate income tax was of the order of Rs. 300 crore and the revenue loss to the State Governments in respect of Central/State sales tax and octroi/entry tax was of the order of Rs. 165 crore.

The trade and Merchandise Act, 1958 provides elaborate provisions against falsifying of falsely applying trade marks and false trade descriptions etc. In addition the Government has enacted the Trade Marks Act, 1999, providing for heavy penalties for counterfeiting of goods.

Privatisation of ITDC Hotels

399. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision for privatisation of ITDC Hotels;

(b) if so, the names of such hotels;

(c) whether the Government propose to keep some hotels under their control for use by the Government officials;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of parties which have sent bids and the terms offered by the Government; and

(f) the names of parties which have responded and their experience in hotel business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The Government has accepted the following recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission in this regard :

1. In respect of the hotels situated in prime locations like Delhi and Bangalore, they may be handed over to established hotel chains through a competitive

bidding process to run on long term structured contract on lease-cum-management basis. This will mainly take care of the problems of transfer of property in case of lease hold lands on which the hotels are situated. It would be ideal if a tripartite agreement between ITDC, trade unions and the concerned parties is concluded in each case to take care of the interests of the labour.

The terms of contract and procedure for competitive bidding may be determined by the SEG with the help of financial Advisers and Consultants. The contract could have up-front fee and annual fee with an inbuilt indexation for annual revisions. Such fees should be significantly higher than the current level of profits of each of the hotels. The realisation on account of the up-front fees and annual fees will accrue to Government in the form of taxes and dividends.

2. Other hotels may be demerged into separate corporate identities. Shares will be issued in these companies to Government and other shareholders, if any, in exchange for ITDC Shares. The disinvestment in the new companies will be through sale of 100% Government share holdings in them. The SEG may again carry out this process with the help of Financial Advisers for proper valuation and terms of competitive bidding.

3. ITDC may continue to operate the business of duty free shops and travel and tours business subject to the viability of the operations. This should be decided by the Board of Directors of the company.

(e) and (f) Bids for sale have not yet been called.

[Translation]

Production of Paper

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

(a) whether the import of newsprint and other papers is increasing while the indigenous production is falling;

(b) if so, the extent to which the news print and other papers imported during the last three years vis-a-vis their indigenous production;

(c) whether the production capacity of the Indian paper mills have fallen during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons for increase in the import and decline in the production alongwith the extent to which the exorbitant duty being charged on the imported raw material is responsible for it in comparison with the final product; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to help the domestic paper industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The production and import of paper & paper board and newsprint during the last three years are as under :

(In lakhs MT)

Year	Paper & Paper Board		Newsprint	
	Production	Import	Production	Import
1996-97	27.69	1.82	3.00	5.47
1997-98	29.22	3.05	4.00	4.98
1998-99	31.38	2.71	5.25	4.27

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government has taken a number of steps to help the domestic paper industry which include :

- (i) Paper and Newsprint Industries have been completely delicensed subject to locational policy.
- (ii) Newsprint has been exempted from excise duty.
- (iii) Concessional excise duty @ 8% is levied on paper manufactured with not less than 75% non-conventional raw material.
- (iv) Excise duty on wood based paper and paper board has been brought down from 18% to 16% during 1999-2000.
- (v) There is no custom duty on import of pulp for manufacture of newsprint. However, basic import duty on pulp for manufacture of paper and paperboard and import duty on waste paper is currently 5%.
- (vi) To encourage the domestic industry, basic customs duty on imported paper has been increased from 30% to 35%.

[English]

Disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings

401. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has opined that the disinvestment process of public envisaged momen-

tum and favoured the establishment of a "Disinvestment Fund" out of the disinvestment proceeds for restructuring the public sector;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the details of fresh strategies worked out to enable Public Sector Enterprises to stand on their own through corporate freedom and face market competition efficiently;

(c) the details of appropriate regulatory mechanism proposed to safeguard the public interest and ensure efficient performance of public enterprises; and

(d) the details of review of the policy implemented so far and action plan for the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Marble Mining Industry

402. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the marble mining industry in the country is lying in an unorganised state;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to organise and introduce professionalism in marble mining; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Marble is a minor mineral defined under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. Under Section 15 of the said Act, the State Governments are empowered to frame their own Minor Mineral Concession Rules (MMCR) for regulating the grant of mining/quarry lease in respect of minor minerals and hence the rules governing the grant of mineral concessions for marble are not uniform and they differ from State to State.

(b) and (c) Recently, Central Government has constituted a Group on Marble Development (GMD), which works under the overall guidance and supervision of the Granite Development Council (GDC). Its terms of reference inter-alia include assessing and reviewing periodically the status of marble quarries, measures for speedy development of the mineral technology employed in the quarries, measures for upgradation of technology and scientific exploitation, measures for increasing value addition in marble, marble products and exports. The constitution of GMD is expected to benefit the marble industry of the country in the long run.

Depreciation Norms for Vehicles

403. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering easing of depreciation norms for trucks/commercial vehicles and other items in order to boost the automobile and related industries;

(b) if so, the details of proposals under consideration;

(c) the details of decisions taken in this regard alongwith other fiscal incentives under consideration/proposed for revival of recession in the economy; and

(d) the details of representations received in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The Government considers various aspects of Direct Tax provisions as part of annual Budget Exercise. The Government's response, if any, in this regard will be contained in the annual Budget Proposals for the year 2000-2001.

(b) to (d) In view of the above, answers to part (b), (c) and (d) do not arise.

Import of Rubber

404. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to import natural rubber;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and total quantity of natural rubber imported during the current year;

(c) whether the Government have received request from State Government of Kerala to stop the import of rubber; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Import of Natural Rubber is in the Restricted List and is permitted only against a Licence as of now. During April-November 1999 a quantity of 13,149 tonnes of Natural Rubber has been imported.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government of India has imposed a ban on import of Natural Rubber under the Advance Licence Scheme w.e.f. 20.2.1999.

Housing Loan

405. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to reduce the interest rate on housing loan to less than 10 percent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There is no proposal at present to reduce the rate of interest for housing loans to less than 10 percent.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New Regulatory Mechanism for Doordarshan

406. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new regulatory mechanism for Doordarshan including various foreign channels and cable operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the delegation of cable operators from Mumbai has urged the Government to help them against the monopolistic exploitation of foreign channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether Doordarshan is likely to be developed into a major public service broadcasting; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Government propose to introduce a comprehensive legislation before the Parliament with a view to provide for a regulatory mechanism for various aspects of Broadcasting.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) In a representation dated January 26, 2000, All India Cable Operators Association and BRISCA of Mumbai have sought for regulating the interface of foreign satellite channels with the cable operators. These and various other issues related with Cable TV regulation will be taken into account while finalizing the proposed legislation on Broadcasting.

(f) and (g) The Prasar Bharati (DD & AIR) is the only Public Service Broadcaster in our country. The Government is extending all necessary assistance so as to make it even more effective. A Committee has also been constituted to study the working of Prasar Bharati and suggest necessary changes in its organisational structure, systems and other relevant areas to ensure quality, credibility and professionalism in Prasar Bharati.

G-20 Summit held at Berlin

407. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India participated in the G-20 Summit held in Berlin in the 3rd week of December, 1999;

(b) If so, whether measures to help countries in reducing their vulnerability to financial crisis in a bid to achieve a more stable international financial system were discussed; and

(c) If so, the salient features thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the G-20 discussed the ways to address the main vulnerabilities currently facing their respective economies and the global financial system. While recognising that sound national economic and financial policies are central to building an international financial system, they noted the importance of strengthening national balance sheets to help cushion, against unexpected shocks. They encouraged steps to strengthen sovereign debt management and recognized that unsustainable exchange rate regimes are a critical source of vulnerability, and also that a consistent exchange rate and monetary policy is essential. They discussed a range of possible domestic policy responses to the challenges of globalization, and exchanged views on the role of the international community in helping to reduce vulnerability to crises. Besides these they also agreed that the more widespread implementation of international codes and standards in key areas including transparency, data dissemination, and financial sector policy would contribute to more prosperous domestic economies and a more stable international financial system.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

408. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

DR. SANJAY PASWAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently finalised the new Voluntary Retirement Scheme for banking sector and working on Compulsory Retirement Scheme (CRS);

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons for introducing new schemes;

(c) the number of employees likely to be retired during the current financial year, bank-wise; and

(d) the total funds required for Voluntary Retirement Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Installation of CCCT Machine at Kargali Washery

409. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which cross country conveyor transportation machine was installed at Kargali Washery of Central Coalfields Limited alongwith the cost thereof;

(b) the annual losses suffered or profits earned in transportation of coal after installing cross country conveyor transportation machine alongwith the losses being suffered or profits earned in transportation of coal after discontinuing the use of this machine from 1.6.1999;

(c) whether the Government have disposed or propose to dispose of this machine;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) The Cross Country Conveyor Transportation Machine was installed at Kargali Washery in September, 1986 with a capital investment of Rs. 4 crores.

(b) As CCCT was a part of Kargali Washery, no separate accounting was made. However as per study conducted by a team for the year 1998-99, the cost/tonne of transportation of coal availability at the point of time to CCCT was Rs. 44.76 per tonne, against the present cost of transportation of Rs. 28.28 per tonne after closure of CCCT, for Non-Coking Coal.

(c) to (e) The conveyor structure and the other parts of the CCCT are being dismantled and shall be used at suitable places in the company as and when required. A Committee by CCL on the use of CCCT conveyor system has suggested as under :-

- (i) For development of the area as per the plan, the CCCT is required to be removed to facilitate extension of Bokaro OCP as the structure is falling under the mineable area.
- (ii) After completion of Damodar River Diversion project and sufficient coking coal availability for Kargali Washery, CCCT may be used for transportation of coking coal to Kargali Washery in its different alignment as per new requirement.

Procurement of Rubber

410. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the total production of rubber in the country;
- (b) whether the Government have procured rubber from the farmers;
- (c) if so, the total quantity has been procured till 1st February, 2000;
- (d) whether any quantity of rubber so procured has been released or sold or disposed of otherwise;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government intends to procure it further; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The production of Natural Rubber during 1999-2000 is estimated at 6.25 lakh tonnes.

(b) to (e) Government of India through STC has procured 29,427 MT of Natural Rubber from RUBCO, RUBBER-MARK and Rubber Dealers till, 1st February 2000. Of this a quantity of 26,096 MT has been sold/exported so far.

(f) and (g) The STC is under orders to continue to procure and supply Natural Rubber to Advance Licence Holders against indents placed by them.

Balance Sheet of Modi Telefibre

411. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether BIFR has asked the Punjab National Bank to enquire into the balance sheet of Modi Telefibre following allegations of accounts manipulation from creditors;
- (b) if so, the details of the result of enquiry; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government against the Modi Telefibre for such accounts manipulations?

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

Decline in Production in Textile Mills

412. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether due to stiff competition among handloom, powerloom and mill sector all these sectors are suffering losses;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regards;
- (c) whether production of textiles in mill sector also declined during the last five years as compared to 1994-95 and 1995-96;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the remedial measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition in all these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The cloth production in the handloom and powerloom sector has been continuously increasing except for the year 1998-99, when the adverse market conditions had impacted unfavourably on production of cloth in all the sectors of the textile industry. The increasing production of fabrics in handloom and powerloom sector during the last five years indicate growth in these sectors. However, the production of fabrics from mill sector has been continuously declining. The cloth produced by handloom, powerloom and mill sector for last five years is given below :

(In million square meters)

Year	Mill Sector	Handloom Sector	Powerloom Sector
1994-95	2271	6180	15976
1995-96	2019	7202	17201
1996-97	1957	7456	19352
1997-98	1948	7603	20951
1998-99	1785	6792	20690
1999-2000 (P) Apr.-Dec.	1261	5500	16998

(c) and (d) The production of spun yarn in the mill sector and filament yarn has been showing an increasing trend during the last five years, but, the production of cloth has been declining. The reasons for the downward trend in the production of cloth by the organised sector has been the decline in the loomage capacity of mills mainly as a result of structural transformation of the sector on account of greater cost effectiveness of powerlooms.

(e) The following measures are being taken by the Government to improve the condition of textile industry:

- (i) The Government has been implementing various schemes and programmes for overall development of the handloom sector and welfare of weavers. These include Project Package Scheme, Workshop-cum-Housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, Health Package Scheme, Freelance Designers Scheme, Export Development Scheme, Decentralised Training of Weavers Scheme, Supply of yarn at Mill Gate Price Scheme and Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme etc.
- (ii) To improve the availability of quality cotton at reasonable prices, the Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton to improve the production, productivity and quality of cotton.
- (iii) To improve the technology level of the textile industry to make it internationally competitive, the Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for textile & jute industries for 5 years from 1.4.99 to 31.3.2004. The scheme will provide a reimbursement of 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme.

Discord with EC on Textile Imports

413. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the India and the European Commission have ended a year long discord over textile trade;
- (b) the extent which this decision has helped the textile imports;
- (c) if so, the main decision arrived at; and
- (d) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and European Commission in 1994. As per clause 2 of MoU, India has notified the bindings of tariffs against products mentioned in the MoU. The matter regarding grant of exceptional flexibilities is being pursued. The bindings are still to be given practical shape and therefore it is too early to say anything about the extent of their effect on imports.

Modernisation of Tanneries

414. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

- (a) the total number of tanneries operating in the country as on 31 December, 1999 with break-up of production capacity, actual production, number of employees engaged therein, State-wise;
- (b) the major problems being faced by the tannery industry;
- (c) the details of steps taken to resolve these problems;
- (d) the details of modernisation programme proposed/undertaken and investment made/proposed to keep pace with global trends; and
- (e) the details of action taken on Murthy Committee Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) As per the information available with the Central Leather Research

Institute, the total number of tanneries in the country as on 31.12.99 was 2091. The annual production of finished leather in India is around 1800 million sq. feet comprising 40 million pieces of hides and 110 million pieces of skin. The estimated employment in the organised sector tanneries is as under:-

Tamil Nadu	36719
Uttar Pradesh	16926
West Bengal	8403
Punjab	1942
Andhra Pradesh	1906
Maharashtra	1114
Karnataka	1026
Others	4364
Total	72400

(b) The major problems being faced by the tanning industry, particularly in the small scale sector, include limited resources and access to capital, inability to convert indigenous raw materials into finished leathers of specific quality, low levels of productivity and inconsistency in quality due to obsolete and limited infrastructure.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps for modernisation of tanneries under the National Leather Development Programme, the Indian leather Development Programme and the Leather Technology Mission :

- (i) Technological upgradation of decentralised tanneries.
- (ii) Initiating steps by the industry to combat the problem of tannery effluents.
- (iii) Establishment of common effluent treatment plants in major tanning clusters and individual treatment plants by the tanners themselves.
- (iv) Financial assistance for modernisation of tanneries.

(d) The Government has launched a Tannery Modernisation Scheme with effect from 18.1.2000 for providing the much needed financial assistance to tanneries for upgrading their technology and improving their capacity utilisation. The total outlay envisaged under the Scheme is Rs. 40.75 crore, including Government assistance of Rs. 9.65 crore.

(e) Action on the following points of the Report of the Murthy Committee has been taken :

- (i) Launching of Tannery Modernisation Scheme for helping the tanneries to achieve technological upgradation, environmentally cleaner technologies, process control and automation.
- (ii) Reduction of import duties on capital goods, components and consumables.
- (iii) Deputation of trade delegations to the importing countries to assess the export potential for Indian leather and allied products and explore new markets.
- (iv) Augmentation of the domestic availability of raw materials.

Suggestions by FICCI

415. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the FICCI has urged the Government to cut Provident Fund rates and to facilitate mergers and acquisitions through suitable changes in the Income Tax Act, 1961;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has urged the Government to cut Provident Fund rates. They have also made a number of suggestions on corporate restructuring requiring changes in Income Tax Act, 1961 in their pre-budget memorandum.

(c) The review of the interest rates on General Provident Fund and Employees' Provident Fund is done and notified annually. The interest rates for 2000-01 are yet to be finalised. Secondly, the Finance Bill, 2000 to be presented in the Parliament will contain the reaction of the Government to the proposals in regard to corporate restructuring.

[Translation]

HMT, Ajmer

416. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts being made by the Government to upgrade, review and expand Ajmer Unit of Hindustan Machine Tools and to make it capable of earning profits;

(b) the reasons for which this unit has been incurring losses;

(c) the number of employees of the said unit who have been made to retire under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(d) whether all retirement benefits were provided to them;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have received any representations from the different organisations in this regard; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) A turnaround plan of HMT envisaging financial, organisational and manpower restructuring for making it more competitive in the present environment is under consideration. This plan would improve profitability of the Company including that of its Ajmer Unit.

(b) The main reasons for losses of Ajmer Unit are as under :-

- The product line of this Unit consists mainly of Grinding Machines which are in a highly competitive market, both domestic/global.
- The market itself has been sluggish.
- Surplus manpower resulting in high personnel costs.
- High interest burden

(c) The number of employees of Ajmer Unit who opted Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) since October, 1992 is 249.

(d) Ex-gratia, gratuity, provident fund, leave encashment, etc. in respect of employees of Ajmer Unit who opted for VRS have since been paid. Amount payable on account of notional pay revision w.e.f. 1.1.1992 has not been paid to any employee of the Company, serving or retired.

(e) to (g) Representations have been received on the issue of non-payment of arrears of pay on account of notional pay revision w.e.f. 1.1.1992. However, payment of arrears of pay on account of notional pay revision w.e.f. 1.1.1992 has been deferred till the financial position of the Company improves, as agreed to by the employees.

Welfare Programmes by Public Sector Enterprises

417. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages adopted by the public sector enterprises for the welfare programmes in the Tribal areas of different states in the country, particularly in Bihar;

(b) the number of villages proposed to be adopted by the public sector enterprises during the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the facilities being provided by the public sector enterprises to the tribals of these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) The issues relate to State & Central Public Sector throughout the country. Details regarding these aspects come within the purview of the PSEs concerned and information is not centrally maintained.

[English]

Instalment of D.A.

418. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Central Government have become eligible for another instalment of Dearness Allowance due to sharp increase in the price index;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the percentage of D.A. the employees would get?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July, payable with the salary for the months of March and September respectively. The instalment due from 1st January, normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of March, paid in April, and the decision to revise the rates of D.A. w.e.f. 1.1.2000 will be taken well before it becomes payable.

Interest Rate Scheme of IDBI

419. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether IDBI has introduced the floating interest rate scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether IDBI has also decided to launch six schemes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to amend IDBI Act; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that IDBI is considering introduction of "Floating Interest Rate Scheme" details of which are being worked out by IDBI. IDBI is also considering launch of some new schemes which are currently under preparation.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to amend the IDBI Act under consideration of the Government at present.

Printing of Indian Currency by Foreign Corporations

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

- (a) whether the Government have received proposals from foreign corporations to print Indian Currency in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any decision has been taken to accord permission to foreign companies to enter in this sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Budgetary Support to PSEs

421. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the budgetary support to public sector enterprises has come down considerably since 1990-91;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some public sector enterprises have not been allowed to raise resources through instruments like global depository receipts;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(e) whether new enterprises in Andhra Pradesh have agitated against SBI for not financing their schemes which were recommended by the Rural Development and District Industries Departments; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in the matter and the details of new entrepreneurs along-with amount advanced to them during 1997-98 and 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The budgetary support to PSEs varies from year to year depending upon their requirements and the resources available. The details of the budgetary support from 1990-91 to 1997-98, till which period the information is available, are given in table 1.22 of Volume I of the Public Enterprises Survey 1997-98 laid in Parliament on 26.2.99 and is a published document.

(c) The Central Public Enterprises have not been disallowed to raise resources through GDR/ADR/FCCBs from international markets.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No new Central Public Sector Enterprise has been set up in Andhra Pradesh.

Indian Trade Centres

422. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there was a scheme for setting up of Indian Trade Centres abroad for motivating and channelising NRI investments and Foreign Direct Investments;
- (b) if so, the precise objectives for the Trade Centres;
- (c) the number of Trade Centres have so far been set up country-wise; and
- (d) the number of more centres proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) In February, 1980 the India Trade Centre (ITC) was set up in Brussels. The activities of the centre revolved around

collection of market intelligence, information on various commercial aspects and packaging requirements, backup support in respect of trade fair participation, buyer-seller meets and workshops/seminars. In October, 1995, Government of India stopped funding of the ITC and it was merged with the Embassy of India, Brussels.

The India Business Centre (IBC) was set up jointly by Government of India and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at Tashkent in December, 1997 with the object of lending support to Indian exporters and to their export promotion efforts.

The Government of India stopped the funding of the IBC, Tashkent in September 1999. The Centre is being run by CII.

(d) There is no proposal to set up more Trade Centres.

[Translation]

Setting up of Weaving Centres

423. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have accorded approval to set up textile industries and weaving centres in the country during the last three years, till date;

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

(c) whether some new weaving centres are proposed to be set up in future;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) After Government announced the liberalised Industrial Policy in 1991 and abolished licensing except under certain conditions for certain items, textile units including units for weaving are being set up without restraints on capacity creation on submission only of an "Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum" in prescribed form. The above liberalised measures have actively encouraged entrepreneurs to make investment decisions on the basis of their own commercial judgement.

(c) to (e) Increase in the capacity of weaving by setting up of weaving units is a continuous process. Since these are under private initiatives, State-wise projections are not available.

Dumping of Polyester Staple Fibre

424. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Commission has initiated investigation against some Indian companies for dumping polyester staple fibre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of Indian Exporters of polyester staple fibre?

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

(b) The European Commission has initiated the anti-dumping investigation on 21st December, 1999 against five Indian companies viz. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Indo Rama Synthetics, Indian Organic Chemicals Limited (IOC), JCT Fibres and J.K. Corporation engaged in the manufacturing of Polyester Staple Fibre on the alleged grounds of significant increase in the volume of imports of polyester staple fibre from India, extremely high margin of 'dumping', etc. The deadline for submission of information called for by the European Commission was 18th February, 2000.

(c) The Ministry of Textiles is taking necessary steps to safeguard the interests of Indian exporters of Polyester Staple Fibre through the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) who have been advised to co-ordinate the defence of the Indian companies and to provide necessary assistance for engagement of lawyers and interaction with the European Commission through the Embassy of India, Brussels.

Scheme for Child Artists

425. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the child artists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the facilities provided to these child artists alongwith the criteria on which such facilities are provided; and

(d) the number of child artists recruited during the last three years by Doordarshan and All India Radio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) After auditioning, Child artists are booked on contract/assignment basis by All India Radio and Doordarshan for different programmes. Fee is paid to them as per the prescribed rates.

(d) No recruitment of any child artist is made in All India Radio and Doordarshan.

[English]

Export by SSI's

426. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently launched some new schemes to boost exports by Small Scale Industry units;

(b) if so, the details of each of the schemes;

(c) the reaction of the SSI units to the new schemes launched; and

(d) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to propagate and widely publicise the export promotion schemes and the network/institutional information facilities available for SSI units through State and District level organisations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No new scheme specially to boost exports by SSI units has been launched.

(d) The Government is presently implementing two export promotion schemes, namely (a) Participation in International Fairs and Exhibitions and (b) Training Programme on Packaging for Exports. These schemes are implemented through a network of 28 field offices called Small Industries Service Institute (SISI), spread all over the country. The named schemes are publicised through the aforesaid SISI's for the benefit of SSI units at State level.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

12.08 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 25 of the Press Council Act, 1978 :-

(i) The Press Council (Procedure for Nomination of Members) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 445(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th June, 1999.

(ii) The Press Council (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 60(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1294/2000]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, 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 Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1295/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts

and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1296/2000]

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 (7) of section 9 A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 :-

- (i) G.S.R. 27(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend anti-dumping duty imposed on Iso Butyle Benzene originating in or exported from China for a further period of six months.
- (ii) G.S.R. 33(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose a Provisional anti-dumping duty on Acrylic Fibre, including tow and tops, originating in or exported from Taiwan, when exported by the company or exporter mentioned therein at the rate specified in the Notification.
- (iii) G.S.R. 39(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose a Provisional anti-dumping duty on Disodium Carbonate, originating in or exported from Peoples Republic of China at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (iv) G.S.R. 68(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose safeguard duty on Acetone for a period of two years and six months.
- (v) G.S.R. 69(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional

anti-dumping duty on Oxalicacohols, originating in, or exported from the countries or territories at the rates mentioned therein.

- (vi) G.S.R. 819(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to permit Bisphenol-A, exported by M/s First Inter Continental Corporation, USA, till the completion of Review.
- (vii) G.S.R. 824(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Sodium Cyanide, originating in, or exported from USA, Czech Republic, European Union and Korea RP, at the rates specified in the Notification.
- (viii) G.S.R. 828(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Seamless Pipes/Tubes of specified grade originating in or exported from mentioned in the Notification and imported into India.
- (ix) G.S.R. 830(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Optical Fibres, originating in, or exported from Korea RP, and imported into India, at the rates specified in the Notification.
- (x) G.S.R. 839(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on PTFE originating in or exported from Russia at the rate higher than the provisional duty with effect from the date on which provisional anti-dumping duty was imposed.
- (xi) G.S.R. 840(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 83/99-Cus., dated the 30th June, 1999.

- (xii) G.S.R. 101(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the First Schedule of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 so as to increase the basic customs duty on imported sugar to sixty per cent.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1297/2000]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :-

- (i) G.S.R. 823(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 3/89-Cus., dated the 9th January, 1999.
- (ii) G.S.R. 836(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt Gold and Silver recovered from Toll smelting or Toll processing abroad of copper anode slime earlier exported from India from duty in excess of amount as would be leviable if the value of the said gold and silver were equal to the Toll smelting or Toll processing charges and insurance and freight charges bothways.
- (iii) G.S.R. 837(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 22/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (iv) G.S.R. 838(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 22/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (v) G.S.R. 67(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.

- (vi) G.S.R. 78(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.

- (vii) G.S.R. 102(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 58/99-Cus., dated the 11th May, 1999 so as to exempt imported sugar from levy of surcharge.

- (viii) S.O. 785(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of import.

- (ix) S.O. 786(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.

- (x) S.O. 1048(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S.O. 1057(E) dated 28th October, 1999.

- (xi) S.O. 1049(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S.O. 1057(E) dated the 28th October, 1999.

- (xii) S.O. 1169(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (xiii) S.O. 1170(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.
- (xiv) S.O. 1303(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (xv) S.O. 1304(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 825(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 94/96-Cus., dated the 16th December, 1996, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 16(E) dated the 5th January, 2000.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 15(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 34/97-Cus., dated the 7th April, 1997.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 59(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 2000

together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 34/97-Cus., dated the 7th April, 1997.

- (xix) G.S.R. 74(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Eight Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xx) G.S.R. 75(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Three Notifications mentioned therein.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 1298/2000]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1994 :-
 - (i) G.S.R. 818(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 9/96-CE, dated 23rd July, 1996.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 815(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 5/99-CE, dated the 28th February, 1999.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 829(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 5/99-CE, dated the 28th February, 1999.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 843(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two Notifications mentioned therein.
 - (v) G.S.R. 49(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two Notifications mentioned therein.

(vi) G.S.R. 79(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt Hot Re-rolled products and ingots and billets of non-alloy steel manufactured and cleared during the month of August, 1997 by Hot Re-rolling mills and induction furnace unit paying duty on the basis of annual capacity of production from so much of duty of excise as in excess of Rs. 300/600 PMT.

(vii) G.S.R. 100(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 33/99-CE, dated the 8th July, 1999 so as to extend the scope of the exemption to goods cleared from Numaligarh refinery.

(viii) G.S.R. 73(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Four Notifications mentioned therein.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 1299/2000]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873 :-

(i) The Post Office Time Deposit (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 43(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2000.

(ii) The Post Office Recurring Deposit (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 44(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2000.

(iii) The Post Office (Monthly Income Account) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 45(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2000.

(iv) The National Savings Scheme (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 46(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2000.

(v) The Post Office (Monthly Income Account) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 80(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2000.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 1300/2000]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959:-

(i) The National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue) (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 47(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2000.

(ii) The Kisan Vikas Patra (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 48(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2000.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 1301/2000]

(6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 98(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the taxable service provided by the Government of Rajasthan to its employees in relation to General Insurance Business from whole of the Service Tax leviable thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 1302/2000]

(7) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) issued by the President in pursuance of article 280 of the Constitution and of the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951 published in Notification No. S.O. 1299(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1999 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 557(E) dated the 3rd July, 1998 so as to extend the terms of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 1303/2000]

(8) A copy of the Twenty-Ninth Valuation Report (Hindi and English versions) as at 31st March, 1999 of the Life Insurance Corporation of

India under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 1304/2000]

- (9) A copy of the Consolidated Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Public Sector Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 1999.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 1305/2000]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 1306/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 1307/2000]

12.09 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to

announce that Government Business during the week commencing 28th February, 2000 will consist of :-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the Mizoram University Bill, 1999 as passed by the Rajya Sabha.
3. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 and consideration and passing of the Recovery of Debts due of Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
4. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 and consideration and passing of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000; and
5. General discussion on Railway Budget for 2000-2001.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR) : Doordarshan Kendra was opened in November, 1984, in Gorakhpur city which imbibes the spirit of unity in diversity. This Kendra has been functioning in a rented building since its inception. The transmission from this Doordarshan Kendra is received in the districts of Mau, Ajamgarh, Ballia, Deoria, Kushinagar, Basti, Siddharthnagar, Maharajganj, Sant Kabir Nagar of eastern Uttar Pradesh and also in Southern border areas of Nepal and in some parts of East Champaran in Western Bihar.

In 1984, a land measuring about five acres was brought in Raptinagar at a cost of 84 lakhs rupees. The foundation stone for the Doordarshan Kendra was laid in July, 1998 by the Minister of State of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Central Government, but there is no progress regarding the construction of studio-building even after a long time.

So, I request the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India to get the construction of Gorakhpur Doordarshan studio started without any further delay.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH-EAST) : Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda :

- (i) Increasing terrorist and anti-national activities of ISI agents in India.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDANI CHOWK) : I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. There is inequality in the number of voters in various constituencies of the country. So the delimitation of Parliamentary Constituencies should be started immediately.
2. Keeping in view the terrorism and the danger to security throughout the country, the Government should make one-year military training compulsory for each and every youth.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Please include the following items in the next week's agenda :-

1. The need to get the pond at Pushkar (Rajasthan), which is an important tourist spot and an important cultural and religious centre, desilted by dredging sand and soil from it and to make available clean water in it for the benefit of lakhs of pilgrims by digging out natural sources of water.
2. The need for starting the production work, proper management in Mahalakshmi and Edward Mills of N.T.C. at Beawar in Ajmer district as per their capacities to remove the discontentment prevalent among the workers.

12.10 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

(i) Committee on Estimates

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VANKATESWARLU (TENALI): Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) Committee on Public Undertakings

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI) : Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(iii) Rehabilitation Council of India

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (PILIBHIT) : Sir, I beg to move the following :-

"That in pursuance of Sections 3(3)(h) and 4(1) of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Rehabilitation Council of India, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Sections 3(3)(h) and 4(1) of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Rehabilitation Council of India, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS) – 2000-2001

12.14 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we shall taken up Item No. 16 – The Budget (Railways). Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMAR MAMATA BANERJEE) : Sir, I welcome all the Opposition Members here. ... (Interruptions) Sir, first of all, I convey my greatest regards to our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I also convey my regards to the Opposition Leader, Madam Sonia Gandhi and the Opposition Leaders and the all the hon. Members of this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to present Budget Estimates for the year 2000-2001 for the Indian Railways.

Introduction

I deem it to be a rare honour to be able to present the first Railway Budget on the threshold of a new millennium. Let me avail myself of this opportunity to convey on behalf of the Railway family and on my own behalf, our sincere millennium greetings to you and to the Hon'ble Members of this august House.

I thank, first of all, our respected Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji for his valued guidance. It is slightly

over four months that I have taken over the responsibility of the Indian Railways, the largest public transport system in the country. Four months is, perhaps, a short time. But, I feel it is long enough to understand the working of an organisation.

Sir, permit me, therefore, to give a brief overview of where the Indian Railways stand at the dawn of the new century. Growth of the Railways since inception has directly contributed to the economic and social development of the nation. Indian Railways having a route length of over sixtytwo thousand eight hundred kilometers, are the second largest Railway Undertaking in the world under a single management. With 16 lakh employees running 8000 passenger trains and 5500 goods trains every day, moving 1.36 cr. passengers and 12 lakh tonnes of goods daily, Railways are truly called the 'lifeline of the nation'. However, today Railways are at a turning point in their history. There is the opportunity to reach new heights of performance as well as the chance of a dangerous decline.

Sir, You must excuse me if I sound a little harsh and sad here. It is a sad fact, Sir that this magnificent organisation, which has a strategic value next only to the armed forces; and that is still the dominant part of the nation's transport infrastructure, has been allowed to stagnate for last more than two decades. As you are aware, Sir, the first train in the Indian subcontinent was flagged off on April 16, 1853, over a small stretch of 34 kilometers between Bombay and Thane. When India attained freedom in 1947, we had about fifty four thousand kilometers of railway network in the country. Today, on 25th February, 2000, the network has a length of 62,800 route kilometers. Sir, in fiftythree years, independent India has added less than one fourth of what was built in ninetyfour years of the colonial rule.

Sir, after the capital support from the General Exchequer reached a peak of 75% in the Fifth Plan, priorities seem to have suddenly shifted. It fell to 58% in the Sixth Plan and 42% in the Seventh Plan, reaching an abysmally low level of 18% in the last two years of the Eighth Plan. To fill the gap, Railways have been driven to large market, borrowings. Mainly because of under-investment over a long period of time, Railways' share in freight movement has also dropped from 89% in 1950-51 to about 40% now.

Sir, in this context, I cannot help drawing an apt analogy, although a sad one. All of us are aware of the significant contribution of the Indian Railways to the freedom movement and national integration. In fact, we have not forgotten that the birth of the political carrier of the Father of the Nation took place on a railway platform in South Africa when Mahatma Gandhi was thrown off the train because he was travelling in the first class.

I am sorry to say, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that somewhere

during the journey after independence, Indian Railways have similarly been thrown off the development train. This happened because successive Governments no longer considered Railways worthy of being seated in the top priority class of the country's development train. However, Sir, I would plead with the House to note that it was only after having been thrown off the train, that Gandhiji rose to become the Father of Nation. I am committed to ensure, Sir, that Indian Railways, similarly, will struggle to achieve their rightful place in the national development scenario.

The time has come now, Sir, when Railways have to develop a vision for the new millennium. In this short span of four months, we have worked together to develop this vision which transcends the concerns of the short term. I will, in the course of my speech, outline the vision in each area of our operation. I do believe, alongwith sixteen lakh railwaymen, that Indian Railways, with the new vision, will be firmly placed on the path of speedy growth and resurgence. Railways, in new millennium will carry not only passengers and goods as it has done traditionally in much better ways, but will also carry information on the shoulders of new technology across the country and beyond. All this will require a lot of change in our mindset, in our attitudes and in our existing organisational structure. The new vision will rest on the pillars of much needed reforms, restructuring, innovative models of funding our developmental plans, innovations in technology and in financing.

Review of Financial Performance during 1998-99

Sir, 1998-99 has been an extremely difficult year for the Railways. Government's decision on the Fifth Central Pay Commission's recommendations was implemented in that year and in the previous year, raising expenditure on staff and pension. The recessionary trends in the economy brought down railways' freight traffic by 29 million tonnes below target and 9 million tonnes below the previous year's level. The overall drop in earnings and the accretion to dues outstanding reduced the Gross Traffic Receipts of Rs. 30,416 cr. in the Revised Estimates to Rs. 29,619 cr. in actuals. Total Working Expenses, budgeted at Rs. 28,411 cr. were contained at Rs. 27,835 cr. However, pensionary liabilities at Rs. 4,144 cr. exceeded the Revised Estimate of Rs. 3,830 cr. The year ended with a draw-down from the Railway Fund balances to the tune of Rs. 2,313 cr. instead of Rs. 1,313 as given in the Revised Estimate. In view of the shortfall in internal resources, the plan expenditure was restricted to Rs. 8,857 cr. from the budgeted level of Rs. 9,500 cr. Market borrowings, however, increased from Rs. 2,900 cr in the Budget Estimates to Rs. 3,217 cr.

Review of Financial Performance during the current year

Sir, I am happy to inform the House that with overall

economic recovery, we are set to achieve our freight loading target of 450 million tonnes. However, the freight earnings are likely to fall short of target by Rs. 250 cr. due to drop in lead and change in commodity mix. On the other hand, there has been an impressive growth in Passenger earnings which reached about Rs. 7,800 cr. by end of January, 2000. This marked an increase of Rs. 850 cr. over previous year's earnings during the corresponding period. Other Coaching and Sundry earnings have been quite encouraging and will enable the Railways to partly offset the shortfall in goods earnings. In Budget Estimates 1999-2000, a target of Rs. 200 cr was kept for clearance of outstanding dues which the State Electricity Boards/Power Houses owe to the Railways. These dues, Mr. Speaker, Sir, have, unfortunately, risen to Rs. 1,491 cr. by the end of November, 1999. Despite the best efforts of the Railways, there has been very little clearance of these dues. Accordingly, the target of realisation had to be reduced to Rs. 75 cr. Thus, the Gross Traffic Receipts have been scaled down from Rs. 33,311 cr. to Rs. 33,096 cr.

The post-budgetary developments of levy of cess on diesel oil and increase in the price of diesel oil have substantially increased the fuel bill of the Railways. Alongwith this, the retrospective revision of traffic by some of the State Electricity Boards, higher rates of incentive bonus to the workshop staff, revision of family planning allowance, damage to Railway property caused by the Orissa cyclones etc. have put on us an additional financial burden of around Rs. 900 cr.

Sir, when I joined office, a very difficult financial situation awaited me. I felt, in the words of Tagore - *"I Start on my journey, with empty hands and expectant heart"*. In order to overcome these financial reverses, I had decided, immediately on assuming office, to put in place a stringent action plan for reduction in expenditure through economy and other austerity measures. Austerity measures have been taken in areas such as fuel consumption, material procurement, hospitality, publicity, advertisements, inaugural ceremonies, seminars, travel and office expenses. I am happy to inform the House that all these measures have borne substantial gains of approximately Rs. 850 cr for us and have helped Railways in absorbing the additional requirements within the existing grant, with only a small increase of Rs. 50 cr. Accordingly, the ordinary Working Expenses projected at Rs. 25,740 cr. in Budget Estimates 1999-2000 are now placed at Rs. 25,790 cr. Pensionary liabilities are also assessed to go up to Rs. 4,094 cr. against Budget Estimates of Rs. 3,300 cr. This has adversely affected the internal generation of resources by the Railways and, accordingly, the plan expenditure has been re-assessed and kept at Rs. 8,965 cr. against the budgeted outlay of Rs. 9,700 cr. I would like to assure the House that this reduction in plan expenditure will not affect any safety related works.

Non-Traditional Sources of Revenues

Sir, as I mentioned earlier, Railways are passing through a very difficult phase financially. The growth in earnings is not commensurate with the increase in expenditure for day to day operations and maintenance, the needs of expansion and safety requirements. Market borrowings, being a relatively costly proportion cannot be enhanced beyond limit. While Railways have initiated several steps to augment earnings and curtail expenditure for increasing the internal resources, they also intend to raise revenues from other non-traditional sources, as is done by Railways the world over. Sir, I had constituted a Task Force in this regard, consisting of representatives of Railways and Industry. The Task Force has recently submitted its report. The recommendations of the Task Force are now proposed to be implemented in a time bound manner. They include:

- Commercial utilisation of land and air space.
- Commercial publicity on passenger trains and at stations.
- Commercial publicity on freight wagons.
- Hoardings and billboards at level crossing gates
- Commercial publicity on miscellaneous items like tickets and consumable items supplied on trains.
- Hoardings for rural marketing alongside the tracks.

Indian Railway are firming up a plan for construction of one hundred budget hotels and shopping complexes near different Railway Stations using surplus commercial land.

I am happy to announce that Indian Railways have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) which covers several areas of assistance. One important activity to be taken up by HUDCO will be commercial utilisation of surplus railway lands in certain corridors. This will provide substantial additional funds to railways for developmental activities. In the regard, some of the corridors which have already been identified for this purpose are :

- (i) Delhi - Panipat
- (ii) Kanpur - Lucknow
- (iii) Bangalore - Mysore
- (iv) Sealdah - Kalyani

- (v) Chandigarh - Ludhiana
- (vi) Baroda - Ahmedabad
- (vii) Vishakapatnam - Rajahmundry

Sir, you are well aware that India has been making rapid strides in information and communication technologies. Indeed, our Prime Minister has taken an inspiring lead and has defined I.T. as 'India's Tomorrow'. Keeping in line with the vision, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Railways have decided to utilise its Right of Way (ROW) covering sixty two thousand eight hundred kilometers passing through more than seven thousand stations, for building a nation-wide broad band telecom and multimedia network by laying optic fibre cable (OFC). This will not only help in speedily modernising Railways' own telecom infrastructure, but also provide a much needed parallel nation-wide telecom infrastructure to various telecom operators and Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The unique advantage of the Railways is that our network connects the distant corners of this vast country and also covers much of the rural, backward and remote areas which are so far deprived of good telecommunication services. Indian Railways are already taking steps towards developing an attractive business plan to be implemented in collaboration with suitable joint venture partners through the medium of a professionally managed corporation. This venture visualises a concept of bringing the whole world together as one country. Sir, our endeavour in this regard will also generate considerable additional revenues for the Railways to finance developmental projects and safety related works. A suitable provision for this purpose has been made in the budget.

Safety

Sir, Since the biggest challenge that Indian Railways face today is ensuring safe transit of passengers and freight traffic, I would like to assure the Members of this august House that safety in rail operations would be accorded the highest priority and maximum possible investments. The Railway Safety Review Committee headed by Justice H.F. Khanna has assessed a requirement of Rs. 15,000 cr. for rehabilitation of overaged assets and for providing adequate technology back-up to operational staff connected with train running.

Sir, within the constraints of resources, I am proposing enhanced investment in these areas to the extent possible. I am thankful to the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance for enhanced budgetary support for the next year. However, our requirement of a specific safety related grant, as recommended by the Railway Safety Review Committee, could not be met. Moreover, we are yet to receive compensation for the social service obligations continuously being carried by Railways.

Sir, some of the special steps, being taken by the Railways to strengthen safety include provision of walkie-talkies sets to drivers and guards, track circuiting to prevent accidents due to human failure, improved communication between driver, guard and nearest station through mobile train radio system, block-proving by axle counters, replacing existing mechanical signalling systems with modern signalling systems such as Colour Light Signalling, Panel Interlocking, Solid State Interlocking and Route Relay Interlocking. Simultaneously, an intensive training and human resource development programme specifically targeted towards enhancing safety consciousness amongst front-line operational staff has also been launched.

Sir, I am happy to announce that Konkan Railway Corporation has developed a new anti-collision safety device. When installed on locomotives, brake vans, stations, level-crossings and other vulnerable locations, the device will avert collisions or reduce their impact. In order to comprehensively test the system, a pilot project is now being undertaken on Northeast Frontier Railway. I think Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev will be very happy. On successful completion of the pilot project, the device will be introduced on all the zonal railways.

Managing the large number of unmanned level crossings and constructing road overbridges/underbridges requires enormous resources. I appeal to Hon'ble Members for recommending conversion of unmanned level crossings to manned level crossings under "Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD)" to supplement our efforts in this direction.

Sir, as you are aware, good track is a pre-requisite for safe running of trains. Track renewal work, therefore, must get priority. I am happy to announce that in spite of our serious resource constraints, I propose to substantially enhance the outlay on track renewal taking it to Rs. 2000 cr. in the next year's budget, marking an increase of about 37% over the revised outlay in the current year.

Signalling and telecom are also equally important for safety. Again, Sir, I am happy to propose an enhancement of about 26% in the outlay on Signalling and Telecom component in the next year's budget over the revised outlay in the current year.

A part of the diesel cess is now available to be spent specifically for rail safety works. Sir, we expect to get a sum of Rs. 300 cr. on this account next year to spend entirely on the manning of unmanned level crossings, construction of Road Overbridges/Underbridges. This will further enhance safety on the Railways.

Sir, safety never sleeps. I have given a commitment while replying to the debate on Supplementary Demands for Grants in December, 1999, that safety will be our primary concern. I hope that these enhanced outlays will go a long

way in ensuring a safe and sound journey for the millions of passengers.

Security

The security of Railway passengers and their belongings depends upon the effective maintenance of law and order by the State Governments through their State Police and Government Railway Police (GRP) which also is a part of the police force of the concerned State. Sir, the security environment on the railways is a reflection of the law and order situation in general.

A dangerous new dimension to this situation has come about in recent past, and that is, the violent acts of the militant groups. Crowded railway stations and other sensitive installations like bridges, tracks etc. have been targets of bomb blasts. I deeply mourn the sad loss of valuable lives in recent such incidents. Sir, Railways have become soft targets for militant groups to express their frustration. We have over 62,800 km of routes. On these routes, we run about 13,500 trains daily across the country. Despite such vast spread, we are determined to combat this menace and fully protect our passengers and installations. Keeping this in mind, I recently convened a meeting of the Chief Secretaries and the Directors General of Police from all the States. A high level joint Task Force of Railways and State Government officials has been set up to suggest ways and means to improve the effectiveness of GRP and RPF in preventing crimes in trains and on railway premises.

Freight Policy

Sir, the other great concern of the Indian Railways is to arrest the slippage of market shares and improve it. My objectives is to raise the share of traffic to 50% during the first decade of the new millennium from the existing 40%. I am convinced that to achieve this, we should not only have a substantial and time-bound augmentation of the line and terminal capacity on the saturated 'High-Density Network', but a multi-pronged new Freight Policy. The new Freight Policy will have the following elements :-

- Recovering non-bulk high value traffic through appropriate marketing efforts.
- Providing incentives like 'volume discount scheme'.
- Offering the leasing route to Freight Forwarders in the Luggage Vans (SLRs) on popular mail and express trains.
- Facilitating warehousing at existing railway terminals as also at privately operated freight terminals as a marketing tool to attract traffic.
- Extending the new concept of Roll-On-Roll-Off (RO-RO), freight movement in trucks rolled on the flat wagons to provide door to door collection and delivery. This has been successfully launched on the Konkan Railway.

- Running of fixed schedule freight trains and terminal operations.
- Launching the 'Freight Operations Information System' (FOIS) to provide real-time information to customers in regard to the booking, movement and delivery of freight consignments through Customer Service Cells to be set up on all Zonal Railways.
- Using the shadow-path created behind fast moving mail/express trains for speedy movement of freight traffic. It is also an important thing. High speed goods trains are slated to follow superfast express trains with adequate safety precautions to ensure expeditious transit of select high value and perishable goods.

Passenger Services

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can say without any hesitation that Railways offer the most reasonably priced transport services in the country for all sections of society, which are also comparable with the cheapest in the world. With the growing activity in the economic, cultural and educational fields across the length and breadth of the country, there is an ever-increasing demand for new passenger services. I have received thousands of requests from the common people and their representatives.

Much as I would like to fulfil all these demands, the resource constraints and technical limitations do not allow me to do that. A detailed exercise has been carried out to assess availability of track capacity, terminal facilities and maintenance lines for inspection of coaches. With all these in view, I am happy to propose introduction of the following new services :-

New Trains

- Mumbai-Madurai Express
- Lucknow-Bhopal Express (Bi-weekly)
- Bangalore-Shimoga Overnight Express (daily)
- Tirupati-Nagercoil Express (Bi-weekly)
- Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (Bi-weekly)
- Jodhpur-Bangalore Express via Hubli, Ahmedabad (weekly)
- Howrah-Purulia Express (daily)
- Ajmer-Bangalore Express via Hubli, Ahmedabad (weekly)
- Sealdah-New Jalpaiguri Express (Tri-weekly)
- Bhagalpur-Ranchi Vananchal Express (Tri-weekly)
- Okha-Dehradun Uttaranchal Express (weekly) (To serve Dwarka, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Haridwar)

Shalimar-Bankura Express

Kakinada-Visakhapatnam-Nagarsoi Link Express (Bi-weekly)

Ahmedabad-Nagpur Express (weekly)

Sealdah-Amritsar Superfast Express via Patna Sahib (weekly)

Bandra Terminus-Gandhidham Express (by merging 2963/64 Bandra-Vadodara Sayajinagar Express and 9103/04 Vadodara-Gandhidham Intercity Express)

Lucknow-Ballia-Chhapra Express

Varanasi-Baldynath Dham Express (Bi-weekly)

Bikaner-Suratgarh Service

Bangalore-Puttaparthi Service

Sir, in the 50th year of the Republic, in order to commemorate three of the important places which are prominently associated with the freedom struggle, namely Ballia, Tamluk and Satara, additional connectivity is being provided by introducing the Jodhpur Bangalore Express, Ajmer-Bangalore Express, Howrah-Digha Express (to be introduced upon completion of new line construction between Tamluk and Digha) and Lucknow-Ballia-Chhapra Express.

Sir, I am also happy to announce that I am going to fulfil the commitment made by my predecessor in the last budget regarding starting a new express train from Nizamuddin to Coimbatore (weekly). This train will start operations in the month of March 2000. This could not be started earlier due to certain operational difficulties.

Increase in Frequency

- (i) 8563/8564—Vishakapatnam-Bangalore Express : from 4 days to daily.
- (ii) 2951/2952 Mumbai Rajdhani Express : from 6 days to daily.
- (iii) 2953/2954 August Kranti Rajdhani Express: from 6 days to daily
- (iv) 1029/1030 Pune Howrah Azad Hind Express : from 2 days to 3 days a week.
- (v) 9263/9264 Probandar-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Express : from weekly to Bi-weekly.

Extension, Connection, Augmentation

- (i) 6635/6636 Kurla-Ernakulam Netravati Express to Trivandrum (also augmentation to 22 coaches thereby increasing 280 berth capacity daily).
- (ii) 5011/5012 Gorakhpur-Cochin Raptisagar Express to Trivandrum.
- (iii) 7057/7058 Bilaspur-Cochin Express to Trivandrum.

- (iv) 7081/7082 Indore-Cochin Express to Trivandrum.
- (v) 6731/6732 Bangalore-Madurai Express to Tuticorin.
- (vi) 3287A/88A Patna-Rourkela Link Express to Bilaspur.
- (vii) 6333/6334 Trivandrum-Rajkot Express to Hapa.
- (viii) 6803/04 Howrah-Trichy Express to Kanniyakumari (on one day in a week).
- (ix) 1095/96 Pune-Ahmedabad Ahimsa Express to Gandhidham (on one day in a week).
- (x) 2475/2476 Jammu Tawi-Rajkot Express to hapa.
- (xi) 1269/1270 Rajkot-Bhopal Express to Jabalpur (on two days in a week).

Sir, I am happy to announce that I propose to fulfil another commitment made by my predecessor regarding extension of 5207/5208 Amritsar-Barauni Express up to Katihar and 3163/3164 Sealdah-Katihar Express up to Barauni. Both these extensions will begin in the month of March. These could not be done earlier due to operational difficulties.

In order to provide additional travel facility between Howrah and Puri, connection is being provided to 2821/2822 Dhaul Express at Bhubaneswar by modifying the timings of 201/202 Howrah Puri Passenger.

8621/8622 Patliputra Express will be augmented from Dhanbad by seven coaches to provide additional travel capacity between Jasidih and Patna.

New Services/Extensions to be introduced upon completion of Gauge Conversion and New Lines.

- (i) Extension of 9031/9032 Mumbai Central – Gandhidham Kutch Express to Bhuj.
- (ii) One pair of passenger service between Gandhidham and Bhuj.
- (iii) Extension of Rail bus services between Nadiad and Kapadvanj to Modasa.
- (iv) One pair of passenger services on Peddapalli-Karimnagar section.

M.E.M.U Services

- (i) Patna-Mokama section.

- (ii) Shalimar-Bankura section.
- (iii) Chennai-Arakkonam-Renigunta section.
- (iv) Lucknow-Kanpur section.
- (v) Srikakulam-Vishakhapatnam section.
- (vi) Katpadi-Jolarpettai section.

D.M.U Services

- (i) Amritsar-Pathankot section.
- (ii) Raichur-Gulbarga section.
- (iii) Erode-Trichy section.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, the Minister has forgotten the State of Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Sir, I have been waiting here patiently. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is all right. Please wait. ...*(Interruptions)*

Passenger Amenities

Sir, the image of the Railways is largely dependent upon its quality of passenger services. It will be our continuous endeavour to provide improved services to our esteemed customers. We do realise that despite our best efforts, we are not always able to come upto the people's expectations. There are some problems which can surely be solved within the available resources with proper management and 'will to serve'. I propose to enhance our efforts manifold in this direction.

Sir, resources are often a major constraint while considering improvements in passenger amenities. With all the limitations due to competing demands on scarce resources, I am happy to propose, Sir, an enhanced allocation of Rs. 200 cr. in 2000-01 for passenger amenities constituting a 52% increase over the current year.

A 'model station' scheme for improving the customer interface areas on select stations now covers 114 stations, of which 91 are class 'A' stations. I now propose to bring all 150 'A' class stations within the ambit of the model station concept during the next year which will have several modern facilities in a commercial complex. This will create considerable employment opportunities for the local people. To improve sanitation, low-cost mechanised cleaning is being contemplated at important Junction stations and on trains. In these efforts, possibilities of private sector participation with technical know-how and capital will also be explored.

I also propose to launch major initiatives to deploy information technology for making significant improvements in the customer interface area. Some of the areas that have been taken up include :-

- An Internet-based Inquiry system for information on train time-table and status of passenger reservation is already operational.
- A National Train Enquiry System (NTES) for disseminating real-time information regarding passenger train running is being developed and is likely to be implemented soon.
- The pilot project for introducing tele-booking has been successfully implemented at Delhi and is proposed to be extended to Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad. I am joining like a superfast train.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no problem.

- Extension of booking facilities for reserved accommodation using PRS terminals/Internet to Rail Travel Agents will be implemented.
- Booking on Internet through Smart Card facility will be introduced shortly. Internet-based Reservation using credit cards will also be made available after passing of the cyber laws by the Parliament.
- Pilot projects to replace card tickets and Season Tickets by computer based SPTMs (Self Printing Ticketing Machines) will also be undertaken by using Smart Card Technology.

Sir, as a major step to provide access to computerised reservation facility, I have decided to include another eighty (80) stations throughout the country, within the ambit of computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS).

Many hon. Members of Parliament have requested me.

Sir, I am happy to inform the House that for the first time in the history of Indian Railways, an All India Summer Special Train Time-Table is being released today. This will help passengers in choosing their options on all important routes and also help the passengers of the intermediate stations to know the exact schedule of these trains.

Medical Facilities

As I have already mentioned, class 'A' stations selected as model stations will have a chemist shop. The arrangements being contemplated include its own doctor during

busy traffic hours. The scheme will be given wide publicity for better awareness. Sir, I am also upgrading the first aid facilities on all 162 pairs of long distance trains with a broader range of emergency medicines etc. A computerised database of Government and private medical facilities at all major stations and junctions is being prepared which will help railways organise medical assistance at pre-identified locations in case of emergencies in running trains.

Tourism and Catering Related Services

Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that UNESCO has recognized the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway as a World Heritage Site, the second Railway in the world to be given this status. Sir, to match this unique distinction and to attract domestic and foreign tourists, I propose to upgrade services and facilities on this section. We are also giving two colourful diesel locomotives to Darjeeling Hill Railway.

I would also like to inform Hon'ble Members that the Indian Railways Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited has been incorporated and is expected to become functional by 1st April, 2000. It will focus on providing improved catering services to passengers and value-added tourist services for both domestic and foreign tourists.

Sir, inspection carriages of senior officials, popularly called 'Saloons' have been the subject of discussion. This is also a vital area and I think hon. Members will like it. These carriages are often utilised by senior officials for inspections in far-flung areas and for reaching spots of mishaps. However, keeping in view the suggestion of some Hon'ble Members, it has been decided to increasingly use the saloons for commercial purposes and tourism. Wide publicity will be made regarding the availability of such saloons for public on payment basis. I also propose to use some of these saloons to form luxury tourist trains to meet the demands of groups of foreign tourists to visit places of interest in India. Railways will earn revenues and valuable foreign exchange by commercially using these carriages.

A new 'Palace on Wheels' type of train is also proposed to be introduced on a route from Mumbai - Ratnagiri - Sindhudurg - Goa - Kolhapur - Pune - Ajanta Ellora - Nasik to Mumbai. This will be a joint effort between Railways and the Government of Maharashtra. The operational details are being worked out and will be announced soon. Railways will welcome such joint venture proposals from other State Governments and private organisations.

Orissa Cyclone

Sir, the House is aware of the Railways' significant role in relief and restoration operations after super cyclone in Orissa. I am happy to inform the House that on behalf

of the Railway family, a sum of Rs. 21.78 cr. has been contributed to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Kargil victims. Another sum of Rs. 6.58 cr. has been contributed towards relief for Orissa cyclone victims.

"Jab ghayal hue the Kargil, Khatre mein padi azadi,
Jab tak thi saans lade woh, phir apni laash bichcha di,
Sangeen pe dhar kar maatha, so gaye amar balidani,
Jo shaheed hue hain unki jara yaad karo qurbani."

Sir, I am happy to announce that Railways have decided to earmark one hundred employment opportunity exclusively for the families of the martyrs of the Operation VJAY-1999 in Kargil. The modalities for selection of the families eligible for such employment will be worked out and recommended by the Defence Ministry.

Research Programme

Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), which is the research and developing wing of the Indian Railways has recently obtained ISO-9001 certificate for enhancing quality management and strengthening the working methodologies. The functioning of this organisation is proposed to be reviewed thoroughly in the coming year to enable it to deal with the emerging challenges. With a view to closer interaction between RDSO and Academic/Research Institutions and industries, it is proposed to set up a Railway Technology Cell at IIT/Kanpur in two specified areas.

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.

In its two year of operation, the Corporation has been able to generate revenues that are just sufficient to meet the operating expenses. Efforts will be made to enable the Corporation to increase its revenue generation capacity and realise its full potential so that it becomes self-reliant. However, for the time being, it is necessary for the Railway to assist the Konkan Railway Corporation mainly to meet their debt service obligation.

Metropolitan Transport Projects

Suburban transportation system of Mumbai caters to a very large number of commuters. Railways have been making serious efforts to augment it. I am happy to inform the House that doubling of Belapur-Panvel line is expected to be completed by the end of this financial year. This will facilitate running of more services in the near future. Other projects like the 5th line between Santacruz & Borivali, Quadrupling of Borivali-Virar section and construction of 5th & 6th lines between Kurli and Thane are also being executed on priority basis.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the metropolitan city of Calcutta is in urgent need of attention to its suburban transport system due to high density of population in the city. The extension of Calcutta Metro Railway from Tollygunge to Garia which was started last year is being given further fillip with increased allocation of funds to complete it early. I would request the State Government of West Bengal to provide its share of the cost so that the work can be expedited for the benefit of the people of Calcutta. Extension of Circular Railway from Princepghat to Majerhat has already been sanctioned. In order to further strengthen the Circular Railway system and provide facility to daily commuters, it has been decided to provide a connection to the airport as well as electrify the existing Circular Railway from Tala to Princepghat. This will be in continuation of the electrification of Dum Dum-Tala section which is already in progress. This will facilitate running of EMU services on the Circular Railway. Work will be started shortly on these portions.

Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that the work of Phase II of Mass Rapid Transit System in Chennai from Tirumallai to Velacheri is progressing at a rapid pace towards completion within the targeted date of March 2002. I would like to thank the Government of Tamil Nadu for their assistance in arranging land for the project and removing obstruction to project execution by expeditious shifting of people living on the land required for the project. Gauge Conversion of Chennai Beach - Tambaram - Chengalpattu suburban section has also received necessary approvals and the work has started.

I am happy to announce that we are considering a proposal received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for a joint venture enterprise for developing multi-modal transport services in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Sir, you will be very happy. The venture is expected to have participation of the Railways, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and private sector.

For developing a modern inter-modal transport system in Bangalore, a proposal has just been received from the Government of Karnataka which has also agreed to share two third cost of this project. We are considering this proposal.

I have just received a suggestion for a link between Egmore and Central Stations of Chennai, which the Government of Tamil Nadu would be willing to fund partially. The full implications of the proposal need to be studied.

I would like to appeal to various State Governments through you, Sir, that they should consider providing Government land free of cost for the socially desirable railway projects. The money thus saved by the Railways

can be utilised for expeditious completion of the concerned projects.

Production Units

During 1998-99, all the Railway Production units – Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, Integral Coach Factory, Perambur, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, Diesel Component Works, Patiala and Wheel and Axle Plant, Bangalore – have achieved their targets.

I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that CLW, Chittaranjan has built an indigenous 3-phase state-of-art 6000 HP freight electric locomotive 'Navyug'. With this, CLW has become first amongst the developing countries, second in Asia and 5th in the world to manufacture such a locomotive indigenously. We are proud of it. DLW and RCF are in the process of receiving technology transfer and will soon be able to produce modern diesel locomotives and coaches. DCW exported diesel loco components worth Rs. 1.35 cr. to various countries like Malaysia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Peru etc.

Public Sector Undertakings

Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that the performance of the Public Sector Undertakings has been satisfactory during the year 1998-99. In 1998-99, IRCON International Ltd. had a turnover of Rs. 413 cr. and earned a net profit of Rs. 56 cr. It paid a dividend of Rs. 11 cr. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) achieved the highest ever turnover of Rs. 142 cr. during the year 1998-99, recording a net profit of Rs. 10 cr. and paid a dividend of Rs. 2 cr. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) had a turnover of Rs. 685 cr., earning a profit of Rs. 141 cr and paid Rs. 29 cr. as dividend. Indian Railway Finance Corporation earned a net profit of Rs. 326 cr. It mobilised a total of Rs. 2,955 cr. market in 1998-99 to supplement the plan resources of Indian Railways. It paid a dividend of Rs. 65 cr.

Annual Plan 2000-01

Sir, with all the resource constraints, we have been able to keep the Plan outlay for 2000-01 at Rs. 11,000 cr., constituting an increase of about 23% over the revised plan outlay of Rs. 8,965 cr. for the current year. Capital support from the General Exchequer at Rs. 3,540 cr. is around 40% higher than last year, an increase which is quite unprecedented in recent years. It is proposed to go in for market borrowings to the extent of Rs. 3,668 cr. The balance Rs. 3,792 cr. is being met through a combination of normal internal resources, non-traditional sources of revenue and contribution from General Revenues for Railway Safety Works.

The thrust of this Annual Plan is on safety besides

capacity augmentation and improving passenger amenities. I have already mentioned the enhanced outlays on safety related heads. For augmenting line capacity, the allocation for Doubling Works has been increased to Rs. 655 cr. from Rs. 552 cr. in the Revised Estimated. Under Gauge Conversion plan head, Rs. 600 cr. have been provided as against Rs. 529 cr. in the Revised Estimates.

New Lines

Sir, the House will be happy to know that I have substantially stepped up the investment in New Lines next year. From a level of Rs. 514 cr. in the Revised Estimates this year, the outlay has been increased to Rs. 825 cr. or 61% over the current year's revised estimate with an aim to accelerate progress of pending projects, particularly some very old projects which are over a decade old. This is also to provide adequately for new lines in the frontier areas of Jammu & Kashmir and Northeast region. I will now list the new projects proposed to be taken up during 2000-01. I am happy to mention that all these projects are being included only after obtaining necessary clearances.

[Translation]

Sir, laying of foundation stone creates a lot of problems. So, we have made announcements after getting clearance.

[English]

- (i) Kotipalli-Narsapur
- (ii) Jogighopa-Maynaguri
- (iii) Ramganj Mandi-Bhopal
- (iv) Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur via Arambag
- (v) Sultangang-Deogarh
- (vi) Ajmer-Pushkar
- (vii) Gandhinagar-Adraj Moti-Kalol

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH) : You promised an investment of Rs. 54,000 crore for the Golden Quadrangle. ...*(Interruptions)* You must give additional help. ...*(Interruptions)*

Ongoing new line sections which would be completed before March 2000 are :

- (i) Bongaon-Petrapi
- (ii) Goalpara-Kamakhya
- (iii) Peddipalli-Karimnagar

The new lines targeted to be completed in 2000-01 are :-

(I) Kapadvanj-Modasa

(ii) Kashinagar-Kakdwarp

(iii) Eklakhi-Gajol

(iv) Puttaparthi-Penukonda

(v) Bargachia-Munshirhat

(vi) Tamluk-Digha

(vii) Joruri-Banspani

Gauge Conversions

The following gauge conversion projects are being included in the budget :

(I) Katpadi-Villupuram

(ii) Tiruchchirapalli-Manamadurai

(iii) Purna-Akola

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) :
What has happened to Lalitpur-Khajuraho-Singhauri line?
The Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone for it.
...(Interruptions)

The sections of which gauge conversion would be completed before March, 2000 are :

(I) Pandharpur-Kurudwadi

(ii) Kashipur-Lalkuan

(iii) Arakkonam-Chengalpattu

(iv) Yellahanka-Yeshwantpur

(v) Morbi-Maliya-Miyana

During the year 2000-01, Railways plan to complete the gauge conversion of the following sections :

(I) Nonera-Bhind of Guna-Etawah project

(ii) Raxual-Birganj

(iii) Makum-Dangri

(iv) Amguri-Tuli

(v) Laxmanthirtha bridge diversion on Mysore-Hassan line

(vi) Mudkhed-Adilabad (BOLT)

(vii) Wankaner-Morbi

(viii) Gandhidham-Bhuj

(ix) Darangdhara-Kuda

Doubling

During the current year, 220 km of doubling would be completed, while in the next financial year a target of 300 km has been kept. The following new doubling works are being included in the budget :-

(I) Khurda Road-Puri, Phase I (Khurda Road-Delang)

(ii) Jarwal Road-Brhuwal (Patch Doubling)

(iii) Sonarpur to Canning, Phase I (Sonarpur - Ghutiar Sharif)

(iv) Panvel-Vasai-JNPT

(v) Baruipur to Lakshmikanthpur, Phase I (Baruipur - Dakshin Barasat)

(vi) Gooty-Renigunta section (Balapalle-Pullampet section)

(vii) Tarkeshwar to Sheoraphuli, Phase I (Sheoraphuli - Nallikul)

(viii) Zafrabad-Utretia section, Phase II (Zafrabad-Srikrishnnagar)

(ix) Panskura to Haldia, Phase I (Panskura-Rajgoda)

(x) Surat-Kosamba as Phase I of 3rd line between Vadodara and Virar

(xi) Bolpur - Ahmedpur

(xii) Amroha - Kankather

(xiii) Kalinarayanpur - Krishnanagar

(xiv) Manikpur - Cheonki, Phase I (Manikpur - Katayadandi)

(xv) Barasat - Hasanabad doubling with electrification, Phase I (Barasat - Sondalia)

Sir it gives me pleasure to inform the House that we have decided to extend the following works as part of some of the on going projects.

(I) Conversion of Katihar-Radhikapur-Barsol MG line to BG as an extension of Katihar-Jogbani project.

(ii) Extension of Circular Railway network in Calcutta to Dum Dum Airport. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni will be very happy.

(iii) Extension of Bankura-Damodar Railway to Mukutmonipur.

- (iv) Connection of the converted BDR line from Shyam Sundernagar to Chechal

Sir, I am also pleased to announce that connectivity between Howrah and Sealdah stations will be established during the coming financial year.

Sir, Former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had given a commitment in one of the SAARC summits that the Changrabandha-Malbazar MG line in NF Railway (presently not operational) would be reopened. I am happy to announce that this commitment would be fulfilled in the coming year.

Surveys

On the basis of requests received from the Hon'ble Members and State Governments, I have decided to take up several surveys during the next financial year. These are:

New Line Surveys

- (i) Titagarh to Sonarpur with junction arrangement to the circular railway at Ultadanga.
- (ii) Behrampur to Kandi
- (iii) Zaheerabad to Secunderabad
- (iv) Bhavnagar to Tarapur
- (v) Jind to Sonapat
- (vi) Kohima to Dimapur
- (vii) Ponduru to Razam
- (viii) Dankuni to Champadanga via Seakhala and Furfurah Sharif and connecting Seakhala to Bargachia.
- (ix) Jaggayyapet to Miryalguda
- (x) Pettancheru to Jogipet
- (xi) Jhunjhunu to Pilani
- (xii) Majerhat to Thakurpukur (Circular Rly.)
- (xiii) updating survey for Port Blair to Diglipur
- (xiv) Raipur to Jharsuguda via Kharotapalam, Baloda Bazar and Bhatgaon, Sarangarh.
- (xv) Pandurangpuram to Bhadrachalam.
- (xvi) Krishnanagar to Karimpur
- (xvii) Panki to Mandhana

- (xviii) Merta Road to Beawar
- (xix) Katpadi to Chennai via Gindi, Punnamallee and Kanchipuram to Tindivanam
- (xx) Jhalor to Phalna
- (xxi) Koderma to Talaiya
- (xxii) Banka-Nawadah-Jamui
- (xxiii) Shripur to Mhow
- (xxiv) Sama to Madhopur
- (xxv) Badowal to Sahnewal

Gauge Conversion Surveys

The Survey for gauge conversion of Shantipur to Nabadweepghat section is being updated.

Doubling Surveys

The following surveys for doubling of existing lines have been included in the budget :

- (i) Udhana to Jalgaon
- (ii) Jaipur to Merta Road
- (iii) Rajpura to Bhatinda
- (iv) 3rd line from Thiruvalur to Arakkonam
- (v) Ramnagaram to Mysore

Railway Electrification

For Ninth Five Year Plan, Railways had planned electrification of 2,300 route km. Of this, 1062 km. have been electrified during the first two years. In the current year, electrification of 435 route km. is envisaged and in the coming one year 500 route km. are proposed to be electrified. The following projects are targeted to be completed before March, 2000.

- (i) Erode-Ernakulam

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (OTTAPALAM) : Sir, it is already there. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I will listen to you. Let me finish-(*Interruptions*) It will be completed this year. ...(*Interruptions*) Please listen to me.

- (ii) Adra-Midnapur

(iii) Kanpur-Lucknow

Sir, a new railway electrification project is proposed to be taken up on Krishnanagar-Lalgola section of the Eastern Railway during the next financial year.

Sir, a very high tariff is charged by various State Electricity Boards, imposing undue burden on rail users. I had taken up the issue with the State Governments recently but the response is not very encouraging. It has, therefore, been decided that in addition to making further efforts in accessing more power from the 15% unallocated central share of power, Indian Railways will also consider going in for exclusive power purchase agreements through joint ventures with public/private power companies, provided the tariff offered is more attractive.

Human Resource Development

Permanent Negotiating Machinery (PNM), Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM), and Participation of Railway Employees in Management (PREM) are working satisfactorily. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for their positive role in helping industrial harmony on the Railways, with sixteen lakh employees constantly striving to meet the huge task before them.

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Sir, the State of Kerala has been totally neglected. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let her complete the speech.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Kindly listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)* If you allow me, I can promise. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ramesh Chennithala and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete her speech. Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I gave so many things to you all. Kindly listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, you are creating a bad precedent. This is not correct. If there is anything, you can meet the Minister later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I request the Members from Kerala to kindly listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : For everything, you come to the well of the House. This is not proper. Please go back to your seats.

I am happy to announce that I have decided to make a 20% enhancement in the outlay on Staff Quarters in comparison to the Revised Estimates for the current year. Next year's proposed outlay for staff amenities has also got an increase of about 18% over the revised estimates for the current year.

Staff Welfare

Railways are also considering a proposal from HUDCO to fund house-building by railway employees so as to supplement the house building advance that they can get under the central government rules.

Sir, very recently, Western Railway has developed a website called "Pensioners Helpline" on the Internet, which allows pensioners to communicate their grievances to senior officers from anywhere without visiting the office. This is one step forward towards electronic governance (e-governance).

Railways are contemplating setting up of engineering and medical colleges for the wards of railway employees at different locations. A proposal has recently been received from South Eastern Railway for setting up an engineering college at Kharagpur.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes/Physically Handicapped

Statutory provisions in regard to protection and reservation are being followed in respect of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as other backward classes and the physically handicapped. I have seen that there is backlog in filling up the vacancies reserved for them. We will make every effort to ensure that all vacancies for them are filled up in a time-bound manner by special recruitment drive.

Railway Recruitment Boards

The functioning of the Railway Recruitment Boards has been a subject of debate at several fora. While some improvements have been brought in, several other suggestions for making these Boards more broad-based by including representations from SC/ST/OBC and minority communities have been sent by Hon'ble Members. A final decision on the issue will be taken after considering all aspects.

There have been many grievances regarding delay in providing employment on compassionate grounds.

Considering the hardship being faced by the families, fresh directives are being issued so that such appointments are completed in a time-bound manner.

Sports

I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that the Railways have won 14 National titles so far this year. A number of Railway sportspersons have represented the country at the SAARC Asian Federation Games held in Kathmandu and brought laurels to the Country. It is also a matter of great pride that 15 of the 16 women Hockey players, who represented the country in the 4th Asian Women's Hockey Cup, were from the Railways. Two power lifters of the Railways also won Bronze Medals in the World Power Lifting Championship.

Sir, the process of recruitment of women against sports quota does not cover certain popular sports like football, wrestling and aquatics (except diving). Women are no longer behind men in any sport. Hence, I propose to include these sports for women too. Sir, it is also proposed to include two new sports, namely Archery and Karate, both for men and women, for purposes of recruitment against sports quota.

13.22 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ramesh Chennithala and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, Kerala is a very beautiful State. ...*(Interruptions)* Last year, in my Supplementary Demands for Grants, we gave a new train to Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)* I propose to give a few new trains to Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)* I will consider whatever they say. ...*(Interruptions)*

International Cooperation

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh has been given stepmotherly treatment. Announcement should be made on the basis of population.

[English]

Sir, Indian Railways is an active member of the International Union of Railways (UIC), Paris. We are making a significant contribution to the promotion of cooperation between Railways and development of Rail transport at the global level. Indian Railways are playing a pivotal role in development of Trans-Asian Railway which would span China, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Iran and

Turkey onwards to Europe. Sir, I am happy to announce that in the coming year, our rail links with Bangladesh and Nepal are going to be restored for goods traffic. We will also make efforts to begin passenger services soon.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Many things have been given to the State of Uttar Pradesh. Kindly allow me to complete the speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.23 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not correct. Please go back to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.25 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh went back to his seat.

Sir, Railways are negotiating with the Asian Development Bank for a loan totaling about Rs. 3,800 cr. for Rail Sector Improvement Project covering aspects of augmentation of capacity, safety etc.

High Speed Rail Transportation

High speed passenger transportation, which was earlier confined to a few countries, is now becoming more common, especially in the European Union countries. In my vision for Indian Railways in this new millennium, there is certainly a place for high speed intercity transport in our country. I propose to initiate necessary studies towards the choice of routes for high speed.

Reforms and Restructuring

Sir, Indian Railways are a one-and-a-half century old system that has served the people successfully till now. But today's fast changing world, with emerging new technologies and financing opportunities, Indian Railways must attune itself to the new realities. The relevance of the existing organisational structure, regulatory arrangements, functional modalities and above all, its role in the changing scenario need to be looked at afresh. Sir, Railways have set up a 'Railway Expert Group' with members from diverse fields. The Group will submit its report by April, 2000. Here, I may assure the House that the interest of the Railway employees will be fully protected.

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Sir, this Budget is totally anti-Kerala. We are not satisfied with it. Hence, we are walking out in protest.

13.26 hrs.

At this stage, Shri A.C. Jos and some other hon. Members left the House.

Transparency and Accountability

Sir, I believe that a system which touches the lives of at least 1.5 cr. of our citizens everyday needs to be completely transparent. While I do appreciate that the existing systems and procedures of our organisation have withstood the test of times, ensuring sufficient transparency and accountability, I feel that in these changing times, we need to set higher standards for ourselves. Railways are one of the largest government procurement organisations. Hence, I intend to streamline the entire procurement procedures of Railways where reforms is needed. I have also decided that from the next financial year, the complete procurement calendar of the Indian Railways will be made available also on the Internet. Modalities of handling public grievances will also undergo a through review. Sir, it is also proposed to streamline the system of internet audit in Railways to ensure better monitoring and accountability.

Sir, I would like to convey a clear message that corrupt practices in Indian Railways in any form, shall be dealt with most harshly and with all the determination at our command. I must state without any hesitation that corrupt persons have no place in Indian Railways, however high or low they may be. At the same time, I will go to any length to protect any of my 16 lakh employees who are honest and dedicated. Sir, I would like to seek inspiration from the words of Swami Vivekananda who said "GIVE ME A FEW MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE PURE AND SELFLESS, AND I SHALL SHAKE THE WORLD".

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (AGRA) : Uttar Pradesh has been given stepmotherly treatment in Rail Budget. The Prime Minister is from Uttar Pradesh and that State has been given stepmotherly treatment.

13.27 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raj Babbar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. This is not correct.

13.29 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raj Babbar and some other hon. Members left the House.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2000-01

Sir, I shall now deal with the Budget Estimates for 2000-01

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Injustice has been done to Bihar in rail budget, so I boycott this rail budget.

13.30 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh left the House.

[English]

In the current year, the country witnessed an economic recovery after a two-year long recession. The present indications are for a further improvement in the growth performance. The macro-economic fundamentals are strong in several respects as the country has entered the new millennium. The trends are encouraging in agricultural and industrial production including the basic infrastructure industries. Keeping this in view, the Freight traffic target has been fixed at 475 million tonnes, an increment of 25 million tonnes over current year's target of 450 million tonnes. A slightly high target has been kept trusting the buoyancy in the economy as well as the additional marketing efforts of the Railways which are now in the offing. To facilitate adequate availability of rolling stock for freight movement, a higher requirement of 23,000 wagons has been projected by Indian Railways for the next year. This will give fillip to the wagon industry in general which has been suffering from under-utilisation of capacity due to insufficient orders.

For passenger traffic, a 5% increase has been provided in keeping with the long-term growth in passenger traffic. With these projections, the goods earnings are assessed at Rs. 23,038 cr. and passenger earnings at Rs. 10,148 cr.

Relying upon a boost to parcel business by Rs. 100 cr. over and above a normal 5% growth, Other Coaching earnings are expected to be Rs. 826 cr. Sundry other earnings, placed at Rs. 1,417 cr., include Rs. 500 cr by way of leasing of 'right of way' for optic fibre cables, Rs. 150 cr. from commercial exploitation of land and air space; and another Rs. 100 cr. through commercial publicity on Railway premises and rolling stock, apart from a normal growth of 5%.

Sir, the bulk of the outstanding dues in Traffic Suspense relate to Powerhouses especially Badarpur Thermal Power Station. A target of Rs. 500 cr. has been kept expecting a sizable clearance of these dues. Taking these into account, Gross Traffic Receipts are estimated at Rs. 35,929 cr.

Ordinary Working Expenses at Rs. 28,115 cr. provide for a minimal increase over current year, resulting in a total variation of 9% over Revised Estimates, 1999-2000. Appropriation to Pension Fund is placed at Rs. 4,996 cr. and DRF has been provided at Rs. 2,441 cr. based upon the actual requirement for plan-resources.

Total Working Expenses will, thus, amount to Rs. 35,552 cr., leading to Net Traffic Receipts of Rs. 377 cr. Net Miscellaneous Receipts are estimated at Rs. 815 cr. This also takes into account Rs. 300 cr, proposed to be received from General Revenues for Railway Safety Works. Thus, Net Revenue of Rs. 1192 cr. is reached.

Dividend to General Revenues has been worked out at 7% of the Capital-at-charge as recommended by the Railway Convention Committee for 1999-2000. The Memorandum for 2000-01 is being submitted to the Committee. The dividend projected in Budget Estimate 2000-01 is Rs. 2,115 cr., but in view of a shortfall in internal resources for plan needs, it is proposed to pay to General Revenues only Rs. 615 crore and transfer the balance Rs. 1,500 crore to the Deferred Dividend Liability Account.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Nothing has been done for U.P. inspite of the fact that the Prime Minister is representing ... (Interruptions)

13.31 hrs.

After that Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav staged a boycott from the House.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The projects suggested by you have been included in it.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : I told about it last time also. ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Please look into it as your suggestions have been completely incorporated in it.

[English]

Based on the above projections, the "Excess" of receipts over expenditure in 2000-01 comes to Rs. 576 cr., which falls short of requirements of plan expenditure to be met from the Development Fund and Capital Fund together totaling Rs. 1,421 cr. An amount of Rs. 249 cr. is proposed to be taken as loan for Capital Fund from the Budgetary Support of Rs. 3,540 cr. This leaves an uncovered gap of Rs. 600 cr. which is required to be mobilised additionally.

Sir, as I mentioned earlier, after two years the economy is now poised for a higher growth rate. Railways are comfortably placed to achieve the target of loading for the current year. There was no increase in freight rates during the year 1998-99. There has been considerable increase in the input costs of the railways and the recent hike in the price of diesel has put an additional burden on the railways, finances. Some upward rationalisation of the freight rates has thus become unavoidable. I therefore, propose the following rationalisation in the tariff and classifications of certain commodities during the next year.

There will be no increase in the freight rates

for essential commodities like Foodgrains, Sugar, Edible salt, Edible Oils, Kerosene, LPG, Fruits and vegetables.

- * Sir, by insulating these essential commodities, I want to ensure that there is no additional burden on the common man.
- * There will be a general increase of 5% in the rates of all commodities except those mentioned above.
- * Keeping in view the need to encourage higher industrial growth, I do not want to overburden certain commodities in the core sector. Therefore, I propose to contain the increase in rates of some commodities to less than 5% by downgrading the classifications, as detailed in the Memorandum. The commodities are coal (not meant for household consumption), iron and steel (Division A/B/C), cement, iron ore, limestone and dolomite and certain petroleum products.
- * Railways have been charging concessional tariff for Chemical Manures in the past, despite the fact that the prices are administered by the Government. I propose to correct this distortion by upgrading the classifications suitably as explained in the Memorandum. Urea will, however, be exempted from the increase altogether. Similarly, freight charges for Livestock and Oilseeds would also be raised appropriately to make their haulage financially more viable. The revised classifications are mentioned in the Memorandum. The average increase in the freight rates in these commodities would be more than the normal increase of 5%.
- * Sir, I propose an increase of 7% in the scale rates of Parcel and Luggage including Motor Car rates. Rates for newspaper, magazine and medicine will, however, be exempted from this increase and existing rates will continue without an change.

The above proposals for adjustment in tariff for Freight, Parcel and Luggage is estimated to generate Rs. 600 cr. per annum. The above changes in rates and classifications will be effective from 1st April, 2000.

Sir, I am happy to announce the following concessions, in addition to continuation of the concessional MST scheme meant for people below the poverty line, which was approved by the House at the time of Supplementary Demands for Grants in December 1999 :-

- * To commemorate the 50th year of Indian Republic, all the freedom fighters will be given

a millennium gift for travel of one journey by Rajdhani or Shatabdi train of choice from any station to any destination and back. This will be valid for millennium year only.

- A Millennium Card at a cost of Rs. 10,000/- valid for one year will be issued to any passenger to give him assured reservation in First AC and Second AC Classes on any train on Indian railways throughout the year.
- The free travel facility for students up to Class-X announced by me while presenting the Supplementary Demands for Grants in December last will be further extended to cover girl students up to Class-XII for their travel from home to school/college and back.
- The widows of the martyrs of 'Operation Vijay' in 1999 in Kargil will be entitled to 75% travel concession in second class and sleeper class.

Sir, in the Budget proposals, we did something. But my hon. Friends from Kerala have misunderstood me. Their projects are already there. We cannot indicate about allocation of money in the Budget speech itself. It is in the book. I would request them to go through the book. We have not cut a single *paisa* for any State; rather we have increased the allocation. If there is anything, I will discuss it with them. They can talk to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I cannot satisfy everybody. Within my limitations I have tried to do my level best. If any Member of Parliament feels hurt, I would request him to talk to me. We can consider it in the Revised Estimates. There is no problem. In the case of each State, we feel like brothers and sisters. I can assure the House that if anything is still left, we will do it.

Sir, with regard to passenger fares, there is a general feeling that in many respects passengers do not get the quality of service from the Indian Railways. As I mentioned earlier, despite serious financial constraints, I have been able to propose an increased outlay on passenger amenities which is 54% higher than the current year's Revised Estimate. Sir, I am committed to increasing passenger amenities on trains and on platforms. Enhancing the satisfaction levels of passengers towards the services is a very important priority for me and I would like to witness the definite improvement. Meanwhile, I do not wish to burden the passengers.

[Translation]

We are not increasing the fares.

[English]

Therefore, Sir, I am not proposing any revision of passenger fare of any class.

Conclusion

In the end, I wish to express my gratitude to Respected Prime Minister for his encouragement and support. My sincere thanks are also due to all the railwaymen for their hard work and dedication to duty, which has helped railways in achieving their task successfully. I am also thankful to the rail users whose cooperation we have always been getting. I am confident that in the year to come they will continue to cooperate and will also enrich our efforts by giving constructive suggestions for bringing overall improvements in railway functioning.

Sir, permit me to end my speech with the following words of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore which emerge in my heart as I complete my Budget statement.

"The morning will surely come,

The darkness will vanish.

And they voice pour down,

In golden streams,

Breaking through the sky"

[Translation]

Mulayam Singh ji is not present in the House. He has gone out. He gave me two projects which have been included. These are on going projects. He does not know about it. I have included it without mentioning it. The situation of railway is not good but I hope and believe to improve it. I would like to recite a couplet before concluding my budget speech —

'Raat jitni bhi sangin hogi,

Subah utni hi rangin hogi.

Gam na kar gar hal baadal ghanera,

Kiske roke rooka hai savera.

[English]

Sir, I did not deprive any State. I try to help everyone of them. I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and leaders of all other political parties. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of them.

Sir, with these words I commend the Railway Budget 2000-2001 to the House.

MR. SPEAKER : The Lok Sabha stands adjourned to meet again at 2.45 p.m.

13.41 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.51 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifty-One Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Madam Chairperson, a discussion regarding adjournment motion took place today in the morning. I would like to ask you two things. It has been decided that the discussion will take place on Monday, but please tell us all these things that under which rule it will take place, what will be the nature of this discussion, the time allotted for it and when will it start?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : At what time? When will the discussion take place?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Please do not leave it to the Speaker. You are now in the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, we tabled an Adjournment Motion alongwith suspension of the Question Hour. Our Adjournment Motion was not admitted by the hon. Speaker. He gave his ruling. But we are not told when the discussion will take place, in what form and under what rule.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is for the Business Advisory Committee to decide. Is it not?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You all meet him and decide it at that time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, Business Advisory Committee is not meeting today. When will it meet? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : In view of having disallowed the Adjournment Motion, it is the Speaker who must tell us in what form he wants us to raise this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will consult the Speaker, and we will make an announcement today.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : He had been there. He could have applied his mind and we would like to know that now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We will be leaving this evening. We will go back to our constituencies. We will be back on Monday. So, we should be informed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs be able to say something?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : As far as we are concerned, we are ready to discuss the issue. I cannot decide on behalf of the Speaker that under which rule it should be raised.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If you do not oppose to raise it under rule 184, then it is all right.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would you like to consult the Speaker at least in the course of the hour? You then find out.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I will definitely try to consult the Speaker today.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Madam Chairperson, we would not like to raise this discussion under rule 193. If the discussion takes place, it would take place under rule 184.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you given the notice?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have already given the notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let me do one thing. I have requested the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to just tell me about the course of action to be taken.

[English]

We were all agitated about the lawyers strike.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Yes, I am going to raise it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There have been some negotiations. The Minister has come with a statement.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Just now. It is a *suo motu*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, it is a *suo motu* statement on the lawyers strike.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But before that, we should be allowed to make our submission. Before the Minister makes his statement, we should be allowed to make our submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Submission on what?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Submission on what happened yesterday, how the lawyers were lathicharged and beaten up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a *suo motu* statement from the Minister.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Madam, Shri Basu Deb Acharia never knew that there was a statement. If he were so concerned, he should have allowed that.

Now that I am saying that the Government is making a statement, he is aware of it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : I gave a notice this morning that after disposing of the issue of the admissibility of the Adjournment Motion on RSS, the question of the cruel and merciless atrocities committed by the Police against the lawyers should be taken up in the House and discussed. That is already in the notice. I did not bring it up purposely because I considered that the entire Opposition was very concerned about the issue on the RSS, which pertained to secularism.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is trying to make a statement on it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We never object to Ministers making *suo motu* statements. It is a right of the Ministers. We never object. But when a notice is lying with the hon. Speaker that the atrocities committed on the advocates should be taken up in the House — and that notice was given today with a specific wording “Office may help” — after disposing of the motion or issue about the admissibility, this matter should have been taken up. Shri Basu Deb Acharia is very right when said that before the *suo motu* statement was made the House should have been heard.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We should be allowed to make our submissions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : On what do you want to submit? The strike has been called off, a compromise has been reached and, therefore, the Minister wants to inform the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : They have been mercilessly beaten by the Police.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I hope that the hon. Minister will express his regrets and condemn the high-handedness of the Police. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think that you should hear the statement of the Minister, if you have something to say and if you are not satisfied, then you can raise something.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : Madam, this is a very serious issue. Will the House not have discussion on the barbarous way in which the lawyers and intellectuals of the country are being treated. Notice has already been given for it. So it is my request. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I am telling you to allow him to speak first. ...*(Interruptions)* The strike has been called off....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : It has been got called off forcibly. What is being done? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : They are sad because the lawyer's strike has been called off. They want to create problem. When the problem has been solved, then the issue is no more there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You are feeling sad.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : We should be told first, as we have given notice.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : This is not an issue to stop a debate. It is for you to take a decision. Perhaps, Dasmunsi ji may have given notice.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN) : The statement cannot take precedence over the notice.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I do not know which rule is being quoted, what kind of notice is given, what the Chairman would allow. Only the hon. Speaker would know what kind of notice was given.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. You should speak after hearing him.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : We really do not know which kind of a notice was given. ..So, we do not know how this notice can take precedence over a *suo motu* statement. If the notice is received, only the hon. Speaker can take a decision. If there were some notice that an issue be discussed in the Zero Hour, we could not have discussed it today as it was time for the Railway Budget. In the afternoon after 3.30 p.m. we will be taking up the Private Members' Bills. Now, in such circumstances normally the *suo motu* statement may be made and we know the subject, what the *suo motu* statement is about. As you rightly said, the strike has been called off, but still if somebody wants to say something, I leave it to your judgement.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : The representatives of the Bar met the hon. Prime Minister today in the presence of the other members of the Cabinet and ultimately a statement, which I proposed to make in the other House was prepared. It should have been made but the House was adjourned yesterday and this morning also. The statement which was prepared was discussed and they said that it was a satisfactory statement. On the basis of this, the matter is deemed to have been more or less settled. After we make this statement, I do not want to go say that the lawyers have agreed to, but they are very very likely to withdraw the strike just now.

15.00 hrs.

Once I have made the statement, if the hon. Members want to. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The strike has not been called off as yet. There is just the possibility of it.

[English]

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Have I not got the right to tell or take the House into confidence as to what has happened?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him read the statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : No, Madam. I want to reply through you to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. It was true that there was no Zero Hour today. My notice was very categorical. After disposing of the admissibility of the Adjournment Motion, this issue should be taken up. The strike was called by the Institution called, 'Bar Council of India.' *...(Interruptions)* Let the hon. Minister make the statement. I am not preventing the hon. Minister....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Tell me what you want?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Madam, if you agree, after the hon. Minister's statement, will you allow us to make our queries and submissions?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will do that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is all right.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would suggest that let the Minister make a statement. If you want to ask any specific question from the hon. Minister, you can ask from him.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Do not create new precedents. *...(Interruptions)* This should not be treated as a precedent.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : After this item is over, we would then like to know in what form the discussion on Monday would take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, in the meantime, you could please consult the Speaker.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Yes, Madam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will consult the Speaker.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ U.P.) : Madam, the Bhartiya Janata Party Government is trying to influence the judicial system by getting the lawyers lathi-charged and by getting their licences renewed within five years.

15.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Strike by the Lawyers

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Thank you Madam for permitting me and thanks to the hon. Members of the House.

There has been a highly regrettable and unfortunate incident yesterday in the vicinity of Parliament during which several lawyers and police personnel have been injured, some rather seriously. I had promised the other House yesterday to make a statement after making some inquiry. Unfortunately, that has not been possible.

Now, I will take your permission to first go to the last paragraph of this Statement and then I will come back to the first part.

I am glad to report that responsible representatives of the Bar met the hon. Prime Minister this afternoon. It has been decided to start the dialogue on the basis of this Statement.

Various Lawyers' organisations had given advance notice of a strike from court work scheduled for Thursday, the 24th February. The Secretary of the Delhi Bar Association and some of his colleagues saw the police on Wednesday the 23rd and the route and timing of the proposed procession and demonstration were sorted out. Nothing untoward was expected. Every one believed that there would be a peaceful march which would end at the usual barricades with presentation of a representation by selected lawyers.

Unfortunately, this did not materialise and a series of violent incidents occurred at or near the barricades.

Now, Madam, the next paragraph is important because we do not wish to prejudge the result of the judicial review which we are promising and which we have agreed.

The lawyers and police have conflicting versions of what happened. The lawyers claim that the police assault on them was totally unprovoked and excessive to the point of being brutal. They are naturally agitated by the indignity and injuries they have suffered. The police on the other hand claim that they had shown unusual restraint in the face of disorderly conduct and they have acted strictly in the discharge of their painful duties. They admit the use of water cannon, tear gas and lathi charge.

These rival versions only call for a totally impartial and thorough probe. Yesterday afternoon itself I expressed Government's willingness to have an immediate inquiry at whatever level the leaders of the Bar want. From the public statements that have been made by some political leaders, it includes the distinguished Leader of the Opposition whose statement I read this morning, as well as leaders of the Bar, an inquiry by a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court would be most suitable. The Government has no objection to this provided the Hon. Chief Justice of India can provide one

of his colleagues for this probe. I immediately intend to approach the hon. the Chief Justice to lend the services of one of his distinguished judges and I hope the Commission will be constituted very promptly.

The probe will be greatly facilitated as the Media have taken pictures of major incidents and Police too have videotaped the procession from the beginning to end.

Government welcomes the effort of all political and other leaders, including Law Officers of the Government who have called on the injured lawyers in hospital and extended to them assurance of justice, punishment of the guilty and compensation for the innocent sufferers.

I have appealed to lawyers to start a fruitful dialogue. I have repeatedly explained that there is no proposal at present before the Government, even tentative proposal, for unrestricted entry of foreign lawyers into India or for periodic examinations for practising lawyers. The date for notifying the coming into force of the Civil Procedure Amendment Act has not been fixed. Government appeals to lawyers to cooperate with Parliament in reducing laws' delays which have brought the legal system into disrepute. Parliament represents the will of the Sovereign people of India. Law and the legal system exist for their good alone. Let us not dwell too much on the past. It is time we concentrate on building a glorious future.

Now let me repeat the last three lines which I have already read.

I am glad to report that responsible representatives of the Bar have met the Prime Minister. I assure the House that I can clearly see the end of the strike and there should be no difficulty. *...(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Madam, who will regret for the eating and meeting!

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : Madam, the word used by the hon. Minister is 'unrestricted entry' *...(Interruptions)* But there is no reciprocal agreement being entered into to permit Indian lawyers to practise in those countries.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Now that the Government has decided to have a judicial probe into this matter, I am not going to pre-judge the issue. Naturally, nobody can, and it is not to be allowed.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Thank you, Somnath Ji.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is obvious, I believe, so long as it is a sitting judge of the Supreme Court, I certainly accept it. But the question is, how come the police would behave in a manner unless the Government had shown such attitude which encouraged the police? This is very important. It is a question of approach.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot pre-judge the issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is very important. It is a question of attitude.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Madam, I would appeal to all hon. Members not to say anything which has the effect of pre-judging the issue one way or the other and unnecessarily prejudicing one or the other party. It is not fair...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am not pre-judging. The hon. Law Minister has been reported in the Press that in no circumstances the Government will consider the question of applicability of the Civil Procedure Code Amendment Act.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : That is not correct.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That was the report which came out and there was no denial by the Government.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : That is not correct. All kinds of reports are floating in the Press.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : But you have never denied it.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : I have called for a dialogue from the word go. On the 4th of February, the representatives of the Bar saw me and in every public statement I have said that please come and discuss and call off the strike. *...(Interruptions)* Anyway, let us not fish in troubled water unnecessarily.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Bar Council decided only one-day strike. The Calcutta High Court Bar has been on strike for one whole week. Till today, right from Monday to Friday, there is a strike there. The Bar Council decided on the strike yesterday. Then they have decided to continue it today. I do not know what will be their further decision. But on the major issues, the Government seems to say nothing. He says, no date has been fixed. But what are they going to do? Are they going to reconsider this?

Secondly, with regard to the very selective words 'not unrestricted entry', this keeps the whole thing open.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : This is important.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What sort of restricted entry at all are you thinking of? These basic issues...*(Interruptions)* The Government cannot say that they have no mind....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : It is only a working paper which has been prepared by the Law Commission, which will be released to the nation for a debate in the future. I am surprised that this kind of misunderstanding persists in spite of the fact that there is no proposal before the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has said that it is only a working paper which has been circulated for discussion and opinion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The question is, we find that chartered accountancy profession is being opened up, the lawyers' profession is being opened up, every profession in this country is being opened up.

Therefore, why should the people not show concern? If the concern is shown, you are referring to the report of the Law Commission. Is the Government following only the Law Commission in this country? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You are opening it to them....*(Interruptions)* Why is it that the Indian lawyers should appear in the examination every five years to appear in the Indian courts whereas the outside lawyers can come at any time.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) : Madam, there are three issues involved here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let the lady Member speak.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : First issue is the lathi charge etc. The second is about entry of foreigners.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : It is without reciprocal arrangement.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Yes. The third one is very important. It is that all the writ petitions have to come to the Supreme Court, which will need a situation where all the people who have to file writ petitions and all that will rush to Delhi. Is it possible? What will all the lawyers outside Delhi do? Therefore, all these three things should be discussed. The Government should clear this about the writ petitions. I want to know what the Government is going to do.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They are opening up everything — media and lawyers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank God it is not Parliament,

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We do not know! ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, would you like to answer them or give an assurance?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Madam, I do not mind doing it since it has been raised from Bengal. I met the lawyers of Calcutta. They met me. I was personally in Calcutta.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Madam, let him reply together to all the points....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : I was in Calcutta personally when I discussed it with them and told them that instead of having this one appeal which is consuming 7-8 years of litigation time, it is better that these matters are heard by a Division Bench in the first instance itself. Initially at the admission stage they may be dealt with by a Single Judge and have them finally heard by the Division Bench and then an appeal to the Supreme Court will be there. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Dasmunsi, please allow me. This is a serious matter which affects all of us.

Every convention that has been held of lawyers and the judges combine on the subject of delay in justice has discussed it and the first proposal that has been made and on which nobody has differed so far is that one appeal, at least, should be abolished out of so many appeals.

This Bill is not the handiwork of this Government. It was recommended by Justice Mallimath Committee, by the Parliamentary Committee, by the Law Ministers' Conference and then the Bill had been introduced in 1997 and passed by the Rajya Sabha when we were not on the scene. The Bill could not be passed in 1997 because of the successive dissolutions of the Lok Sabha. When I became the Law Minister, I took up the thread from where it has been snapped and I moved it in both the Houses of Parliament. Hon. Members of this House were present then. I do not know why Shri Somnath Chatterjee was absent. I expected him to be present if he was that concerned for lawyers. This Bill, after discussion, was passed unanimously by both the Houses and that there was not one voice dissenting it. Even Shri Bansal spoke on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I stick to what I said. My question presently is different, if you permit me to say it. It is the second thing, I am now talking about.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Let us resolve one question. Then we will go to the different thing.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : What agitates the lawyers today is that you are laying down a condition that they must clear the examination every five years to be prescribed by somebody. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Oh, God! I am sorry. I have repeatedly said for the last two months that there is no such proposal before the Government.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Therefore, you could have talked to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : It is only a working paper by

the Law Commission for a national debate. If lawyers cannot understand, I am sorry that I cannot help. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it has been clarified in Parliament.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Madam, understandably they are agitated over something. But is lathi charge an answer to that or is water canon an answer to that?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bansal, they have appointed a Commission to look into the atrocities.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Let a Judge of the Supreme Court decide who is guilty and the guilty will be punished more seriously than you imagine.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Madam, please allow me....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I have my views on C.P.C. I do not differ on that. I have tried to convince people more than the hon. Minister has done.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Thank you.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : As far as the other question is concerned, it is certainly agitates the lawyers. You cannot accept the treatment that has been meted out to the lawyers yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bansal, that will be looked into by a Supreme Court Judge.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Madam, I heard the statement of the hon. Minister who is a distinguished member of the Bar. With all the respect that we have for him, the Bar Council of India, the elected apex body of the advocates, went on arguing this matter for the last few months and the officials of the Bar Council of India issued their letter to the Government, to the Members of Parliament, to the political parties some 15 days before, after their meeting which was held in Bhubaneswar saying that would be going in for strike on these issues. About their apprehensions on the amendment to the C.P.C., the hon. Minister has referred that the notification had not been issued.

The Minister did not clarify in the statement whether he is considering their viewpoints. Secondly, regarding their possible apprehension of the amendment of the Advocates Act, 1961, I sincerely join in this matter sentimentally, Madam; because when I was a student of Law College of Calcutta University, we sat on a hunger strike for a few days in connection with this Act. During those days, I was a student. Now, the Bar Council of India did apprehend — they

made a public opinion about it — that the unrestricted entry of the foreign lawyers in the field of their profession would create a situation where legitimately, our lawyers will feel uncomfortable. I want to know from the hon. Minister only one thing. I am not touching the police atrocities of yesterday. You covered it by a Commission of Inquiry. It is very nice. Let us see the fate.

But you said that you had been asking them to come and meet you and that they did not come. I want to know categorically whether you officially invited, before the strike, the Bar Council of India to come to you, to the Law Ministry to discuss their memorandum and you would report them back. Did you officially do it? There is no question of a public appeal. As a distinguished lawyer, when you made an appeal, as a student of law, we went to hear you with respect because you enlightened us on many things. But as a Law Minister, did you communicate officially with the Bar Council of India that their notice of strike related to these matters and you wanted to discuss and dispose of those matters before they went on strike.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : The answer is in affirmative, Not only that the members of the Bar Council of India almost habitually and regularly meet me, the Chairman always meets me at Bangalore National Law School where I teach and he comes for the meetings. I go round the country. They met me and fixed up an appointment with me for the 4th of February. On the 4th of February, three distinguished members of the Bar Council of India came to me. I had a discussion with them on all the amendments to the Civil Procedure Code.

Now here, there is a divergence and I do not wish to unnecessarily create a trouble. There is a misunderstanding. I will call it a misunderstanding. My impression was that all the three members went back satisfied with the explanations which I gave them about the nature of the amendments to the Civil Procedure Code. Now they say that they were not satisfied. If they were not satisfied, they would have written to me from 4th of February up to 24th of February at least one letter saying that Shri Jethmalani, we met you but we are not satisfied with what you told us. That is not what has happened.

Now, we have started a dialogue and we will consider this. I beseech of you that let this trouble be over, let the previous wounds get healed. Then, everything will be all right. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before we proceed further, I would say that this matter is closed. Now, the Minister has answered.

Now, we go to Item 6. Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari has to present Report of Public Accounts Committee.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We would like to know exactly what has happened.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has gone to the Speaker to find out what is to be done.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : After some time, the Private Members' Business will begin. So, how do we know? We should know it now. We cannot interrupt Private Members' Business. It is a response of the Government. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has gone.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We cannot disturb the Private Members' Business. ... (Interruptions)

15.18 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

First Report

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will go to Item 6. Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari will present the Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (NAINITAL) : I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (1999-2000) on "Union Excise Duties-Different classification for similar products."

15.19 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES - CONTD.

[English]

(iv) Committee on Public Accounts

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (NAINITAL) : I beg to move :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of

the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(v) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN) : I beg to move the following :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, I beg to move the following :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

15.21 hrs.

THE COFFEE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coffee Act, 1942.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coffee Act, 1942."

The motion was adopted

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : I introduce** the Bill.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Madam, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has come now.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Madam, you asked me to go to the Speaker. When I went there, he was busy with a delegation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Which delegation?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I do not know.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Madam, I am really surprised.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : It cannot be treated so casually.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Madhavraoji, please do not put any responsibility on me which is not part of my job.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : It is not me, and it is Madam Chairperson who had put that responsibility on you, and you readily agreed to it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Yes, I readily agreed and I readily went to the Chamber of the hon. Speaker. Madhavraoji, why do you not at least listen to me for a minute? As the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I cannot decide under which rule it will be discussed. It is for the Speaker to decide.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me adjourn the House for ten minutes and find out from the Speaker about this. Then, the Private Members' Business can be taken up. Is it okay?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : She is in the Chair and she can find out from the Speaker, but you are putting that responsibility on me.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : When she mentioned it, you readily agreed. That is why, we asked you. Otherwise, we would like to ask her.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : That is why, I told you that I went to his Chamber, but he was busy with some delegation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us adjourn the House till 3.30 p.m. We will come back for the Private Members' Business. In the meantime, I myself will go to the Speaker to find out what should be done.

15.23 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-eight minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI MARGRET ALVA in the Chair]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, let us go to Item No. 20 : Private Members' Legislative Business—Bill for introduction.

...(Interruptions)

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.2.2000.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : Madam, what decision has been taken on the Adjournment Motion?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I just went to meet the hon. Speaker in his Chamber and he said that he needs time till Monday morning. On Monday morning, he is calling a meeting of leaders of various parties.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Are Saturday and Sunday also week days?

MR. CHAIRMAN : They are holidays.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : The problem is that many members are going to their constituencies today and would return on Monday. They should know about the nature of discussion to come up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They will come prepared on Monday. The leaders will sit together and discuss it at 10 O clock on Monday.

[English]

The BAC has to allot the time and everything else. So your leaders will be there and they will discuss it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : So, we take it that on Monday. The Hon. Speaker will give his final ruling.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is examining all the issues. I just went to meet him and he said that as there have been various opinions, he needs time till Monday morning.

So, let us not disturb the Private Members' Business. It is our business.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Am I understood that the List of Business that we will receive for Monday, say by tomorrow or day after tomorrow, will say nothing about this issue because the decision will be taken by the Speaker on Monday itself as to what form and as to when we have to discuss it? How can such a functioning be there? The decision has to be taken earlier because the List of Business has to be circulated. How will you circulate the List of Business?

MR. CHAIRMAN : All I can do is to go to the Speaker. Hon. Speaker has to take a decision. I only communicated what the Hon. Speaker has said.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : What kind of communication have you brought? It is a laughable stock.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK) : We want a satisfactory reply from you.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let us adjourn again. You go and find out properly as to how the List of Business would be worded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri G.M. Banatwalla. I personally went to the Hon. Speaker.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You brought a very laughable communication!

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Speaker said that he needed time till Monday to decide under what rule he could admit it and how much time was to be allotted. The Hon. Speaker has said, 'I need time till Monday.'

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The List of Business would be issued now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri G.M. Banatwalla, you can also meet the Hon. Speaker and convince him.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : This is not the procedure. You have to decide.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot decide in what form and how it has to be discussed.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : We understand that you may not decide. The problem is that the Hon. Speaker this morning had said that we would take up the discussion of this issue on Monday. The discussion has to take place on Monday as far as the assurance given to us is concerned. We do not know under what provision the discussion will take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will know by Monday morning when you come back.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : How will it feature in the List of Business? How can it be decided?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are very experienced parliamentarians. You will come prepared in whichever form you have to speak. It makes no difference to you.

15.40 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

(I) The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill* (Amendment of Section 3)

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 25.2.2000.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I introduce the Bill.

15.40½ hrs.

(ii) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order Bill*

(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (PURULIA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN : 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 BIR SINGH MAHATO : I introduce the Bill.

15.41 hrs.

(iii) The Special Educational Facilities (for children of parents living below poverty line) Bill*

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (PURULIA) : 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. CHAIRMAN : 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 BIR SINGH MAHATO : I introduce the Bill.

15.42 hrs.

(iv) The Compulsory Military Training Bill*

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make military training

compulsory for all able-bodied persons and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make military training compulsory for all able-bodied persons and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I introduce the Bill.

15.43 hrs.

(v) The Ragpicking and other Vagabond Street Children (Rehabilitation and Welfare), Bill*

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measures to be undertaken by the Union and State Governments for the ragpicking and vagabond street children who subsist on collecting and selling waste materials from garbage dumps and other places endangering their health and lives and for their rehabilitation through education, training, vocational education and guidance and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare measures to be undertaken by the Union and State Governments for the ragpicking and vagabond street children who subsist on collecting and selling waste materials from garbage dumps and other places endangering their health and lives and for their rehabilitation through education, training, vocational education and guidance and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I introduce the Bill.

15.44 hrs.

(vi) The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill*

(Substitution of new section for section 3, etc.)

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 25.2.2000.

*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 25.2.2000.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : I introduce the Bill.

15.45 hrs.

(vii) Abolition of Begging Bill*

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I introduce the Bill.

15.46 hrs.

(viii) The Uniform Education Bill*

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for uniform education throughout the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for uniform education throughout the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I introduce the Bill

15.47 hrs.

[English]

(ix) The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of vacancies in posts and services) Bill*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of vacancies for the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in posts and services under the control of the Government of India or of a State and in all statutory authorities and autonomous bodies receiving monies from the Government of India or of a State and for

*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 25.2.2000.

providing punishment for violation of reservation policy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of vacancies for the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in posts and services under the control of the Government of India or of a State and in all statutory authorities and autonomous bodies receiving monies from the Government of India or of a State and for providing punishment for violation of reservation policy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I introduce the Bill.

15.48 hrs.

(x) The Eradication of Unemployment Bill*

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a scheme for eradication of unemployment from the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a scheme for eradication of unemployment from the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I introduce the Bill.

15.48½ hrs.

(xi) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of sections 5 and 6)

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Cable Television and Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Cable Television and Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I introduce the Bill.

*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 25.2.2000.

15.49 hrs.

**(xii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India
(Amendment) Bill***

(Amendment of section 4)

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I introduce the Bill.

15.50 hrs.

**(xiii) the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled
Tribes (Reservation in Educational Insti-
tutions) Bill***

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes for admission in all courses of study including technical courses.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes for admission in all courses of study including technical courses."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : I introduced the Bill.

15.51 hrs.

**THE TERRORIST AND DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES
(PREVENTION) (WITHDRAWAL OF LEGAL
PROCEEDINGS) BILL – CONTD.**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up further consideration of the Bill moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla. Shri Ramesh Chennithala was on his legs and he may continue now.

*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 25.2.2000.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Madam Chairman, the hon. Member Shri G. M. Banatwalla has introduced this Bill and I am supporting the spirit behind this Bill.

TADA Act has lapsed and at the same time, some people who are involved in the TADA cases are still facing legal proceedings. They are in jail and they are facing problems. Shri G.M. Banatwalla wanted that all these cases should be withdrawn and those people should be set free. We are discussing about the consequences and the menace of terrorism also along with the main issue. The serious problem is that we are all in agreement with the spirit behind this Bill. We are all agreeing that TADA Act has been misused and a lot of innocent people were taken into custody by the police and they were all harassed. The whole aim or the motto behind this Bill is to save those innocent people who are harassed under TADA Act.

I do not want to take much time of the House because I have already mentioned about all these things earlier. So, today, I would like to say that terrorism is a universal phenomenon and it has to be checked. It is the duty of every Government in the world to check this menace. The Government of India has to give more importance to check terrorist activities across the border. We can see that pan-Islamic fundamentalism is trying to obstruct; and now it has become a grave issue before the nations around our country. We have to view it very seriously and we have to think about this. We have also to have some kind of a strategy to tackle terrorist activities across the border. To curtail these activities, India is trying to take the support of other nations. We have succeeded in one way, that is to raise these issues in international fora. Further, our Government should try its level best to get the support of other countries and try to raise this issue in international fora in a significant manner so that we can get the maximum support from other foreign countries.

Now it is evident that Pakistan is sponsoring this kind of terrorism. Pakistan is aiding and abetting these terrorist activities in our country. So, it is the duty of the Central Government to take the support of other countries and raise these issues in the international forums so that we are able to isolate these countries who are trying to create confusion in our country. I agree with the spirit of the Bill which is introduced by Shri Banatwalla. At the same time those people who are involved in these crimes should not be allowed to go scot-free.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : In the context of the Bill introduced here by Shri Banatwallaji, I would like to say that the picture he has drawn while introducing his

Bill the other day, it appeared as if the TADA has unleashed too much tyranny, especially on a particular class of society. This was evident from his emotions. I think TADA was enforced during the Congress regime. It was in 1987 when the TADA was enforced and it will be better if we understand why such laws had to be introduced after all? It was because whenever the country faced such crisis situations in the form of terrorism sponsored either from across the borders or a terrorist insurgency or any other terrorist activity, raising its head, the then reigning Governments in the country had to resort to stringent steps which in any case ought to have been taken in the wider interests of the nation. As has been laid down in our conventional law books 'Dandain Shashtrik Prajam' signifying that administration should be strict a bit because all the five fingers are not equal. There are good people also and there are anti-social elements also who make the lives of decent people miserable. It is a question of law and order and those who live in society. 'Jasu Raj Prija dukhari' i.e. the king in whose state people are in distress has, in fact no right to rule. So, in order to make people live happier, anti social elements, terrorists and disruptive forces. ...*(Interruptions)* It was very much imperative to make such laws. Perhaps you must not have forgotten that when Smt. Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister of the country she had imposed MISA. You must not be oblivious of MISA. It was preceded by the National Security Act. Then came TADA in 1987, the Preventive Detention Act was in force from 1950 to 1969. Likewise the Defence of India Act was in force from 1962 to 1971. So whenever such compelling situations arise in the country or the security and law and order of the country is jeopardised, we need to bring in equally stringent laws. It is correct that TADA died its own death, lapsing at the end of its prescribed period as per the Supreme Court's order in 1985. But out of the persons arrested under TADA, about 23,901 persons were acquitted for non-conviction or otherwise. According to official reports, only 22 persons, charged with having committed heinous crimes, still remain incarcerated. I am surprised and take pity at the wisdom of those people who advocate the acquittal of criminals who have committed a serious crime against the security of the country or killed hundreds of people in bombblast incidents. Today we are witnessing how Pakistan, despite our Kargil Victory, has been enacting a goary scene of violence in the valley by sending its trained terrorists and hired foreign nationals. Hundreds of innocent people are being done to death.

16.00 hrs.

Our security forces and their camps are being attacked. And apart from this, the naxallites in Andhra Pradesh and in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh have indulged in killing our security forces by laying mines etc. Will the country continue to undergo the kind of militant activities being

witnessed by the country north-eastern region, known as the seven sisters, particularly Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam. So TADA might have lapsed but I urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Law who is present here to see the imperative need to make a stringent law to combat terrorist activities in the country to suppress the anti-social forces and to take action against those persons who are hell bent upon disturbing the law and order situation, and are out to create communal frenzy or spreading terrorism, such a law is a must to ensure peace and happiness to the common people.

The Government had decided in this regard, earlier criminal law amendment Bill, 1995 to combat terrorism was brought in the Rajya Sabha but due to some reasons it could not moved forward. And now the way ISI is spreading its network in the country e.g. Rs. 500/- and Rs. 100/- denomination fake currency notes being printed and then injected into India, illegal trafficking in drugs and intoxicants are being carried on in India, by smugglers in order to disrupt the economy of the country, and in view of the ongoing fighting in Chamb on the border, the rise of naxallite problem and militancy makes it imperative to bring in such a legislation. The Law Commission constituted by the Government of India has also recommended a new effective prevention of Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act in place of TADA. I think the Government in view of the Law Commission's recommendation, should soon bring forward such a legislation in the House otherwise the Government have to face difficulties in checking the crime graph which is rising in an organised way in the country.

The Chairman of the law commission Shri V.P. Jeevan Reddy, and Shri Banatwalla has expressed the view that if there are genuine cases of atrocity having been committed upon somebody, if innocent people have been framed under TADA and have been kept under detention deliberately and people have been subjected to excesses, then it needs to be remedied. In fact, the persons who have committed excesses or have inflicted atrocities on people and have tried to play with the lives of people should be treated strictly otherwise law will lose all respect in the eyes of the common people. When there will be no respect for law, anarchy will prevail in the entire society. The Chairman of the Law Commission has said that the proposed Criminal Law Amendment Bill shall neither have strict provisions like that in TADA nor its rules will be very harsh. He is of the view of enacting an effective law with adequate security measures. I think this will be enough to remove his apprehensions too. There shall be no strict laws, like that in TADA and the rules shall have security measures and there shall be the right to appeal. Earlier, one could appeal directly in the Supreme Court but now such provisions have been made therein so that innocent people could not be framed into torture.

I will take my seat after saying one thing. Today, in

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

this country no class of the society should be spared in the name of pseudo-secularism, the so-called secularism, any class which is at fault should be named unequivocally. Meetha Meetha Hap, Kadwa-Kadwa thu i.e. The policy of swallowing what is sweet and spitting out what is sour should be condemned. They adopt only what seems favourable to them whether they belong to the minority classes or otherwise. The Mumbai blasts left hundreds of innocent people dead at twelve sites. If such things happen in Kashmir or anywhere else it is commonly believed that only minorities are the sufferers. It is not true. We have our laws, we have our constitution. Minorities or majorities all are equal in the eyes of law. Whosoever breaks the law, imperils the lives, creates such adverse situations before the country, will be adjudged guilty in the eyes of law. He (Mr. Banatwalla) has profusely cited Urdu couplets. I too, would like to put across my point through an Urdu couplet.

Hum abi bhi bharte hain to ho jate hain badnam,

Ve qatl bhi karte hain to charcha nahin hoti.

"We get a bad name even for heaving a sigh while they get away with murder without evoking even a murmur". The terrorists involved in criminal activities are enacting gory incidents, sometimes they attack in groups on marriage parties and other social functions killing 30 or 40 people in a row. We must, at least, condemn them as being indeed against the interests of the nation. Such things should not happen. At present, the situation in the country is becoming grim. America and Britain too, have strict laws; and we pleaded with America a lot to declare Pakistan as a terrorist State but we are sorry to say that America did not do so. America continues to have Pakistan clung on to it like keemonkey continues to have child clung to her. It refuses to understand our feelings. Its eyes opened only when bomb blast occurred in the American embassies at the behest of Laden hiding in Afghanistan, and now they say that Pakistan has become a haven of terrorists. I think America should understand our feelings and we should try to create favourable opinion in the world because terrorism in India is a part of international terrorism, afflicting many other countries. Now, with the TADA having gone, the cases of innocent persons incarcerated under it, need to be renewed afresh, although the reply given by the Government in this regard is enough to satisfy the queries. I think the Government in fact is constantly concerned and trying to bring about some remedy. They say that only 22 persons still remain incarcerated under it and States have been asked to review their cases and after that the innocent persons should be released soon. Those who have committed crime, should be punished according to the provisions of law.

In the end, I would like to say one thing to the Government that Government's hand should be strong. These hands are not meant to suppress the innocent but to safeguard them, secure peace and happiness to the common people and to maintain law and order so that terrorism from across the borders, incidents occurring afresh day after day in Kashmir and the north-east-rising Naxalism and incidents occurring in Bihar could be tackled with equanimity.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Madam, I support the Bill introduced by my hon. friend. While supporting this Bill, I have to express certain facts which are available in the country. Now, the first thing which I would like to mention here is that till TADA is in the statute book, it is a matter of grave concern. How is it retained in the Statute Book? It should have been removed from the Statute Book long before. It is a naked violation of human rights. India is one of the countries which have signed Human Rights Declaration of the United Nations. Even after signing this Declaration, it is a mysterious and a ridiculous thing to retain this law in the Statute Book. Now, this has created a very serious situation. This Government is very eager to dispose of matters at the earliest. They want speedy disposal of all cases.

16.10 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *In the Chair*]

For that purpose a new CPC amendment was brought by my learned friend. The result is, the entire lawyer community in India is against him. They were brutally lathicharged yestersay. It is very very unfortunate. I am an advocate and he is also an advocate. Before our eyes they were brutally lathicharged. For what purpose? It was because he said that everything would have to be disposed of at the earliest. But this is a matter which will open your eyes — that TADA legislation is out of date, it is inhuman, it is brutal and it has to be struck off from the statute book. Did they take any action?

The Supreme Court has found that it is unsuited and that it is a human rights violation. They have not taken any action. Please see the tendency in which the Law Minister is thinking. There is an Advocate Act. There also you see that there is a delay. The Supreme Court has said that the right to practise shall be made a fundamental right. They have not implemented it. But they are now implementing something else. He and I have to appear for a test every five years. It is very ridiculous and very harmful. Such is the tendency shown by the present Government.

Here also we see the same tendency that TADA is retained. For whose benefit? Trial is going on for years.

Even today the under-trial prisoners are languishing in various State prisons. It is statute which is being frequently misused. It was never used for the purpose for which it was passed. But, it was used for beating the political opponents, for putting the political opponents in the prison and that too indefinitely.

We have celebrated the golden jubilee of our Constitution. What was the result? As pointed out by my learned friend the other day, hundreds and thousands of under-trial prisoners are still in prison on the simple pretext that they are under-trial prisoners under the TADA Act. Is it not shameful to my learned friend Shri Ram Jethmalani? Does he not feel ashamed of such a situation being developed in India? He always speaks of speedy disposal of cases. He is for creating an independent judiciary and he is also trying to appoint a Law Commission for this purpose.

But this is a very fundamental issue — a person without trial in jail. Even our Constitution strictly provides that everybody who is arrested or detained should be produced before a Magistrate within 24 hours. Nowhere in the world you will find such a procedure because it is only a procedural matter. Whenever a person is taken into custody, he should be produced before a judicial court. Nowhere is written like that. But in India it had to be written like that because the colonial powers had put people for years together without trial. To prevent such a catastrophe, we have made it a fundamental right in the Constitution. Why did we do it? It was in order to see that it should not be misused. But we have misused that provision by passing the legislation and by putting people inside the prison without a fair trial. Some of them have languished in the jail. Is it not an irony of fate? You may think for a moment. Is it not shameful to our nation? In the twenty-first century, is it not shameful that people are being put in the prison on very silly pretext that they are found to be terrorists?

We could not prevent terrorism. Hon. Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani is always speaking about cross-border terrorism. When we are facing cross-border terrorism, why are innocent people being put into the prison? Is there any justification? So, I request my hon. friend to withdraw it or even to strike it off from our statute book at the earliest possible time and save our prestige. Otherwise we will be ridiculed.

With these words, I conclude.

DR. NITISH SEN GUPTA (CONTAI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it stands to reason and logic that when a law has been repealed in the wisdom of the Parliament, all cases pending under that should automatically and morally be withdrawn. Therefore, I would support Shri Banatwalla's proposal in that respect. However, I would like to make one exception.

There may be some cases where there are serious charges. The charges may be of the nature of criminal conspiracy of violence or serious offences or heinous crime. I would not recommend withdrawal of those cases but in the cases of people who have been detained under TADA, I would support the present proposal that their cases should be withdrawn.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views in brief. I fully support this Bill. After India's independence, some such legislations were enacted which were misused and TADA was one of them which was grossly misused in this country. So many innocent people were put behind the bar under TADA and a number of families were ruined and today there is no one to look after them.

Just now, my colleague has said that more than twenty three thousand people were put behind the bar under TADA and they were acquitted because no offence was proved against them, they were innocent. This itself is explaining a complete story that twenty three thousand people were sued and nothing was proved against them, hence they were acquitted. How grossly TADA was misused. Whether this TADA will be able to compensate these twenty three thousand families? I would like to say to the Congress people, who made this law and I would like to say those people who are in the Government today. It is misfortune of this country that whenever a person comes in power he tries to speak in one language and when he is in the opposition he speaks differently. We must have a strict law for terrorists but this law should not be misused against Indian Muslims. It is seen that mostly the minority community people were harassed under TADA. I would like to tell the law Minister that I had personally pleaded a case in the Supreme Court in which a person, who was about 70-75 years old and whose punishment was over but he is still in jail. The police and the administration had framed such a case against him in which the Judges of the Supreme Court had to say that it is a matter of pain and they have their sympathy with the accused but they are not in a position to do anything. I don't know whether he is still in Jail or not. But does Law mean that innocent people should be punished in this way? Should they be punished in the name of terrorism? Whenever any such kind of incident occur in this country, blame is put on the I.S.I. I would like to ask the treasury benches whether our Government has become so incompetent that it is not able to check the terrorist activities in the country. If this Government say that it is the handiwork of Pakistan and the agents of the I.S.I. then I must say that it is an incompetent Government, and it should step down immediately and it has no right to remain in power. Recently, Government of Uttar Pradesh has made a law for Mosques

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

and Temples. If anybody desires to pray 'Allah' by putting tents in graveyard then he would have to seek the permission from the Government. Why this law has been made? The Chief Minister says that in the Madarsas situated on the border where Quran is being taught, agents of I.S.I. have started residing there. The Chief Minister has not quoted even a single instance in which he had visited such a school where he found the agents of I.S.I. residing there and terrorist were staying there. He should tell the country that the number of terrorist arrested from these schools and the law has to be made because of these terrorists. Whether the people of this country will have to take permission from District Magistrate or the Government to pray 'Allah'? Is this secularism? Whether due to these reasons this country is called as a secular state. With due regards, I would like to say that the intention of Government is not good in this case. Innocent people should be released immediately. Culprits have been freed openly whereas innocent people are still behind bars under TADA. No action has been taken against anyone over the report of Sri Krishna Commission. In fact, they are in the Government and have become Ministers. Can't any action be taken against them? With regards, I would like to say that because of these reasons the terrorism is on the increase. Whenever religious sentiments of a community are hurt, this will cause increase in terrorism. If you try to play with sanctity of Golden Temple then a 'Bhinderwala' will be born. No power in the world can stop it. If you demolish 'Babri Masjid' then a Memon will be born in Mumbai. ..No power of the world can stop it. Change your policies and intention, only then, the country will run smoothly.

I will cut short my speech and urge upon the Government to release all the persons kept under TADA immediately. The way, in which you are talking about TADA, can be described as under :-

"Karke khoon Meer ka

Ja baithe hain ghar ke andar

Aur phir puchhate hain ki

dar Pa hain hoon han kalsi"

After committing murder you are sitting silently and now enquiring about turmoil? In fact it has been caused by you only.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (JABALPUR) :
Why are you looking this side while saying all this?

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I am looking on both the sides. I am not discriminating. I am looking towards that side because you are in the Government.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Are we culprits, that is why you are pointing towards us.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Both are guilty. No one is spotless. All the people sitting to my left and right are involved in this. No one should feel otherwise when the truth has come out. When anybody's wound is scratched, it causes pain. It also bleeds and pus comes out. Neither you nor we can see this flowing pus and blood; but what will happen to those people who are still in jail. Nobody is there to ask about the innocent people. I congratulate Shri Banatwallaji for introducing this Bill. He should be congratulated for this. I feel that all the innocent persons, kept under TADA, must be released immediately. I fully support this Bill.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMEDNAGAR) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, first time I have got the opportunity to speak in this House through this Bill. I oppose the Bill moved by Shri Banatwallaji. The persons were arrested under TADA during that time, it was the need of the hour. As and when all the facts came to light, large number of persons were released. Now only 209 people are left who are still detained under TADA. Maximum number of people were arrested under TADA from Maharashtra. Why were they arrested? Maharashtra is deemed to be a peace loving state and the reason for mass arrests in that state must be the way the Government was functioning in Maharashtra and TADA must have been the subordinate base.

Today, we talk about the happiness and peace of the country. Every person wants peace, solutions to the problems, but when the law is enforced strictly then the people oppose it. When in 1975 emergency was imposed in the country, many innocent politicians were arrested whereas under TADA people who are culprits in some way or the other were arrested. During 1975, innocent people were put in jail for two years, but the persons, who were arrested under TADA, are culprits. Today we are talking about the release of such persons. Today the persons who are detained under TADA are opposing it. We read in news papers about the seizure of revolvers and ammunitions. You will find that all these persons are involved in these activities similarly there are people who are making fake currency. The persons who are involved in such activities are going to be apprehended. I feel that this is not going to make any effect.

Here, Shri Rawat has very correctly said that if people want peace in the country then there should be a strict law for this. If a wicked person tries to harm the country, then there should be a strict law for him so that peace is maintained in the country. A person can revolt only when he is politically supported. Only for this reason a person is

ready to do so. Today the people say that the Government has done good thing in Maharashtra and Gujarat but when they talk of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, they just discuss about those States. We just discuss in this House. Just see how ULFA people are killing persons in Assam. In fact, the action, which was required to be taken by the then Assam Government was not taken and it is because of that the Assam State has come down to recess. To come out of this situation it is necessary that we must have a strict law so that peace loving people can lead a peaceful life. The same thing happened in Jammu and Kashmir. Nothing could be done even after having our own Government. At that time, the Government, which came in power has promoted the separatist tendencies in the state as a result of which India has to suffer a lot. We are suffering from the mistake which you have committed. That is why, I say that we should make more strict law than TADA so that people can lead a peaceful life. If such wicked person is arrested then definitely peace will prevail in the country. What more better thing can happen that the Government is having such law through which peace can prevail in the society. It is my humble submission to the Government that strict action should be taken against those who have been arrested under TADA, and they should not be released. So that the public can get the sigh of relief.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for discussion on this Bill is over but some hon'ble Members are still showing interest to speak on this subject. If the House agrees then we may extend the time by one hour.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (ANANTNAG) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, TADA Act is being discussed here. So far as the Central Government is concerned, neither it is responsible to implement the TADA Act nor it has enacted it. The TADA Act was made during eighties by the previous Government and action was taken under it. So far as the arrests, made under this act are concerned, I agree with the fact that this Act was misused to a great extent. I can give many examples where it was misused by law and order machinery. Yesterday, while reading newspaper, I came to know that a person who lived in Mumbai and was running a factory, was implicated under TADA by recovering a weapon from his residence and his family was kept in the police station for 15 days.

[English]

Now the man has gone before the Supreme Court and the Human Rights Commission.

[Translation]

Human Rights Commission directed the Government to pay a sum of rupees five lakh to him as compensation and it has also admitted that the said person has been insulted to a great extent. Hon'ble Members of this House

are well aware of this fact that the Son of a well known 'film actor' of Hindustan and former Member of this House, has also been implicated under TADA. There are several issues like this. I do not have sufficient time to explain the misuse of this Act. But the TADA is not in vogue at present and it itself has lapsed. But it has been written in its section that the day when it lapsed, if FIR was lodged or any proceedings were going on under TADA, this will continue till final decision is taken.

[English]

These will be treated as proceedings under TADA.

[Translation]

This has been written in that law. There are two points. First the Government is unable to take action against the misuse of this Act because it had lapsed but the victim can approach to the Human Rights Commission for getting remedy of their problem. Second thing is that some persons have been detained in TADA cases for the last ten years. It has also happened in Jammu and Kashmir but no witness has been produced against them during the last ten years and these cases are pending in the courts for the last ten years. India is a democratic country and we have a democratic set up. We do not say to release anybody who has committed a crime.

[English]

But we have to keep in mind the fact that justice delayed amounts to justice denied.

[Translation]

I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Law the answer of two points. It is not only in Mumbai that this has happened under TADA but virtually, people have been arrested in each State under TADA. Some of them have been released on bail and the cases are under prosecution. I quote the example of my State where there are some such cases in which no evidence has been recorded. The authorities responsible for prosecution has done so that out of persons who were arrested under TADA in Punjab and Jammu Kashmir some were kept in Jammu and others in Mumbai and they were not produced in the courts on due dates for hearing.

[English]

With the result that nine years have passed and there is no conclusion of the proceedings. I will request the Law Minister that when he replies to this debate he should give us the total number of cases registered in the country and the total number of cases pending in various courts. He should also give us the number of cases where no witness has been recorded for the last ten years.

[Shri Ali Mohd. Nalk]

I must submit before this hon. House that the Government should take a sympathetic view in this regard. Why are people behind the bars without recording any witness against them? The Government should review all such cases. As far as we are concerned, we are not in favour that anybody, who commits a crime, should go scot-free.

But in a democratic country like India, nobody should be put behind the bars without being heard.

[Translation]

Sir, we should not give to him any opportunity for his defence. Therefore I would request to the Hon'ble Minister of Law that while replying to the debate on this Bill, he should give the total number of cases in which no witness has been recorded.

[English]

And the accused are behind the bars for the last nine years. I know that the present Government is not responsible for passing the TADA. The Act is not in vogue at present. It has already died down. If injustice has been done to the people of India, whichever Party they may belong, the Government has the responsibility to see that that injustice is removed. With this, I am in complete agreement with Shri Banatwalla on the principle that no innocent be kept behind the bars. But the guilty should not be released.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (KHERI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Bill introduced by Shri G.M. Banatwallaji. The previous speaker has repeated this many times that the TADA has been misused. But not only TADA, all the special Acts have been misused and they are still being misused. The previous speaker has just quoted that there were around 21,000 such cases in which prosecution could not present evidence to prove that the persons, who were behind the bars, were actually guilty. However, there are some cases which are still pending in the courts but the point for consideration is that as to why this situation has arisen in our democratic system which caused our Executive the need to make special Act every time to give good results.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of great concern that after completing a long way of 50 years of our democracy such circumstances have been created where our Executive, which is our delivery system, frequently realises the fact that without acquiring special powers it can not achieve its objectives in regard to administration and law and order.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already told on some other matter here that while it was being considered to abolish

the special Act like TADA, it may also be considered to release the people who are behind the bars under this Act. A serious thought should be given to the point as to why such circumstances have arisen to such an extent which created the atmosphere of revolt and situation reached to this level.

Sir, I would like to say specially on this point and if we find out as to why the special Act and harsh laws are needed, as also told by previous speaker, I feel that the insensitiveness spread over in our administration should be removed and corruption should be eradicated. I know the case of Uttar Pradesh where police machinery is being used at the behest of power and innocent people are being put behind bars. I would like to emphasize the points raised by previous speaker that our Government machinery has become so weak and insensitive that it is harassing innocent people but we are unable to protect them and we cannot curb the corruption, but not only this, we want to make that machinery, whose performance is declining day by day more strong by enacting new Acts.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, there are some issues and problems which are the results of the mentality of ruling party. Today, when there is a common view all over the world that all the special Acts which have been enacted and are being brought into force at present are encroachments over the rights of the civilians, but in such circumstances, when ruling party demands for making more strict laws to yield desired results, for maintaining law and order and to do justice with a common man, I am not able to understand the logic of its demand. I have observed that a frightened person and also a victim of injustice, is not able to understand the situation. We, may talk of our development, we may talk about our democracy, but we are not able to remove the feeling of injustice in a common man and certainly in our order the administration machinery in frustration demands for more strict laws and the Government also keep on making more and more strict laws in frustration but the result remains the same. The fact is that there has been more misuse of all the special Acts which have been enacted than their use and TADA is also not different from them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have witnessed incidents of Uttar Pradesh, during the day's of terrorism in Punjab many innocent sikhs were implicated under TADA in my district and they were not only implicated under TADA but they were made notorious criminals by detaining them under TADA frequently. The mentality of the corrupt officials and police officers was to extort money from sikhs in the name of TADA. Who gave them money were released but the others who were not in a position to give money were made criminals. Such incidents have been witnessed in various States of our country. With these words, I support the Bill

which has been brought by Shri Banatwallaji and I would like to repeat my words that when my colleagues sitting in the treasury benches demand for strict laws, they should not forget that India is a democratic country having a population of hundred crores and for this sensitiveness in the administration and prevention of corruption in the society is more important than any special law to protect the democratic values.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : May I intervene for half a minute only? Accusing fingers have been shown against the BJP, the Congress and others about harbouring of criminals. Before TADA, it has been incorporated in Section 52A of the CPC dealing with harbouring of criminals and all that. The TADA takes into consideration the harbouring of criminals as indicated in the IPC. That has to be kept in mind.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (RAMTEK) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion which is going on here is about the release of those persons who are behind the bars under TADA. I think it is not only a question of releasing them but it is only a two point programme. The first point is, as Mr. Rawat has spoken very rightly just now that we are going to decide whether we want peace or disturbance in the country in future.

The second point is that who will implement the law of the country after releasing those people. We are going to decide in this regard in the form of this Bill, whether the law of the country will be implemented by the Government or the convicted people. Therefore these two points are being highlighted here. I think that Rawat ji has raised a very important issue with the help of a two point programme.

I have a question in my mind. Our friend has said that two hundred persons are behind the bar. Shri Banatwalla has done a very good job by bringing this Bill. I do not think that all the people are criminal. There may be some innocent people also who have been put behind the bar forcibly. I believe that out of 201 persons 200 are good. You can leave them aside. But, my question is, if there is a single criminal among 201 persons and he commits one hundred murders after being released, then who will take his guarantee. I feel that the ideology which is being presented here should be investigated legally because one person can commit hundred murders, two murders, the question is of one person among 201. It appears to me that 200 people are innocent but if one turns out to be guilty, he is being given the opportunity of taking the lives of hundred people.

You know that 1200 people were killed within five minutes in Mumbai metropolitan city. Many young wives became widows, many parents lost their earning children,

many old parents died of shock as they lost their young sons, many a young people became handicapped. Hence, the fear is the heart of the accused has been left off. But we are going even beyond that.

[English]

We are giving protection to the criminals.

[Translation]

There will be no legal enquiry, you will be released. Thus, the case of one person is very serious. I understand that it is the duty of the people of India to encourage the martyrs of Kargil who lost their lives. If we give this message that one can do anything, remain behind the bars for a year or two and then get released honorably then how the Jawans of the Army would be encouraged. They will feel that they give their lives for the country while others commit crime and get released. I, therefore, feel that legal action is very much necessary to encourage the Army personnel.

I have said that as to what will happen if even one person out of 200 persons is a criminal. If that criminal murders any person x and if his brother is alive and when he will come to know that the person who killed his brother has come out, then there will not be, in my opinion, any need for a murder as he will die himself. He knows that this person is a big criminal who has killed his brother. Therefore, the basis found out is very wrong and I am against it.

You must have heard in Mahabharata when Arjuna asked a question to Shri Krishna that Dharma is being wiped out and Adharma is increasing in India, Shri Krishna, then replies - Yada Yada hi Dharmasya Glanir Bhavati Bharata' whenever Adharma will increase in the country, whenever atrocity will prevail in the country, poor will be dying then I will incarnate. This is from the Mahabharata. But this is not happening in Kaliyuga, no Krishna is being born. Crimes are increasing. We can check them, you can check them and people of the country can check them. Shri Krishna's episode is limited to Mahabharata only. If we are talking about Kaliyuga it is necessary in my opinion to put a brake to it.

One person, born in India, is named Dawood Ibrahim. India is his Motherland but he is living in an Arabian country. He orders from there that five people in different areas of Mumbai are to be killed by the evening. Five people are killed without his arrival and without sending any weapons. They have fear of Indian laws. There are such examples. The example of five people is very small.

Therefore, as much as the laws are made stricter, the better it is. Today, it is need of the country to have a strict law. Perhaps you may not be aware that 640 crores rupees

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

have been spent on maintaining the law and order situation in India since the TADA has been replaced. This is the highest figure in 20 years which has been spent in India.

You are aware that today there is lot of unemployment. An unemployed person gets the degree of B.A., M.A. and after taking the degree he starts searching the employment. He goes to city from village and shows his degree in every office and asks for job for employment. He fails in getting job and in addition he is always conscious of his age. Then he meets some criminal. First of all he is provided with all kinds of luxuries and pleasures and all the cost is borne by him. It is a fact in Mumbai. Then he asks him to do a small favour for him go and kill that person. The person loses his senses at that moment. I think that the boys in the age group of 18, 20 are not mature. He commits murder and goes to the jail. Crime is increasing also due to unemployment.

A strict law is needed to check such crime. I agree with the concept that all are innocent, 200 people are innocent but what about one criminal, who will take the guarantee for that one person? This question has been raised in the House.

I do not want to speak more and I obey your order but Banatwalla ji has put up two points. Firstly, he has stated that since the inception of TADA it has been grossly misused. It may be true that it might have been grossly misused and with the result some people might have been sent behind the bars and some might have been tortured also. Secondly, he has stated that many cases in regard to TADA are pending. Now this question is related to judiciary. We have to think how we can check the judiciary or release the innocent people as early as possible. Therefore, the reply given by the Government of India here

[English]

is a very clear-cut reply. It says : "There is a definite time period for judiciary also to investigate this particular matter and give the result".

[Translation]

I have put all the things in brief before you.

[English]

It is very essential to take steps in this particular matter.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Sir, anti-social elements and miscreants do not belong to any particular cast, community or religion like Hindu, Muslim or Christian. It depends upon the nature of attitude of a

person. Government should be conferred with more powers to change this tendency and to maintain law and order. There is a need to enact a strict law to check this tendency.

First of all, during the regime of Congress Government, M.I.S.A. was enacted for this purpose. Out of 25000 persons booked under this act, only 200 are real culprit. Rest are innocent. Whether this law is for innocent people or for the offenders. I feel that this act has been wrongly enacted. Politicians and police deliberately harass innocent people and put them in trouble for money. Therefore, I submit that the act has been wrongly enacted. However, a strict and a separate act is required to be enacted in this regard because it is necessary to stop the hooliganism. I request you to amend this act as you are a very senior politician and have a good knowledge of law. As my friends have stated, it is required to amend the judicial process also so that people could get justice at the earliest. Kindly consider this aspect also.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the proposal put forward by Banatwalla Saheb is an important one. All of us are ready to face terrorism as it is not a question related to any party or caste or religion but it is a matter of national integrity. We are ready to face those forces which are there to destroy India. We have to wipe out terrorism which is increasing in the country. Among the rights provided by the Constitution of India to all its citizens, there is the right of safety through law. If police misuses that law and the innocent persons are arrested by assuming them culprits and locked up under TADA and tortured by the police and this act is being done by taking the recourse to this law. Hon. Minister of Law and Justice is present here. Your Government is a new one. What will you do. We have to see, we have to wipe out terrorism irrespective of any Government. I know that many culprits were arrested in connection with Mumbai bomb blast and we have no objection about it. One can understand if someone, who has connections with Pakistan, is arrested. But the police is arresting even those Muslims under TADA who have no connections with Pakistan and have been living here since the partition of India by alleging that they have connections with Pakistan. According to our information they are innocent. You should think about them and it is necessary that the innocent persons should be released. But when the innocent persons are released the culprits should not be released. There is a lot of corruption prevailing in the police Dept., but it is a different topic, but many times these people release even the culprits by taking bribes and provide them protection also. On this point also we have to think seriously.

The new Government should think seriously over it, otherwise we shall be compelled to think over it. If the Government does not think in the right direction about wiping out this terrorism, we shall be compelled to run the Government.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR) : Please come to this side.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : When you will come to this side, we shall go to that side. It is necessary to think seriously over TADA. We support this proposal of Banatwalla Saheb. The Government should introduce a Bill regarding it, we shall support that Bill so that the injustice done to the innocent people may be compensated.

Whenever any riot takes place in our country, the Government claims that it is the handiwork of I.S.I. So, it is not correct to connect I.S.I. with everything.

I think that all of us shall fight unitedly against terrorism and I support the proposal of Shri Banatwalla.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Minister of Law is intervening.

17.00 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, it is a paradox that when this Bill was about to expire and the then Government wanted to extend the life of this Act, I had vigorously opposed the extension of life of the Bill. I am opposed to all draconian laws. My speech in the Rajya Sabha against extension of this Act is a matter of record. I do not know whether hon. Shri Banatwalla has read it.

Sir, I not only fought against it but I also carried on a war in the courts, and I am proud to say that mainly as a result of my efforts in the Supreme Court, by a judicial decision, this Act was humanised. My friend, who is a lawyer, is prepared to concede that to me.

But Sir, the Act contained a provision which is usual. When an Act is repealed, there is Section 6 of the General Clauses Act which immediately applies, which says that when the Act is repealed, all pending prosecutions, all pending offences, discovered or undiscovered, all investigations shall continue as if the Act had not been repealed. This is the general law of the land. Since this Bill was allowed to expire and was not formally repealed, Section 6 would not have applied. But they had introduced a special Section in the Act which says that on the expiry of this Bill, Section 6 of General Clauses Act shall apply. The result is that the prosecutions which were pending in May, 1995, when the TADA expired, will continue to be dealt with by the old laws as if the TADA had not expired.

This happened, as I said, against my wishes, but the redeeming feature is that the TADA which continues to exist today is the humanised TADA which was humanised partly by legislation as well because as a result of the Supreme Court criticism and our criticism, even the Legislature made

some changes in the TADA and brought down its original ferocious and draconian character.

Sir, in spite of this personal history of mine, today, I oppose Shri Banatwalla's Bill and I oppose it with all the intellectual might that I can command because I believe that this Bill is unconstitutional and it is unfair and grossly unfair to some people, and it is the evil in its consequence. I am afraid that the hon. Members have not appreciated the evil nature of this Bill. What does this Bill say? This Bill says that all pending prosecutions under TADA come to an end and all accused who are on trial stand, acquitted, discharged or let off.

Sir, first I take up the unconstitutional part. This is a direct interference with the basic feature of India's Constitution. The basic feature of India's Constitution is that the judiciary shall try offenders and they will ultimately be acquitted or convicted according to a judicial decision. This House has no power to take on judicial functions and decide by law that all prosecutions which are pending shall stand terminated.

During recent months, we have received long lectures on not interfering with the basic features of the Constitution though, of course, we had never any such intentions. We disclaimed that intention, and we stand by it. But today, a Bill is brought under which this august House is told that it should terminate all prosecutions pending in court, which have been pending for a variety of reasons since before the TADA expired. I want this House to appreciate the enormity of what this House is invited to do. Forget all cases. My friend wanted some statistics - I do not have absolutely accurate statistics, but I will give you some.

Take the bomb blasts case in which hundreds of innocent people lost their lives as a result of widespread conspiracy, the most heinous kind of conspiracy in the annals of Indian crime. The result of Shri Banatwalla's Bill, if accepted, is that all those accused stand acquitted. He does not even say that from these Special TADA courts, these proceedings should be transferred to normal courts and tried according to normal law. What is Section 3 of TADA? Section 3 of TADA is nothing but conspiracy to commit the offences of murder of innocent people by the use of certain fire arms and lethal weapons and so on and so forth. Whatever is the offence under TADA is also an offence under the normal law. If Shri Banatwalla had said in his Bill that all these should stand transferred to ordinary courts and these prosecutions shall go in accordance with ordinary law, I would not have at least accused Shri Banatwalla's Bill as being a mischievous Bill. If we say today that Parliament has decided that the bomb blast cases in Mumbai have come to an end and all those people are free, I do not think that the people of India will allow us to walk

[Shri Ram Jethmalani]

on the streets of this country. It will create that kind of a situation in which Members of Parliament will lose the confidence of the whole nation; and Sir, I am not going to be a party to this. I am not a scheduled speaker today because this is a matter of the Home Ministry, but Sir, my blood boils when I see a thing like this happening that we are told solemnly to put an end to all prosecutions without invoking the ordinary law.

Now, Sir, why I say that it is unfair to some people is because there are some people who are bound to be innocent. For example, in the bomb blast case, if you have about 150 accused, they should never have been put in there. Some of them are already on bail. What has been done to humanise this, I will point out to the House in a minute. Some people may have been denied bail because *prima facie* there is evidence, which may turn out to be false evidence, but they have been denied bail. Now, those persons must be wanting that after all this long, protracted custody and a trial, they should have at least the satisfaction of having been acquitted honourably and declared as honourable citizens of India by an honourable Tribunal by a judicial decision.

17.08 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

What will happen now to those people who are waiting for a judicial verdict to clear their character of the heinous charges, which were made against them? They will now be told that, "Do not worry! There is no judicial decision in your favour, but you have been acquitted by a vote of Shri Banatwalla and less than a quorum of this Lok Sabha." That will be no satisfaction to innocent people who are waiting a judicial pronouncement of their innocence.

Now, Sir, look at this. I am told that around 700 persons are on trial today for TADA offences in various courts. My friend said : "Are not there some cases in which no prosecution has been made at all?" Sir, I have tried to find this, but I am not able to give you these statistics. I will discover it and send it to you. But the law is very clear today, which has been cleared by the Supreme Court in a number of decisions including the famous *Antulay Case* that every accused is entitled to a speedy trial. If he has been kept either in custody or on tenterhooks as a result of a pending trial for a very, very long time, he is entitled to complain that his constitutional right of a speedy trial has been violated and, therefore, he should be let off.

But the Supreme Court has said that the courts would have to discover in each case whether the delay is because of the accused himself or it is the result of corruption or

incompetence of the prosecuting agencies. Now, even to enforce the fundamental right of a speedy trial is a judicial function. Shri Banatwalla says, 'no, this House, the Lok Sabha will decide how that judicial function should be discharged. We will terminate all prosecution irrespective of whether the accused have managed to see that no trial takes place for the last so many years'. We know the well-known tactics by which the accused obtains delays in trial; we know the well-known tactics by which defendants prevent passing of decrees in civil trials. We know it.

Sir, therefore, this is unfair; this is monstrous in its consequences. After all, TADA today, modified by legislation, modified by judicial decisions, is no longer that draconian a statute of which complaint is being made. Let me say this that as a result of our fight in the courts, the Government was compelled to constitute Review Panels. These Review Panels were constituted at the Central level and at the State level. Under obligations, created by judicial decisions, they examined every case and decided that this accused deserves to be released on bail and the prosecution will consent to his being released on bail.

Sir, if there are any cases, which are brought to the attention of the courts in which some underrepresented accused, who does not, for example, know his constitutional right, is being kept in custody for a unduly long time — some cases should be brought by the hon. Members to our attention — we would see that justice is done in those cases by instructing the public authorities which are in charge of prosecution to do justice even now. It is because we believe in a civilized system of criminal law without which we are not entitled to call ourselves a civilized society.

Sir, I am sorry ! have intervened in this debate but I wanted to. Even Shri Radhakrishnan whose age and experience has completely made him immune to all freedom of speech....

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Your formulations are very perfect. I am sorry to say that you have given a very far-fetched interpretation of Shri Banatwalla's intentions.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Kindly read the Bill. Shall I now read it for you? The Bill says and I quote :

- "(a) all investigations and legal proceedings pending or continuing and all orders made under such pending or continuing proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act shall be deemed to have lapsed or abated or been withdrawn on the date of coming into force of this Act;
- (b) no investigation, prosecution or legal proceeding, whether pertaining to the previous operation of the principal Act or otherwise shall be instituted on or after the date of commencement of this Act; and

- (c) all the accused facing prosecution and legal proceedings under the principal Act shall stand discharged on the date of commencement of this Act."

If I have misunderstood it, then I am afraid, you have grossly misunderstood me.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is far-fetched.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I do not think, this House should be a party to this frustration of the Constitution; to this frustration of justice. I am sure, there are some guilty persons who are standing their trials and that these guilty persons should escape as a result of the vote of this House is something to which I cannot reconcile myself to.

Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI C.H. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : Sir, I rise to oppose The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) (Withdrawal of Legal Proceedings) Bill, 1999 moved by the hon. Member Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

I cannot speak as eloquently as Shri Banatwalla did when he was speaking in his eloquent Urdu.

Most of the Members have opposed the Bill, some have supported it but most of them have supported the spirit of the Bill. The hon. Member, Shri G.M. Banatwalla was successful in creating an atmosphere in this august House that as if taking the advantage of the provisions of the TADA—thousands have been arrested and thousands of undertrials were rotting behind the bars that their fundamental rights has been infringed, and said that therefore, all the undertrials be released discharged.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am indebted to our hon. Minister of Law. After his speech, nothing is left on this issue. However, I would like to put forth some facts before the House, and I am sure that the hon. Member, Shri G.M. Banatwalla would be convinced and would withdraw the Bill. Sir, basically, if this Private Members Bill is moved in this House demanding that all the cases which are pending in the various courts of the country be withdrawn, it would be impossible to accept it. It cannot be imagined because most of the criminals in these cases are charged under the various provisions of the law. There are some provisions with which the accused are charged of offences punishable with life imprisonment and even death.

Sir, the Bill provides for withdrawal of all investigations and legal proceedings under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act of 1987 which was followed to lapse in the month of May 1995 by the then Government. The investigation and the legal proceedings which were

pending at the time of lapsing of the TADA(P) Act of 1987 remained unaffected because of the savings clause Section 1(4) of the Act which was a normal provision in criminal statutes. Not only that. Had this provision not been there in the TADA(P) Act of 1987, even then legal proceedings, as stated by the hon. Minister Shri Ram Jethmalani, pending thereunder would have continued unaffected by lapse of this Act by virtue of Section 6(e) of the General Clause Act of 1897.

Sir, I would like to quote the relevant provisions of this General Clauses Act of 1897. It says :

"Effect of repeal – Where this Act, or any [Central Act] or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, repeals any enactment hitherto made or hereafter to be made, then, unless a different intention appears, the repeal shall not-

...(e) affect any investigation, legal proceedings or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment as aforesaid;

any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced, and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed as if the repealing Act or Regulation had not been passed."

Sir, even though in the absence of the saving provision under the TADA that is, Section 1(4), as per the General Clauses Act, of 1897, all those accused were charged under various provisions. They were legally charged as they committed heinous crimes and they deserved punishment. So, making sweeping remarks or requesting the House to pass the Bill, to release all the hard core criminals is not fair.

Secondly, as you all are well aware, basically, this TADA Act was enacted in view of the escalated terrorist activities in the State of Punjab. The terrorists were motivated, trained, armed, funded and infiltrated from across the border by Pakistan's intelligence agencies as part of a low intensity proxy war to challenge the territorial integrity of the country.

These challenges still continue to remain not only in border States of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir but also in the rest of the country and the low intensity proxy war being waged by Pakistan against India has already taken a toll of more than 30,000 innocent lives. There are also challenges being posed by the left-wing extremism in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar in addition to the various ethnic insurgencies in the North-East.

[Shri C.H. Vidyasagar Rao]

There were certain allegations and public perceptions about the misuse of TADA Act in certain States. Perhaps in view of this, the then Government has allowed the TADA Act of 1987 to lapse and simultaneously a Criminal Amendment Bill of 1995 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha. Unfortunately, while the TADA Act of 1987 lapsed, its replacement Bill was not passed. As a result, our security forces are severely constrained in dealing with the terrorist violence and proxy war from across the border.

It may be interesting to note that countries like UK and USA which have lost only a few lives because of international terrorism have enacted comprehensive Bill on anti-terrorism law to deal with terrorist violence. On the other hand, India which has been at the receiving end of international terrorism from across our borders has today no anti-terrorism law. We have asked the Law Commission to look into the anti-terrorism laws of the various countries of the world and we have also asked the Law Commission to look into the minute details of TADA Act which was allowed to lapse and to provide adequate legislation with twin objectives. One is to provide an adequate legal mechanism to deal with terrorist violence and also safeguard the basic rights of the accused to defend himself properly.

As far as the allegations of the misuse of TADA Act are concerned, these figures are a little exaggerated. I would like to submit certain facts and figures and also the Supreme Court judgements, as our hon. Minister Shri Ram Jethmalani said that there were various review committees. by virtue of those review committees, a number of accused have already been released. Only a few accused persons are there in prisons.

The Supreme Court went into the depth of the matter on several occasions. As mentioned by Shri G.M. Banatwalla, in Shri Kartar Singh's case in 1994, the apex court directed that the State Governments and the Central Government should constitute State Review Committees and also Central Review Committees – the State Review Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the State comprising the Law Secretary, Home Secretary and Director General of Police and the Central Review Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary comprising the Law Secretary and the director of CBI – to thoroughly review all the pending TADA cases by State Police and CBI respectively. As a result of the review by the State Review Committee, all the TADA charges were dropped against as many as 23,862 persons. It is not that the accused have been arrested and kept behind bars and nobody is bothering about them. Pursuant to the Supreme Court decision, both the Review Committees at the State level and the Central level had acted swiftly and ultimately cases against 23,862 persons have been dropped under the TADA provisions.

However, it does not mean that they are innocent persons. Even though they have been dropped under the

TADA proceedings, they are being tried under various provisions under other normal laws.

The hon. Supreme Court again looked into the matter of genuine grievances of the TADA detainees and in a Public Interest Litigation, the Saheen Welfare Association Case, 1996, divided TADA undertrials into the following four categories for grant of bail :

- (a) hardcore undertrials whose release would prejudice the prosecution case and whose liberty may be a menace to society in general and to the complainants and prosecution witnesses in particular;
- (b) other undertrials whose overt acts or involvement in the terrorist crimes directly attract sections 3 or 4 of the Act;
- (c) undertrials roped in not because of any overt activity but by virtue of being part of a criminal conspiracy; and
- (d) undertrials who were booked under section 5 of the Act for possessing incriminating articles in notified areas.

The hon. Supreme Court opined that undertrials falling in category (a) cannot receive liberal treatment. Undertrials falling in category (b) who have been in prison for five years or more and their trial is not likely to be completed within the next six months can be released on bail at the discretion of the Court. Undertrials falling in categories (c) and (d) could be dealt with more leniently and released on bail if they have been in jail for three or two years respectively.

As a result of these directions, as of date Designated TADA Courts have enlarged on bail as many as 11,351 persons. Now, only about 522 persons are in detention in TADA cases. That is the ultimate result. It is not that several thousands of persons are languishing in the prisons for several years. It is not correct. Only 522 persons are under detention in TADA cases. Today, therefore, there are no genuine grievances as regards pending TADA proceedings. All the persons who are in jail have had the opportunity of approaching the State Review Committees and the Designated TADA Courts. Those who are still under detention have had the opportunity of moving bail applications before the Designated TADA Courts and higher Courts. If they are in jail today, it is because of the evidence against them and because of the gravity of the offences with which they are charged.

The hon. Member Shri Banatwalla had made some important points during the discussion on 17.12.1999 regarding pendency of a large number of cases under

investigation, denial of bail to the accused, delays in trial of cases and false implication in pending TADA proceedings, etc. As on date, there are only 3619 cases pending under TADA (P) Act, 1987 of which 648 cases are under investigation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The time allotted for this Bill is almost over. If the House agrees, we will extend it by another 20 minutes in order to complete this measure. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend time for this Bill till the reply is over?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rao, you may please continue.

SHRI C.H. VIDYASAGAR RAO : As of date, there are only 3,619 cases pending under the TADA (P) Act, of which 648 cases are under investigation.

Most of these cases are pending investigation in Assam, where the police force is tied up with counter-insurgency work; and the witnesses are also not coming forward to give evidence because of the activities of ULFA and Bodo outfits. Several accused are absconding. Out of the 648 cases pending investigation, 611 are in Assam alone; and only 27 persons are in detention in Assam.

The hon. Member made a particular mention of the large number of cases remaining pending in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Citing some reference to this in a book *Betrayal of Indian Democracy*, by Mr. M.B. Chande, he had alleged that if the police want to book some one, they tag his name to an old FIR relating to a case pending investigation. It is impossible. It was specially related to one gentleman. As of today, in Jammu & Kashmir, only two cases are pending investigation and the remaining thousand cases are at the trial stage. The allegation in the above book at page 170 regarding police implicating persons in old FIRs of pending cases is very vague. The only case mentioned is relating to Muzaffar Ahmed Shah of Baramulla District who are arrested in March, 1991 and this is pertaining to the period when TADA Act was in existence. So, the question of tagging the name of a gentleman to the old pending FIR does not arise. But if the hon. Member comes up with some specific instance regarding this irrespective of whether in Jammu & Kashmir or in any other State of the country, then that matter can be definitely inquired into.

As regards non-availability of bail under the pending proceedings, I have already mentioned the Supreme Court's guidelines, which are there. Most of them have already been released and only 522 are under detention. The hon. Supreme Court had itself mentioned in the above judgement that these guidelines will not be applicable to complex and grave cases like the Mumbai bomb blast case in which a lengthy trial is inevitable on account of the complexities of the case. Even in the Mumbai bomb blast case, out of 122

persons facing trial, 90 are on regular bail and seven are on interim bail. Only 31 accused persons against whom there is specific and direct evidence regarding their involvement in the Mumbai bomb blast case are still in custody as either they have not sought bail or their bail applications have been repeatedly rejected by various courts. It is because they are charged with heinous crime.

The hon. Member also made a reference to the large number of witnesses that still remain to be examined in this case. I may mention that so far 586 prosecution witnesses have already been examined in the court and 130 more witnesses still remained to be examined in this case. This case, like other TADA cases, is being heard by the Designated TADA Court on a day-to-day basis.

The hon. Member has mentioned about a case in which one person was arrested just because he was seeing an activist in Raigarh District of Maharashtra. It was said that the person was arrested because he saw some terrorist on the way and thus, he was implicated in the case. That is not true.

Similarly, it was alleged that a woman had offered water to an unknown extremist and so, she was falsely implicated. These are two glaring instances where the hon. Member wanted me to highlight. I would say that both the cases had been inquired into and no such woman or man was apprehended on a ground, which was stated. The Government of India has advised the State Governments to instruct their prosecution branches not to seek adjournments in TADA cases. Mostly, defence counsels are obtaining adjournments and because of that the trial is protracted. The Government has already taken steps.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the observations of the Supreme Court in the same case. It observed :

"While liberty of a citizen must be zealously safeguarded by the Courts, nonetheless the Courts while dispensing justice in cases like the one under TADA Act, should keep in mind not only the liberty of the accused but also the interest of the victims and their near and dear ones and above all the qualitative interest of the community and the safety of the nation so that the public may not lose faith in the system of judicial administration and indulge in private retribution."

If this Bill of Shri Banatwalla is accepted by the House, hardcore terrorist involved in heinous terrorist crimes like Mumbai bomb blast case, serial train blast case of 1993 and all the terrorists involved in Jammu and Kashmir, North-East and Punjab in gruesome killings of innocent people would go scot-free. It is no good saying that after the charges under TADA are withdrawn the accused can still be punished under the normal law. Therefore, I would request Shri Banatwalla to withdraw this Bill. Otherwise, it

[Shri C.H. Vidyasagar Rao]

would send a wrong signal to the nation. The trials in Mumbai blast case and in other cases would be expedited. The State Governments have already instructed the respective agencies to expedite the investigations.

I would like to point out one more observation made by the Supreme Court in a Public Interest Litigation by Saheen Welfare Association. It has opined that the directions given by the Court in respect of leniency in giving bail to TADA undertrials of b, c and d categories mentioned above may not be applied by the Designated Courts in exceptional grave cases such as the Mumbai bomb blast case where a lengthy trial is inevitable looking to the number of accused, the number of witnesses and the nature of the charges. Accepting the Bill would send a wrong signal to the country. Already we are facing insurgency, subversive and left wing extremist activities throughout the country. Therefore, I would request Shri Banatwalla to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset I thank all the Members, the hon. Minister of Law and the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs who have intervened and participated in the Bill. I am grateful to them because several issues could come up for discussion in this august House. Now, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was really very happy when the hon. Minister of Law stood up to intervene because I knew and I know that he was a crusader against this draconian law, viz. TADA. I expected that the principle behind the Bill, the sentiments behind the Bill would get all the support from the Minister of Law, Shri Ram Jethmalani. But then I was stunned as he spoke. What a change it makes from the Opposition to the Treasury Benches! What a change! He came down very vigorously upon my Bill and each and every part of my body cried out. *Et tu Brutus*, you too Brutus. That was not expected of you.

That was not expected of you. Instead of arguments, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we had sound and fury from our Law Minister. What is the principle of the Bill which has got support from almost every section of the House? I will go to that a little later but let me take the Law Minister seriously. Does he stand by his convictions? Let us see what he has said. He said that the Bill does not say that those who got released from here should be tried under the normal laws of the land. Your proposal is accepted. Will you forward with such a Bill? We shall pass the Bill with all the unanimity that we can have here in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Had you said it in 1995, we would have done it. Now, after five years of trial, you want the cases to come to an end and go to other court where they will take another five years.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Today, after five years

your sound and fury is to that particular extent. With sound and fury the matter was presented that this is a mischievous and obnoxious Bill. Let those who have been languishing in jail for years and years continue to languish. We care not for the families of those who have got destroyed beyond the point of repair. Yes.

The point that we were making was that there should be no compromise with the offender. In my opening speech while initiating the Bill I had said that if the Government feel that they are accused of heinous crime, let them move under the law of the land rather than under this infamous, draconian law that was abused on a large scale and which happened to be the darkest spot on the fair name of democracy upheld by our country. Such is the situation. Everyone who spoke in the House said that there could be no compromise with the offenders. But why should we have this Bill? We have to understand the nature of TADA and why was it allowed to lapse.

We wanted repeal of TADA. At that time we were asking for the repeal but instead of repeal came the lapse. Why was TADA allowed to lapse by the then Government? That was because it was admitted by every section that TADA has been grossly misused, abused. It was admitted that it was used most arbitrarily. It was admitted that utmost partiality had taken place. It was admitted that it is a violation of all the healthy principles of jurisprudence. It was admitted as a sweeping violation of human rights. Admitting all this, TADA was allowed to lapse. Therefore, when you admit all this, those who have suffered under TADA have also to be released. The effect of TADA has to be erased. There is a contradiction and an obvious contradiction that on the one part you accept TADA as a draconian law, a law that is in violation of the healthy principles of jurisprudence, a law that threw to wind all the concept of human rights but it is still continuing. You say that the law has lapsed but still you continue with trials under the same type of law.

The principle in bringing up this Bill is that no accused should go free. They may come under the normal laws of the land, if the Government is prepared, if the Minister of Law is serious in the matter of his conviction, and if he is ready, the Government may come forward with an official Bill accepting the principle of this Bill. The people should not suffer under the provisions of a law which lapsed because it was considered to be a lawless law.

Sir, whenever a reference is made here about MISA, NSA and so on and so forth, — you will remember, and whenever such laws came forward, we of the Muslim League had always opposed such lawless laws. Here on the floor of the House several such Bills were characterised by me as 'lawless laws'. Then, is not India a democratic country? We lean on lawless laws, for defaming democracy.

I enquired why TADA was allowed to lapse. It was allowed to lapse because of its obnoxious character and large scale misuse. Those who have suffered under such obnoxious law, they had to be released. The laws of the land are there and nobody prevents the Government from trying them under the normal laws of a democratic country. When somebody comes to power he forgets the democratic norms and the taste of power makes him hungry for greater and greater authoritarianism, totalitarianism and fascism which should be condemned. Therefore, I must make it very clear.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we disapprove of the terms he is using, we cannot expect it from such a senior Member.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Therefore, when a senior Member is compelled to use such terms, they should take it seriously.

I heard the Law Minister with rapt attention — obnoxious mischievous Bill and what not. You too Brutus! I never expected this of him. Nonetheless, he is in his own trap. He should come forward with a Bill that says that those who are accused under this draconian law should go under the normal laws of the land. Sir, the question remains and that is, we are having people who are languishing in jails for periods ranging from one year to even a decade. The very fact that a large number of people were released itself shows the arbitrary manner in which the Act was invoked.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Everyone talks about violation of human rights but there should be some discussion also about those who violate those human rights.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are a very senior Member of this House. You can express your points of view only when he yields. Mr. Banatwallaji would you like to yield.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Not at all. I want to complete it. He had his way and then he had his time also to speak.

Sir, what I was saying is that the TADA has also miserably failed and still they want to keep that failed law. You know what has been the conviction rate under the TADA.

Of those tried in the designated TADA court, the

conviction rate is 0.81 per cent. Less than even one percent of the people who were arrested or accused under TADA could be convicted. Still, you insist to continue with such a draconian law. Out of 67,000 people detained from 1985 to 1994, only 8000 cases were tried and out of 67,000 people, only 725 people could be convicted. Such is the pathetic position. It was found when the matter was before the Supreme Court that 59,505 people had been detained under the Act and no cases were brought against them for nearly a year even after the Act was allowed to lapse. This is the arbitrary manner in which this law has been used and that is why my Bill is before the House for repealing that particular provision under which the cases are still going on. I may quote from a piece that appeared in the Guest Column of *Delhi Mid-Day* on January, 19 of this year. The piece is by Shri P.N. Tikkoo, who puts it very well as :

"The low conviction rate clearly indicated that TADA was primarily used for arbitrary detention while avoiding the legal safeguards required under the preventive detention laws. In the name of targeting areas of high rank terrorism, TADA as such made a mockery of the Indian judicial system and ended up as the most draconian law ever enforced in India."

There was a reference by the hon. Minister to the so-called humanisation. I am sure, we all know about the humanisation of TADA. TADA was so draconian, so much against all healthy principles of jurisprudence, so much against the human rights concept that the Supreme Court has also struggled within its own limitations. The law is there passed by this august House. Taking on the law within its own limitations, whatever the Supreme Court could do, it tried to do. Let us carry forward that struggle of the Supreme Court to humanise the law. Let us, therefore, be wedded to the democratic principles and to the normal laws of the land.

We are even being told that a new law is coming. That TADA under a new grab is coming. I must tell the Government that these are all methods to increase the terrorism rather than meet the terrorism. While initiating my Bill, I had spoken at length on that particular aspect. What has been the effect? I ought to have been accused for having come with a lenient Bill. I should have been accused because the Bill does not speak of compensation to those arbitrarily detained under the law.

I thank all those who have participated in the debate. I am sure, the Government, including hon. Shri Ram Jethmalani, will think again on this question.

The principle of the Bill is that one cannot continue to be tried under a law which has been held to have been abused, to have been abused on a large scale and which has been held to be draconian and lawless. One should not

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

continue under such a thing. That is an offence to the democratic character of our country and laws. I hope and I even invite the Law Minister to take his own words seriously and come out with a law which says that while everyone under detention under this law is freed, they may continue to be tried under the normal laws of the land. That was the proposal which he was trying to build up all the time. We ask him to be true to his own conviction. I think the matter has been discussed at length and I hope the Government will also consider the situation.

The hon. Minister, while replying, has said that some of the cases which have been referred to by me are not correct. But I have here names of those accused and the number also. I can give those names and numbers that are there with me but then, I do not want to go into the aspect of interfering with the judicial work. Therefore, in such a case, I do not want to give those names and numbers. I have been speaking not in favour of 'x' or 'y' or 'z'. I was speaking in favour of the healthy jurisprudence. I am arguing for that healthy jurisprudence rather than those fascist laws. I hope the Government will reconsider its position and in times to come, without wasting the time, it may come with a suitable legislation that can satisfy even Shri Ram Jethmalani, myself and all sections of the House to see that justice is given to all those who are languishing in the jails for even more than a decade.

With these words, I seek your kind permission and permission of the House to withdraw my Bill.

Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further 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.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further 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."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Under the hope that the Government will respond positively, I withdraw the Bill.

17.59 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY DEPUTY-SPEAKER

Re : Business of the House

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As the House is aware, the hon. Speaker had observed this morning that he would

allow a discussion on the issue regarding participation of Government employees in the activities of RSS. The hon. Speaker has admitted notices given by Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee on the subject under Rule 193 which will be discussed on Monday, the 28th February, 2000 at 4 p.m.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Sir, this is very unsatisfactory way of discussion. We wanted to censure the Government. The discussion should come under Rule 184 where a Motion would have been adopted by the House.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : The Speaker should have given consent for the discussion to be taken up under Rule 184.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have announced the decision of the hon. Speaker. Now, may I pass on to the next item?

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, let our protest be recorded and communicated to the hon. Speaker. We wanted an Adjournment Motion but that was disallowed. Now, the discussion under Rule 184 is also denied. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have only announced the decision of the hon. Speaker about which he had mentioned this morning.

18.00 hrs.

Of course, he has mentioned under what provision that is done.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICUR) : Sir, kindly listen to me. You have communicated the decision of the hon. Speaker to us. Kindly communicate to him that this is a very objectionable decision. It is very ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot do that. This is the Speaker's decision. I cannot do anything.

SHRI A.C. JOS : We request that that decision be reconsidered. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, the hon. Member's remark is a reflection on the decision given by the Chair. It should not go on record. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : We request the Chair to reconsider it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : We wanted to move an Adjournment Motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramesh Chennithala, please hear me first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please resume your seat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, you will explain it very benignly. We will also be convinced. But our issue is something different.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They have honoured my appeal. Why do you also not do that? I am only telling that in the morning, the hon. Speaker has already announced about it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : That is not the issue before the House. We want to be in the form of an Adjournment Motion and not a discussion under Rule 193.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has spelt out in his observation that he would accommodate the discussion under whichever provision he deemed fit.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Though it is not in the form of an Adjournment Motion, yet it can be admitted as a Motion where there is voting.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : After having a lot of discussion, I say that nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

18.02 hrs.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Insertion of new sections 26A and 26B)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will have to take up the next Bill. At least he should start before we adjourn for the day.

Before I call upon Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to move the motion for consideration of his Bill, we have to fix a time for this. Shall we fix two hours?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, we fix two hours.

Now, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to speak.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I propose "that the Bill to further amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 be taken into consideration."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am starting the debate regarding the Bill moved for consideration of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill. We know that democracy is the rule by vote..(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Sir, they are losing in Bihar. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not tell the facts.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Very learned persons from all over the country suggested that without making amendments in electoral system democracy would not be strong and the real concept of democracy would not succeed. The Government did not pay attention to electoral reforms even after receiving Goswami Committee's report. Hence it necessitated the moving of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can continue your speech when the discussion on this Bill is taken up again.

[English]

The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 28th February, 2000.

18.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, February 28, 2000/ Phalgun 9, 1921(Saka)

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