

NOT TO BE ISSUED

Friday, May 12, 2000

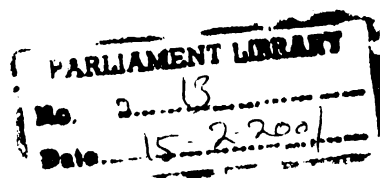
Vaisakha 22, 1922 (Saka)

FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

Third Session  
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



*(Vol. VII contains Nos. 31 to 38)*

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

## **EDITORIAL BOARD**

**G. C. Malhotra**  
Secretary-General  
Lok Sabha

**Dr. A. K. Pandey**  
Additional Secretary

**Harnam Singh**  
Joint Secretary

**P. C. Bhatt**  
Principal Chief Editor

**A.P. Chakravarti**  
Senior Editor

**J.C. Sharma**  
Editor

---

(Original English Proceedings included in English Version and Original Hindi proceedings included in Hindi Version will be treated as authoritative and not the translation thereof.)

## CONTENTS

*Thirteenth Series, Vol. VII, Third Session 2000/1921 (Saka)*

**[No. 35, Friday, May 12, 2000/Vaisakha 22, 1922 (Saka)]**

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Questions Nos. 661 to 664	1-25
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Questions Nos. 665 to 680	25-53
Unstarred Questions Nos. 7183 to 7412	53-306
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	306-311
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	311
Minutes	
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	311
Ninth Report	
COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE	311
Second Report	
COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME	312
First Report	
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS	312
Seventy-ninth Report	
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	312-316
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	317-324
Disproportionate representation from certain States in recruitment of constables for Central Para Military Forces	
Shri N. Janardhana Reddy	317-318
Shri L.K. Advani	318-324
OBSERVATION BY SPEAKER	324
Questions of Privilege	
SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL	326-327
NATIONAL HOUSING BANK (AMENDMENT) BILL	327-352
Motion to Consider	327
Shri Yashwant Sinha	327-328, 350-351
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	332-334
Dr. Nitish Sengupta	334-336
Shri Varakala Radhakrishnan	336-340
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	340

\*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri P.H. Pandiyan	341-342
Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi	342
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	342-345
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	345-347
Dr. Sanjay Paswan	347-348
Shri Lakshman Singh	348-349
Clauses 2 to 29 and 1	352
Motion to Pass	352
RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THIRD REPORT OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE	352
PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTIONS	352-394
(I) Utilisation of funds by the States	352-389
Shri Anadi Sahu	352-359
Shri Rashid Alvi	359-362
Shri Maheshwar Singh	362-367
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale	367-369
Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria	369-370
Shri P.H. Pandiyan	370-373
Shri P.C. Thomas	373-377
Shri Chhatrapal Singh	377
Shri Kharabela Swain	378-380
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	380-382
Shri P.S. Gandhavi	382-383
Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary	383-384
Shri A. Raja	384-387
Shri Ramanand Singh	387-389
(ii) Participation of Gram Sabha in Poverty alleviation programmes	389-394
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	390-394



# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Friday, May, 12, 2000/Vaisakha 22, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Merger of BALCO and NALCO

\*661. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the merger of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) with National Aluminium Company (NALCO);

(b) if so, the reasons for which these two PSUs are proposed to be merged;

(c) the time by which the merger process is proposed to be completed;

(d) whether the earlier proposal to privatise BALCO has been withdrawn; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (e) The Government does not contemplate any merger of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) with National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). The proposal to divest 51% of BALCO's equity in favour of a strategic partner still stands.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, the answer is very intelligently put. The Government says from (a) to (e) :

"The Government does not contemplate any merger of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) with National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)."

MR. SPEAKER : You can put your Supplementary very intelligently.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : When the Government says that they do not contemplate, there is no time frame for it. At the moment, there is a great debate going on. The Mines

Ministry is not in favour of an efficiently-run NALCO to be merged with BALCO, which is an outdated plant. But the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Industry has given a recommendation that it should be kept open. So, I want to get a categorical assurance that NALCO shall not be merged with BALCO. Will the Government be in a position to give that categorical assurance?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Yes, Sir.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Sir, my second Supplementary is, there are a lot of allegations of kickback at a time when NALCO has reached its optimum. It is on the threshold of leap-frogging, it is in the process of expansion and it is the largest producer and the largest exporter of aluminium in the country. Allegations have been made on the floor of the Orissa Legislative Assembly by the Leader of the Opposition. It has been made here in the Parliament also about its take over. Like the BALCO took over Bidhanbagh and ran into trouble, NALCO also has taken over recently IAPL, with a Rs. 300 crore installed capacity, but it was suffering from time and cost overrun. They have taken it over and there are a lot of allegations. Can the Government be transparent about it because when we raised it when Shri Navin Patnaik was the Minister here, he did not reply. He said, this is not the occasion. Now this is the occasion. Can the Government be transparent and tell us whether there is any veracity in the allegations of kickback in the IAPL take over by NALCO?

PROF. RITA VERMA : Sir, we can be very transparent. I shall give the details of NALCO's take over of IAPL. IAPL was initially promoted by M/s. Mukund Limited along with Global Emerging Markets and M/s. FATA Hunter Engineering, Italy as 100 per cent export-oriented unit (EOU) situated near NALCO's Smelter at Angul, Orissa. In January, 1998, the Government permitted NALCO to invest Rs. 30.82 crores, equivalent to 26 per cent equity in IAPL. In May, 1998, M/s. Mukund Limited requested NALCO for stronger and greater investment in IAPL. Considering the benefits arising out of IAPL being a downstream project and a 100 per cent EOU, the Board of NALCO took a decision to take over IAPL and merge it with NALCO, keeping it as a separate 100 per cent Export-oriented Division of NALCO. This decision was based on the techno-economic evaluation report made by M/s. MECON - which is a Government sector unit - and the financial viability report made by M/s. A.F. Ferguson and Company. NALCO then acquired 100 per cent shares in the paid-up capital of IAPL by purchasing all shares held by other shareholders and got them transferred in its own name.

Consequent upon the transfer of shares, IAPL became

a wholly owned subsidiary of NALCO. All functional Directors of NALCO have been inducted as Directors on the Board of IAPL and total management control is now vested with NALCO.

MR. SPEAKER : The senior Minister's reply was very brief.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Sir, the hon. Member wanted me to be very transparent. He wanted absolute transparency. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, she is doing a service to the nation. It should be transparent. Thank you Madam.

PROF. RITA VERMA : The benefits envisaged with the proposed merger include NALCO making a presence in secondary market, improved bottomline of NALCO on account of the diversification in downstream products, addition to NALCO's product mix etc. As per the valuation of shares of IAPL made by M/s. A.F. Ferguson & Company, the value per share ranged from Rs. 10 to Rs. 19. The Board of NALCO accepted the lowest valuation that is Rs. 10 per share.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, there are abundant deposits of bauxite ore in the Eastern ghats stretching around Visakhapatnam from East Godavari to Orissa. Based on these deposits only this NALCO plant has been installed there. There is a huge potentiality for this world over demand for alumina. Some French firms and other firms have also come forward to put up a Unit near S. Kota in Visakhapatnam district. Several surveys have been done. Several teams have come. Recently also there was a report from a Minister of the Government of Andhra Pradesh that the discussions are going on for putting up an alumina manufacturing plant at S. Kota.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister that if there is a demand, why putting up of this plant is being delayed. NALCO could be asked to put up a plant with export potentiality if there is a demand over there. We need very much the foreign exchange. The deposits are lying in huge quantities. This also comes in the tribal area of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the prospects of such a plant coming over there.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Sir, NALCO has a very strong presence in the market. It is concentrating on exports. The Government wants it to expand its horizons. They have very good reserves of bauxite. They have tremendous potential. As far as the question put up by the hon. Member is concerned, there are problems there. There are ample bauxite reserves. But there are still some problems with Forest and Tribal Affairs departments. We are trying to sort them out.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : So, that plant will come. Thank you very much.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I think I should clarify. If I may intervene, the situation is that, recently, there has been a judgement of the Supreme Court which actually categorically directs the Government not to give leases to non-tribals in tribal areas. This becomes a bit of problem because even a public sector company is classified as a non-tribal judicial person. We have this issue and, in fact, we are addressing this problem. We will be coming to Parliament, most probably, with a solution on the matter. So, I cannot promise that the company would come up until the situation is addressed.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this is a most important question. For ten years we have been fighting for this Unit. What the hon. Minister is saying is very correct. We should amend our legislation.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : That is why I said I will be coming to Parliament.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : There is a tremendous potential for exports.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Yes. We know that. But there is a judgement.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, the PSUs are being threatened by disinvestment proposals. My question is very pin-pointed. I want to know whether BALCO is under the threat of disinvestment and whether it is a profit making unit and who is going to be the strategic partner to take up this unit.

PROF. RITA VERMA : I think the use of the word 'threat' is very unfortunate. Nobody is threatening BALCO. I would also say that the question should have been directed to the Minister of Disinvestment rather than to me.

About the other part of the question as to who is the strategic partner, the modalities are still being worked out. We have appointed a global adviser. We have still go in for tenders. We have to locate the strategic partner.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker Sir, I may just add something, with your permission, because it is an important question on disinvestment. It is not the case that the BALCO is a loss-making unit, but definitely the BALCO will become a loss-making unit in a couple of years essentially because its technology is such that it is old-fashioned and that the cost of conversion is so high that the moment the duties come down, the BALCO will face severe consequences. The duty today is substantially high. It is in the region of 35 per cent plus and definitely, when the duties come down in

the coming years, the BALCO will have the highest trouble in this area. Therefore, we need investments in the BALCO and investments not only to expand but also to change the whole technology used by it. The difference between the BALCO and the NALCO is exactly this that the differential of cost per tonne in terms of power consumption is Rs. 2,000 which makes the whole difference in margins and that is why, the BALCO is being disinvested from the point of view of searching a strategic partner who will invest in it. The criteria will be what is the plan that the strategic partner would give us, what is the expansion plan, how much money they will invest, and what is the latest technology that they will be bringing. We have appointed Jardine Fleming as a consultant to work out the terms for the request for interest firstly. We will come to the House, if necessary. If somebody wants details, we will them to him.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister is not clear as to who will be the strategic partner. My question is whether the multinational company will come or whether the modernisation in the BALCO will take place from Indian money. I would also like to ask why the BALCO and the NALCO cannot be merged and made to act as one company.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I made it clear with just two words 'Yes Sir' to the hon. Member Shri K.P. Singh Deo. I must make it clear again that we have no intention of committing the mistake which was committed in the case of the BALCO itself of merging what is considered a potentially economically weak institution with a potentially strong institution and weaken the strong one. What is important is to strengthen the existing weak one by bringing in investments.

I must make it very clear that the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has categorically said that in the non-core sectors, it is our intention to reduce our equity down to 26 per cent. Now, it is a matter of policy that we are concentrating, with whatever scarce resources that are available with the Government, in core sectors for investment, for example, infrastructure. And, in the non-core sectors, we seek private capital which is ready to come. And if it is ready to come, why should we not seek it?

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : My question is very simple whether the multinational companies will come or not.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Might be Indian.

#### Ambitious Plan for Cotton Cultivation

+  
\*662. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India has started an ambitious plan for better cotton cultivation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the villages chosen under this plan, State-wise;
- (d) the criteria for selection of villages under this plan;
- (e) whether the villages of Tamil Nadu are likely to be included in the plan; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

#### Statement

(a) The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI), in addition to its primary functions of Commercial and Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations, have also taken initiatives of undertaking development/ extension programmes for better cotton cultivation in the country supplementing the efforts of other Agencies/Government.

(b) The details of the development/extension programmes are as under :-

- i. Village Adoption Programme for dissemination of latest technology to farmers; distribution of certified and truthful label seeds and quality pesticides; and arranging field workshops to create awareness on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Technology.
- ii. Funding of R&D Activities/Projects relating to cotton.
- iii. Encouraging cultivation of cotton in non-traditional areas through creating awareness and educating farmers.

(c) The numbers of villages adopted State-wise during 1999-2000 are as under :

State	Number of Villages
1	2
Rajasthan	20
Haryana	29

1	2
Punjab	09
Gujarat	47
Madhya Pradesh	07
Andhra Pradesh	06
Karnataka	13
Total	131

(d) Villages are adopted, in consultation with State Government/Local Authority, following the criteria of 'one village one variety concept' in order to help maintain the purity of cotton lint as well as seed, apart from according priority to marginal farmers having lower productivity level of cotton.

(e) and (f) CCI is also implementing extension/development programmes in the State of Tamil Nadu. Village Adoption Programme has so far not been initiated in this State. However, presently the South India Mills Association (SIMA), Coimbatore, is undertaking similar extension works in the State of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : On the paper, the reply given by the hon. Minister is very good, but in reality, the CCI is supposed to enter the market when the price of cotton starts falling while they are entering into the market when the cotton prices reach its lowest level. They are doing only the job of a trader. They try to purchase cotton at the lowest rate and try to sell it with maximum profit. Really, this is not helping the farmers. My request to the hon. Minister is that as soon as the prices of cotton start falling, the CCI should enter into the market.

Sir, can I put my second supplementary straightway?

MR. SPEAKER : No. You can put it after your question. What you have said is only your request and not supplementary.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Then my supplementary is regarding adoption of villages. To my surprise, there is no single village being adopted by the CCI in Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you can ask the question.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : I am going to ask the question. It is mentioned in the reply that there are 47 villages being adopted in Gujarat. Our Minister also hails from Gujarat. I know that our Minister is a nationalist. I believe, there is no bias in this regard and I am sure that there is no bias. But in

the States of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, no village is adopted. Even in Andhra Pradesh, which has one of the biggest cotton cultivating area, and Karnataka, very few villages are being adopted. My request to the Minister is..

MR. SPEAKER : Again, you are requesting the Minister but not putting any supplementary.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : My supplementary is this. Why has CCI not adopted any village from Tamil Nadu, and why have they not adopted more villages in Punjab, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh? There is no village adopted from Maharashtra.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, the hon. Member wants to know the role of CCI so far as MSP is concerned. Whenever the price of cotton touches the MSP, the CCI undertakes the minimum support price operations. In the previous year, the CCI, without any hesitation and without any quantitative limits, started the purchase of cotton. I think, in the previous year, when the price of cotton touched the MSP in the regions of Malout in Punjab and Sri Ganganagar and Bhiwara in Rajasthan, the CCI immediately started its operations and only 8,000 bales were purchased from there.

Sir, the hon. Members has said that whenever the price of cotton falls, at that time, the CCI starts purchase of cotton. That is a wrong impression. The CCI always purchased cotton from various centres throughout the country.

Sir, his second supplementary is about the village adoption programme. The CCI requests the State Governments to send the names of any number of the villages. The CCI has adopted all the villages, names of which were sent by the State Governments. The Cotton Corporation of India has also requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to send the names of villages, and I hope that the names of whatever number of villages are sent by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the CCI will definitely adopt them.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, what the hon. Minister has said is that the MSP level should be maintained by the CCI. The very purpose of formation of the CCI is only to do that. But in reality, what I said is right. They start purchasing cotton only at low prices and try to sell it at higher prices. There should be an effective supervisory mechanism developed by the Ministry of Textiles

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, the question relates to cultivation and not purchase of cotton.

SHRI C. P. RADHAKRISHNAN : What are the supervising measures adopted to control the CCI so that MSP level can be maintained at a better level, which can benefit ultimately the farmers?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, the MSP is always announced by the Ministry of Agriculture on the recommendations of the ICAR. So far as MSP is concerned, the CCI always purchases cotton above minimum support price. I want to give an example.

So far as V-797 quality is concerned, the MSP is Rs. 1,475/- and the market price is Rs. 1,838/-, which is 24.58 per cent higher than the MSP. In respect of J-34 quality, the MSP is Rs. 1,575/- and the market price is Rs. 1,836/-, which is 16 per cent higher than the MSP. In respect of LKA quality, the MSP is Rs. 1,650/- and the market price is Rs. 1,835/-, which is 11.21 per cent higher than the MSP. In respect of H-4 quality, the MSP is Rs. 1,775/- and the market price is Rs. 1909.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the Question relates to cotton cultivation, is it not?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know the market price.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, cotton is cultivated in 36 per cent area of Maharashtra. In spite of a huge area under cotton cultivation, the per hectare cotton production is declining there for the last three-four years. As my friend has told that 131 centres have been set up but of these not a single centre for development and extension of cotton cultivation has been set up in Maharashtra. I have got reply that centres will be set up when demand for it will be received. I hope that hon'ble Minister will certainly look into it. The term of Cotton Monopoly procurement scheme is upto 30th August, 2000. Period of this scheme is limited and farmers feel that they should get Minimum Support Price but at the same time there is apprehension in the mind of farmers that obstructions will be created in it. Whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal for extending period of this scheme and whether the Government proposes to do so?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maharashtra is the only State in the country where Cotton Monopoly Procurement Act is in force. I would like to tell about the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme, which has been mentioned here that it is being implemented in Maharashtra only. CCI is not working there because of this act. Maharashtra Government procures and sales cotton according to its rules. The term of Cotton Monopoly Scheme is going to end in June. I wish that farmers of Maharashtra should get remunerative price for their produce and there should be uniform policy for it throughout the country. Everytime the Government of Maharashtra sends request for extending the period of Cotton Monopoly Procurement Act. Several MPs also put pressure on the Government to accept this request

and thus the Government do so. As you have complaint that the State Government will send its request this time also and cotton growers will not get remunerative prices. You should persuade the State Government for abolishing Cotton Monopoly Procurement Act so that farmers of the country ..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri N. Janardhana Reddy; I will call you later.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you were kind enough to clarify that this Question relates to cotton cultivation. With regard to selection of villages, I do not know why only six villages have been selected in Andhra Pradesh where a lot of cotton grows. The Minister knows very well that the Cotton Corporation of India, which purchases cotton in Guntur, has not paid the money so far, for no fault of the farmers, at the instance of your own officer who is working in the Cotton Corporation of India.

When are you going to clear the dues of the farmers who are waiting for the money to be released by the Government?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, so far as the purchase of cotton from Guntur is concerned I would like to submit that the hon. Member knows very well that a police case has been registered against this transaction. Police enquiry of this case has not yet been complete and thus the case is pending.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the support price announced by Cotton Corporation of India is quite less than the cost incurred on its production. I would like to know from the Government as to whether it has formulated any plan to provide remunerative prices to farmers on the basis of cost of Cotton Production. The support price given to cotton growers at present is quite less than the cost incurred on it.

Secondly, coloured cotton is grown in Madhya Pradesh and there is no need to dye it. Its quality is very good. I would like to know as to whether the Government proposes to provide some assistance to Madhya Pradesh Government under some action plan for development of coloured cotton.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated in my reply that Agriculture Ministry decides the Minimum Support Price for cotton on the recommendations made by the Agriculture Prices Commission. We wish that cotton growers should get remunerative price for their produce. We will convey the suggestion given by the hon'ble Member

to the Agriculture Ministry regarding production and development of cotton cultivation in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not replied properly about the measures being taken for boosting cotton cultivation. I would like to know that the seeds being supplied to farmers.

[English]

whether they are being developed in our own country through the CCI or whether we are importing these seeds. In case we are importing these seeds, I would like to know whether we are importing these seeds from the United States. I would also like to know whether this Government is aware of this very fact that two years back the seeds developed by the United States and more particularly by the Monsanto Chemicals Company were found to be infested with disease. This company had to pay a heavy compensation to the farmers of the United States.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Cotton Corporation of India provides improved seeds and good quality pesticides for cotton cultivation. Ministry of Agriculture develops those seeds and provide to farmers. Not only that a Cotton technology mission has been introduced for cotton cultivation.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Do you import it or not?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : We have started a Cotton Technology Mission for improving the quality of cotton, reducing the cost of production, providing efficient marketing infrastructure and for reducing contaminated cotton. At present national average of cotton production is 333 kg. per hectare.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I would like to know whether the Government is importing the seeds or not.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Alvi, please first hear what the hon. Minister is saying.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : My question is whether the seeds are being imported or not and if they are imported, then whether they are being imported from the United States or from any other country.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, insofar as the question raised by the hon. Member is concerned, it relates to the Ministry of Agriculture.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, production of cotton is 333 kg. per

hectare and we are going to increase it to 558 kg. which is international average.

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I would like to know whether the seeds are being imported or not.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Alvi, your supplementary does not arise out of this question.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has asked a simple question as to whether the Government proposes to provide remunerative prices to farmers. Farmers do not have account of cost incurred in production but the Government department engaged in this work may have this account. Please tell about the cost incurred in production of one quintal of cotton. Whether the Government proposes to provide remunerative prices for cotton according to this cost?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year minimum support prices are announced by the Government in order to provide remunerative prices to farmers without taking into account whether the price of seeds or pesticides increase...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The remunerative prices are decided arbitrarily. It should be decided after consulting the opinion of farmers. It is really unfortunate for farmers and the country that persons who do not know anything about agriculture, decide the prices of agricultural produce. Sir, it is an important question. The prices of cloth or any other goods manufactured in factories are decided by the manufacturer itself.

MR. SPEAKER : He is going to resolve. Your query in the reply.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : But price of agricultural produce is decided by persons who do not have any knowledge of agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER : Please let the Minister reply to it.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, I have asked a simple question that what is the cost of production of cotton per quintal and whether Government is going to provide remunerative price to farmers in accordance with the cost of production of cotton.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : The organisation which decides remunerative prices has not been set up by this Government. This organisation was set up many years ago

for deciding minimum support price on the basis of prevailing prices of inputs.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Marathvada and Vidarbha area of Maharashtra produce largest quantity of cotton and for the last many years Cotton Monopoly Scheme is being implemented in Maharashtra. That is why the cotton growers of that region are not getting the support price which they deserve. In the reply given by hon'ble Minister it has been stated that the Cotton Monopoly Scheme should be abolished. I demand from the hon'ble Minister that it should be given extension. Till this extension is not given ..(Interruptions) This scheme should be implemented throughout the country ..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Geete, what is your supplementary?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I demand from the Government that this scheme should be implemented throughout the country...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper way to ask a supplementary question.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I demand that it should be implemented throughout the country...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I seek assurance from the hon'ble Minister for providing extension to Cotton Monopoly scheme. Will the hon'ble Minister give assurance about it ..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Why are other Members standing?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, the attitude of Government of India has been so favourable that the whenever Government of Maharashtra put forward some demand we always consider it...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I would like to know as to whether our demand will be considered this time also?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Geete, what is this?

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : The Government will definitely consider your feelings.

#### Loan against States

\*663. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise details of loans against the State Governments, as on 31st March, 2000;

(b) the details of loans and advances against the State Governments during 2000-2001;

(c) whether there is any provision to waive off the loans of those State Governments whose financial condition is bad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

#### Statement

(a) and (b) State-wise details of loans and advances relating to Ministry of Finance Outstanding as on 31st March, 2000 and amounts repayable during 2000-2001 by the State Governments are given below :-

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States	Amount of loans Outstanding as on 31.03.2000	Loan and advances repayable during 2000-2001
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	16396.31	706.59

1	2	3	4
2	Arunachal Pradesh	360.03	15.90
3	Assam	4433.07	300.18
4	Bihar	15641.60	626.68
5	Goa	1049.80	39.17
6	Gujarat	17458.22	538.68
7	Haryana	5781.70	188.64
8	Himachal Pradesh	2839.64	98.45
9	J & K	3927.34	265.40
10	Karnataka	10494.61	408.84
11	Kerala	6408.61	304.19
12	Madhya Pradesh	10966.9	494.13
13	Maharashtra	27240.2	852.66
14	Manipur	429.99	25.56
15	Meghalaya	328.40	16.01
16	Mizoram	336.15	30.24
17	Nagaland	415.60	32.93
18	Orissa	7672.83	385.91
19	Punjab	14393.49	707.05
20	Rajasthan	12251.64	509.57
21	Sikkim	237.04	14.63
22	Tamil Nadu	12134.73	515.75
23	Tripura	649.18	25.04
24	Uttar Pradesh	33778.76	1372.36
25	West Bengal	26355.69	689.85
Total		231981.53	9164.41

(c) and (d) Government of India is generally guided in respect of write off of loans by the recommendations of Finance Commission. The Eleventh Finance Commission as per its Terms of Reference is required to make an assessment

of the debt position of States and suggest such corrective measures as are deemed necessary, keeping in view the long term sustainability for both the Centre and States. Ay debt relief to State/ States will have to await the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the statement of the Government that poor States and almost all States are under debt, economic condition of all the States is miserable. About Rs. 2,31,981 crores is of outstanding against all those States. My question is that loans of the States which are poor, whose economic condition is bad, should be written off. But the Minister is avoiding the question and is pleading that they are guided by Finance Commission. I would like to know from the Government whether the tenth Finance Commission after observing the bad economic condition and burden of loans of the States has recommended that their loans should be written off or should be recovered along with interest, penal interest and sub-interest. What are the recommendations of Finance Commission in this regard?

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Sir, we are implementing this as per the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. Now, the question is about the year 2000-2001. The Eleventh Finance Commission is already on the job. Over and above the Tenth Finance Commission's recommendations (which cover special category States, high fiscal stress States, and also Punjab), no debt relief has been specially granted to any State except to Punjab.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : My second supplementary is that as he said, that they are generally guided by recommendations of Finance Commission, but I would like to know in special circumstances where the condition of States is bad, by all accounts it is below normal and where State Governments are not in position to pay salary, not even in a position to implement their development programmes and where State Governments are not in position to pay even their part of 50 per cent share of the centrally sponsored scheme, which is run 50:50 basis in such circumstances considering economic condition of those States whether Union Government propose to write off their loans. Due to bad economic condition when some States do not pay their outstanding, they become defaulter and their next instalment of loan is stopped. In view of the bad economic condition of States, whether the Government will sympathetically consider both the points or they will treat States like Mughals? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH : You will have to give reply to the question of Dr. Raghuvansh Babu.



THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Raghuvansh Babu has raised a very important question, which is related to every State of the country. First of all I would like to make it clear that we did not write off the loans according to the recommendations of Tenth Finance Commission amount during the next five years whether it was special debt relief or general debt relief. Their figure is very much with me. I would like to make clear the second point which Raghuvansh Babu has raised that the resources between Union and States are distributed according to the recommendations of Finance Commission and the House is aware of that. Keeping in view the share of States in the revenue earned from taxes and the assistance given to them through Planning Commission for their plan we implement the recommendations of Finance Commission. We have no alternative in this regard. They are implemented. Hon'ble Members know that the size of a five year plan is decided by talks between Planning Commission and the States and the size of annual plan is also decided by talks with the States and according to this size, the States have to mobilise the resources they are required to. The Union Government contribute their part of resources that is how the system is working. I have already said in the House that condition of Union Government is delicate at the moment.

Similarly the condition of States is also delicate. Therefore we are trying to find out together as to how to bail out the country from such a situation. I said here that we are in regular touch with Chief Ministers of States and we understand their agony and apathy and it has been our endeavour to help out a State whenever it faces any special circumstances or crisis. This is our policy and we are working on that for the last two years and will continue to do so in future also.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Reply to one part of my question has not come. The part of the question that the next instalment of loan is not released in case there is any outstanding on the State has not been replied to.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Release of loan is not stopped due to outstanding. If State Governments themselves say that they are not in a position to contribute, though this is not allowed, we decide after talk and release the share of the State, we do not stop it.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : I would like to ask a supplementary corresponding to this answer which has been given by the Finance Minister. I would like to know whether the Tenth Finance Commission had recommended to write off loans of some States. If so, which are the States and how much money has been written off, specially in case of Orissa? What are the corrective measures for debt relief

that were suggested by Tenth Finance Commission and which are the States that have complied with this?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Under this scheme the Tenth Finance Commission recommended relief to a Special Category State like Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, J&K, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The three other States were Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which are categorised by the Tenth Finance Commission as high fiscal States and indicated by average rate of interest payment not exceeding 17 per cent during 1989-90 and 1993-94. The Statement is already here. The amount released to the States from 1995-96 to 1999-2000 as Special Debt Relief to the States and General Debt Relief to the States is given in the Table, and I can give you the names of those States, if you want.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I am trying to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a completely different aspect of this question. As per the recommendations of the Finance Commission and the Planning Commission, funds and loans assistance is given to the State Governments and it is expected that the funds are utilised for the purpose for which they are given. But in some cases — I may be corrected if I am wrong — the funds are not utilised properly and the funds are misutilised because of which the financial condition of the State is getting worsened and it is having an impact on the financial condition of the country also.

In view of these facts, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what kind of mechanism is available to the Union Government to see that the funds are properly utilised so that they are not misutilised and the financial condition of the State and of the country also does not worsen. I would like to know the mechanism and if that mechanism is there, whether that mechanism is proper and if that mechanism is not proper, not sufficient, not appropriate, is there any proposal to see that something is done to see that monitoring mechanism becomes better? And, if so, what kind of steps are likely to be taken. If not, why not?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I have already said in reply to the earlier supplementary that there are generally two kinds of moneys which are released to the State Governments. One which is under the Finance Commission dispensation which is their right under the Constitution. This money goes to them as part of their own resources.

The other is, the money which is released by the Government of India through the Planning Commission, is supplementing the plan funds of the State Governments. As we are aware, India is a Union of States and the respective responsibilities of the State Governments and of the Central Government are very clearly defined in the Constitution of India. There is a Comptroller & Auditor-General who audits

the accounts of the Central Government as well as the State Governments.

The audited accounts of the State Governments are supposed to be placed before the legislature of that State. In the same way as we have the Public Accounts Committee, the State legislatures also have their Public Accounts Committees. They are supposed to go into this. So, the Constitutional arrangement is very clear. As far as the special mechanism to which the hon. Member referred to, the only special mechanism that we have is in regard to the Plan funds. We hold consultations in the Planning Commission between the Government of India and the Governments of the States. Each year when the State Government comes to the Planning Commission, they review the entire approach to the developmental process of that State. The Planning Commission has its own evaluation mechanism. The other Ministries of the Government of India which are administratively concerned have also their mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of various projects in the States. But I would hasten to add that in the federal set up that we have, there is no way in which this responsibility can be assumed by the Government of India totally. We cannot become the auditors of the accounts of the State Governments. We do discuss with the State Governments, the financial and physical progress of the various schemes. But let us not forget that this is a very sensitive area of State and Centre relationship and it has to be tackled in a very cautious manner.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The total outstanding loans as on 31.03.2000 comes to about Rs. 2,31,81,000/- which you have waived in respect of some States including Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. What is the criterion you adopt in waiving the loans? What is the criterion you adopt in choosing to write off loans in respect of some States? What is the financial condition in which Tamil Nadu has an outstanding loan of Rs. 12,135.73 crore? Are you thinking of writing off of these loans? You must treat all the States alike. So, what are the steps you are going to take to enforce financial discipline among States? You said there is no monitoring mechanism in the federal set up. Are you going to take any steps to enforce financial discipline of any loan being outstanding by some States?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The last part of the question is replied by the hon. Finance Minister. We cannot enter into the area of States. They have their rights. It is a very delicate and sensitive issue. We can discipline the total economy of the country. The States have their own responsibility because they are governing their own States. We cannot enter into their area. I have already replied the first part of the question. The Tenth Finance Commission has already given relief to the States on the basis of their fiscal performance. The relief has been given to the Special

Category States and special attention has been paid to the States which warrant relief on account of increasing the retirement age, for disinvestment and for equity holding. The Tenth Finance Commission has recommended for the rest of the things also. Beyond that, the Government of India do not enjoy any authority.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Have you given Rs. 10,000 crore over some years or suddenly?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : It is a continuous process.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister himself agrees that the economic condition of the States is poor. I want to say that as on date the economic condition of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat is very bad due to drought and famine. I want to know whether the Government propose to waive the debt of those States whose economic condition were bad and further worsened due to drought and famine?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : As far as the question of waiving off debt is concerned, I have already said that the 11th Finance Commission has fixed criteria for it and they are empowered to do so as per its terms and conditions. Government of India can not say anything in that context.

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI : Does it have provisions about the drought and famine? ..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, we have discussed the Budget and Finance Bill only last week. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : We have already agreed that there is a severe drought, and relief measures are being taken. The Government of India has released funds and if required the Government would release more funds. It is a continuous process. So, money would not be a problem.

[Translation]

#### Modernisation of NTC Mills

\*664. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for modernisation of NTC mills during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the mills of NTC have been modernised;

(c) If so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the funds allocated for modernisation are being spent on other heads; and

(e) If so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No funds for modernisation of NTC mills in any State have been allocated or spent during the last three years.

(b) and (c) A total amount of Rs. 512.14 crores has been spent on modernisation of NTC mills so far. A statement of State-wise details of the expenditure on modernisation is enclosed.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

**Statement**

S. No.	Name of the State	Amount (Rs./Cr.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.23
2.	Assam	1.88
3.	Bihar	2.90
4.	Delhi	2.04
5.	Gujarat	40.37
6.	Karnataka	27.04
7.	Kerala	39.16
8.	Madhya Pradesh	29.78
9.	Maharashtra	110.62
10.	Orissa	2.98
11.	Pondichery	18.15
12.	Punjab	14.64
13.	Rajasthan	10.60

1	2	3
14.	Tamil Nadu	135.26
15.	Uttar Pradesh	27.42
16.	West Bengal	24.07
Total		512.14

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to revive sick textile mills, their modernisation and to regulate the condition of workers engaged therein the Government had acquired 119 textile mills in 1968. Out of those, 49 mills have been closed and of the remaining 80 mills some are operational and some are not. The Government has incurred a loss of Rs. 6366 crores due to these mills in the last few years whereas the amount allocated for development is only Rs. 514 crore. In the last three years, not a paise has been given for their modernisation, even though those mills employ one lakh workers. The reply of the Government that in the last 3 years no money was provided for their modernisation is really unfortunate. Approximately a loss of Rs. 936 crores was suffered during the year 1999-2000. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is any provision to make certain mills operational after reviving or modernising it and number of such viable mills from which profit could be made after modernising them? Whether the hon'ble Minister would kindly tell the number of such mills?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon'ble Member has stated I have to say that no money was given for the modernisation in the last 3 years because 42 of the 119 NTC Mills are closed. Government intends to run those mills which can be run after modernisation and make agreement with the rest of the workers by giving them a suitable V.R.S. Modernisation Plan carried on till 1992-93 while Revival plan was formulated in 1992-93. For that purpose, money was to come from financial institutions, which didn't come and thus the plan failed. Next Revival Plan was formulated in 1995. Then revised Revival Plan was made in 1997. At present, we have formulated a pre-plan strategy Revival Plan to operate those mills which are operational. I hope that we will try to operate all those mills which can be made operational under this plan. At present, 24 mills out of 119 mills are working in full potential while 53 are working partially.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Whether it is a fact that the Government has requested financial assistance for only 34 mills out of 119 textile mills. Whether Cabinet has approved that amount and if not the time by which it is likely to be done? I would like to know the time by which the Government is going to arrange finance in order to make those 34 mills operational. Government is not willing to make those mills operational. I am telling the truth. Had there been will on the

part of the Government, then it is really unfortunate not to provide money for their modernisation in the last three years. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether Cabinet has given its approval for the revival of NTC mills or not.

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :** As I have said, Government has the will power, but we will modernise only those mills which can function. As far as the question of salary is concerned ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJO SINGH :** You have provided just Rs. two crores to Bihar.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Mr. Rajo Singh, this is not proper. Please sit down.

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member says that there are some mills which do not get money they ought to get. This is true only for B.I.C. mills and even in the case of those mills, Cabinet takes decision on giving ideal wages to the mill workers. We pay salary to all 88,246 workers even when the mills are closed. We sanctioned Rs. 436.79 crore for the salary in 1999-2000. It is not that we are not paying the salary — employees of all mills have been paid salary upto March.

**SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :** You did not reply whether, budgetary support has been provided or not.

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :** There is a provision for budgetary support in it. I have only said that the Cabinet takes decision about the three mills in Kanpur separately and that decision is always positive.

**SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Centre had received a proposal from the employees of NTC mills that some units of the NTC should be operated with the money generated by the sale of some other units. Since, biggest problem before the Government of India is that of money and if our workers are prepared to dispose some of its units and run a few units with that money I wish to know from the Government whether any such proposal is under consideration? If you have received any such proposal then what are the problems in its implementation?

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :** Information of the hon'ble Member is correct. Labour Ministry had formed a special tripartite Committee on this basis in 1995. It had recommended that the land of those mills which cannot be run should be sold and money thus received should be used in running viable mills. A revised revival plan was formulated in 1997 on this basis and a sum of Rs. 2005 crore were generated by disposing of lands of such mills in Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)* These lands are in Mumbai only and not in Maharashtra. Shri Mohan Rawale ji, I am talking about your city.

**SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :** Hon'ble Minister, please don't talk only about Rajasthan and Maharashtra, talk something about Uttar Pradesh, too.

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :** I am putting plain facts before you that a sum of Rs. 2005 crore were supposed to be generated by the sale of this land proceed but the Government of Maharashtra did not grant permission, even after requesting twice. Therefore, the Revival Plan could not be implemented.

**SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :** Whether the permission of Uttar Pradesh Government was received or not? ...*(Interruptions)* Whether the U.P. Government have also expressed some problems? ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :** I should be given an opportunity to clarify this point. In 1997, on the recommendations of the then Prime Minister, we had written letters to all Chief Ministers stating that if they are ready to accept the responsibility of the employees, we are ready to waive off all the dues, we were ready to give that, but there was no positive reply from Uttar Pradesh Government.

**SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :** What is your Revival Plan in regard to modernisation? An assurance was given in the House in 1994 that as long as modernisation does not take place, the people who remain idle and are capable of running a mill, should not be provided raw material, cotton and working capital from the Government. As long as modernisation does not take place, are you ready to provide them working capital? Hon'ble Finance Minister is also present here. Kindly reply to my question.

**12.00 hrs.**

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :** We also provide cotton through CCI to those mills which can function.

**SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :** It is not being given in Mumbai.

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER :** Let the Minister reply.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :** We also provide job work from outside to keep the mills running.

**SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :** It is given to the traders ...*(Interruptions)* Traders get benefit from that...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER :** What is this? You are not allowing the Minister to reply. Mr. Minister, you complete your reply.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : I have already stated that we provide cotton for those mills which can be run. No mill has ever had the shortage of money.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

##### Autonomy to Banks

\*665. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intend to provide greater autonomy to Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As indicated in the Budget speech for the year 2000-2001, necessary changes are proposed to be brought about in the concerned statutes to accord necessary flexibility and autonomy to the Boards of the banks.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

##### Disinvestment of PSUs

\*666. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is committed to disinvest the PSUs to make them more efficient and able to face the global competition; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of PSUs which are likely to be disinvested, the extent to which the disinvestment is proposed to be made and the response of the private 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Disinvestment in PSUs is to be done as per the declared policy of the Government for disinvesting in the generality of cases upto 74% or more equity in non-strategic PSUs. Disinvestment is carried out keeping in view various factors like market conditions, financial performance of the

company, views of the concerned Departments and the advice of the professional consultants. The nature and extent of disinvestment depends on these factors. The response of the private sector will be known when the bids for strategic sale of PSUs are called.

[English]

##### Purchase of Natural Rubber through STC

\*667. SHRI GEORGE EDEN :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the purchase of natural rubber from the rubber growers through State Trading Corporation in order to arrest the declining price of rubber and to help the rubber growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to save the rubber sector as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To arrest the declining price of rubber and to help the rubber growers to get a remunerative price for their produce, the Government of India through STC has made a market intervention to produce natural rubber on Government account. So far as STC has procured 30,623 MT of natural rubber and continues to procure natural rubber to meet the demands of user industries under Advance Licence.

(c) To enhance domestic demand for indigenous rubber, the Government of India (a) has banned the import of Natural Rubber under the Advance Licence Scheme w.e.f. 20.2.1999; (b) issued guidelines to the States/Union Territories for the use of rubber and polymer, modified bitumen for rubberisation of roads; and (c) prescribed a minimum c.i.f. value ceiling ranging from US \$ 25 to US \$ 175 on import of used/re-treaded tyres.

##### Production of Tea

\*668. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

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

(a) the production and export of tea during 1999-2000 in comparison to each of the last three years;

- (b) the consumption of tea within the country;
- (c) the gap between demand and production of tea in the country;
- (d) whether there has been a sharp decline in the export of tea during 1999-2000;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the foreign exchange earned from the export of tea and the loss of revenue, in term of rupee, due to fall in export of tea this year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Production, export and consumption of tea during the last four years were as follows :-

(figures in mn. kgs.)

Year	Production	Export	Consumption
1996-97	786.62	169.04	626
1997-98	834.88	211.26	636
1998-99	850.25	205.86	648
1999-2000	816.06	188.91	657

(c) The gap between demand and production of tea during 1999-2000 was (-) 29.85 m.kgs. However, taking into account the closing stock of the previous year, there was a surplus of 31.88 m.kgs. as on 30.3.2000.

(d) and (e) Export of tea declined by 16.95 m.kgs. during 1999-2000 compared to the exports during the previous year. The decline has been because of various factors such as stiff competition from other producing and exporting countries like Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia and Kenya; countries specific problem concerning Netherlands, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Turkey etc.

(f) The foreign exchange earned from the export of tea during 1999-2000 is estimated at Rs. 1795.36 crores which is Rs. 396.02 crores lower than the foreign exchange earned during the previous year.

[Translation]

#### Closure of Jute Organisation

\*669. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian jute industry is facing problems due to closure of International Jute Organisation located at Dhaka in the national capital of Bangladesh;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the losses being suffered by India on account of this;

(d) whether the Government are making any efforts for its revival;

(e) if not, whether the Government have initiated any move to float a new and alternative forum with the help of any other jute producing country; and

(f) if so, the outcome of the said move?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The International Agreement on Jute and Jute products 1989 was valid upto 12th April 2000. The provisions of the Agreement demanded that a successor agreement be negotiated before the expiry of the present agreement. European Union and its member countries declined to participate in the meeting convened by UNCTAD in March 2000 to negotiate a successor agreement.

Though a successor agreement was negotiated with the active participation of India, the present agreement could not be extended due to objections from the European Union and its member countries. Though, technically, the International Jute Organisation (IJO) has entered into a phase of liquidation, efforts are being made by member countries to agree upon an alternative format of International Co-operation in Jute and Jute Products. The liquidation phase extends upto a period of 18 months. A Special Session of the International Jute Council has been proposed in the last week of June 2000 to try and arrive at an acceptable format of International Co-operation.

In view of above, the question of Indian jute industry facing problems and losses due to the "closure" of International Jute Organisation does not arise at present.

(d) India has been playing a leading role in the effort to revive the International Jute Organisation ever since India rejoined this organisation in December 1999. India took the initiative in drafting a revised agreement and also made efforts to finalise a negotiated agreement in the UN conference on Jute and Jute products which concluded in Dhaka on 8th April 2000.

(e) and (f) In view of the Special Session of the International Jute Council convened during the last week of June 2000, there is no proposal to float any separate forum. The effort is to achieve a consensus on the format of the

agreement acceptable to majority of the jute exporting and importing countries.

#### Funds for Community Development

\*670. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to each subsidiary of Coal India Limited, especially Central Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited for community development and other developmental works during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of the works undertaken by each subsidiary, particularly by CCL and BCCL from the allocated funds during the above period and the details of the developmental works likely to be carried out during the current year; and

(c) the existing norms being followed by Coal India Limited for carrying out developmental works in the surrounding areas of the coal companies?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The funds allocated to each subsidiary of Coal India Limited including Central Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited for community development and other developmental works during the last three years and the budget proposed for the current year are as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Company	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (Proposed)
1	2	3	4	5
Eastern Coalfields Limited	72.00	65.00	65.00	100.00
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	80.00	102.00	116.00	117.00
Central Coalfields Limited	90.00	100.00	85.00	99.00
Western Coalfields Limited	72.00	72.00	74.00	74.00
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	150.00	300.00	251.00	265.00
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	545.00	640.00	400.00	400.00
Northern Coalfields Limited	82.00	81.00	101.00	100.00

1	2	3	4	5
North Eastern Coalfields	10.00	10.00	14.00	10.00
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited	60.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Total	1161.00	1360.00	1116.00	1175.00

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited, the accounts for the financial year 1999-2000 have not yet been finalised. The works proposed to be undertaken during the current financial year i.e. 2000-2001 are under finalisation by various welfare Committees in the subsidiary companies. However, the details of works undertaken by each subsidiary of Coal India Limited including CCL and BCCL during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under :

Company	Year	Items of Community Development works				
		Drinking Water	Education	Road/Culvert	Health	Miscellaneous
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ECL	1997-98	06	05	05	—	13
	1998-99	21	39	05	01	38
BCCL	1997-98	39	14	07	—	21
	1998-99	49	17	08	12	23
CCL	1997-98	03	03	03	03	12
	1998-99	24	45	14	10	42
WCL	1997-98	17	25	11	—	38
	1998-99	13	30	14	05	64
SECL	1997-98	32	35	21	02	47
	1998-99	43	44	17	17	48
NCL	1997-98	06	05	05	02	05
	1998-99	22	07	04	04	15
MCL	1997-98	23	49	10	03	24
	1998-99	—	—	—	—	—
NEC	1997-98	01	—	—	—	14
	1998-99	—	—	—	—	—
CMPDI	1997-98	—	01	—	01	—
	1998-99	—	01	—	—	—

(c) The policy of Coal India Limited has been to lay emphasis on improving the general environmental and ecological condition in and around the coalfields areas and accordingly community development/other development works in the surrounding areas of coalfields are carried out. Finalisation of action plan for community development and other development works are done through joint consultation through a Committee having representatives of Central Trade Unions and the Management.

[English]

#### Tax Evasion by MNCs

\*671. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of multinational companies are involved in tax evasion to the tune of hundreds of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of such MNCs and the amount of tax evaded by each of the MNCs;

(c) the *modus operandi* adopted by those MNCs in evasion of taxes; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against them including recovery of tax so evaded by each of the MNCs?

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

(b) The details of cases of evasion of central excise duty, customs duty and income tax by multinational companies, detected during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The means used for tax evasion include, clandestine removal of goods, under and over invoicing, misuse of modvat credit, misdeclaration of classification, misuse of exemption notifications, and concealment of income or furnishing of inaccurate particulars of income.

(d) Action taken includes issue of demand notices and attachment and sale of moveable and immovable properties for recovery of taxes, and imposition of fines, penalties and interest, as per law.

#### Statement

*Cases of evasion of Central Excise duty by MNCs detected in the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000*

Sl. No.	Name of the Multinational Company	Duty Evasion (Rs. In Crores)
1	2	3
1.	Hindustan Lever Limited, Aurgangabad	1.39

1	2	3
2.	Larsen and Toubro Limited, Bangalore	4.21
3.	British Health Products (I) Limited, Bhiwadi	4.87
4.	Allen Bradly India Limited, Sahibabad	1.09
5.	Bata India Limited	4.10
6.	Cadbury (I) Limited, Mumbai	1.19
7.	EID Parry (I) Limited	1.99
8.	Pennzoil India Limited	2.12
9.	Tide Water Oil (I) Limited	1.00
10.	Reckitt Coleman India Limited	1.50
11.	Indian Shaving Products Limited (Gillitte)	5.67
12.	Daewoo Motors Limited	2.00
13.	OTTO India Limited	3.20
14.	Fenner India Limited	1.30
15.	Pepsico (I) Holding Limited	3.65
16.	Pepsi Cola (India) Marketing Limited	3.00
17.	Johnson & Johnson Limited	5.50
18.	Larsen & Tubro	1.04
19.	Castrol India Limited	1.17
20.	ITC Limited	1.07
21.	Asea Brown Boveri Limited	3.53
22.	Mansanto Chemicals (I) Limited	3.56
23.	Hindustan Lever Limited	22.99
24.	Procter and Gamble (I) Limited	13.57
25.	Nestle India, Moga	2.64
26.	Bayer (India) Limited	1.25
27.	Voltas Limited	5.58
28.	Electrolux Kelvinator Limited	3.35
29.	Perfetti India Limited	4.68
30.	Hero Honda	1.72
31.	Sony India	2.07
32.	Hindustan Lever Limited, Rajpura	3.88
33.	Pepsi Foods Limited, Channo	3.66



1	2	3
34.	BTR Wadco Automotives Ltd., Sahibabad	1.40
35.	Nestle India, Pune	12.05
36.	German Remedies	2.61
37.	Novartis India Limited	2.35
38.	Carrier Aircon	1.85
	<b>Total</b>	<b>143.80</b>

*Cases of evasion of Customs duties by MNCs, detected in the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000*

S. No.	Name of the Multinational Company	Duty Evasion (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
1.	M/s. SEDCD Forex International Drilling Inc.	133.22
2.	M/s. Burroughs Welcome India Ltd.	0.03
3.	M/s. Johnson & Johnson India Ltd.	0.16
4.	M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited	5.76
5.	Ranbaxy Lab., Dewas	26.84
6.	M/s. Usha Martin	1.24
7.	M/s. Schlumberger Asia Services Ltd., Mumbai	2.10
8.	M/s. Halliburton Offshore Services Inc., Mumbai	0.69
9.	M/s. Phillips India Ltd., Mumbai	1.88
10.	M/s. Schlumberger Asia Services	0.95
11.	M/s. Hyundai Motor India Ltd.	44.40
12.	M/s. Emirates Trading Agency	1.60
13.	M/s. Seimens Public Communication Network Ltd.	2.57
14.	M/s. Sony India Pvt. Ltd.	457.65
15.	M/s. L.G. Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	0.36
16.	M/s. Sony India Ltd.	2.19
17.	M/s. Electrolux India Ltd.	0.24

1	2	3
18.	M/s. Hawlet Packard India Ltd.	2.64
19.	M/s. Maharaja International Ltd.	2.59
20.	M/s. Salora International	0.47
21.	M/s. Samsung India Ltd.	0.68
22.	M/s. AHP Manufacturing B.V.	0.31
23.	M/s. ABB Limited	62.00
24.	M/s. SBCH Limited	0.80
25.	M/s. SBCH	0.38
26.	M/s. P&G (I) Limited	5.08
27.	M/s. German Remedies	2.61
28.	M/s. Novartis	3.20
29.	M/s. Nestle (I) Ltd.	12.05
30.	M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd.	18.49
31.	M/s. Phillips (I) Ltd.	2.14
32.	M/s. Alfa Laval (I) Ltd.	1.17
33.	M/s. Honda Sael Cars (India) Limited	3.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>535.05</b>

*Cases of Income Tax Evasion by MNCs, during assessment years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99*

S. No.	Name of the MNC	Income Tax Evasion (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
<b>For concealment of Income –</b>		
1.	Gahileo International	42.11
2.	Amadeus Marketing S.A.	67.06
3.	Abacus Distribution System Pte. Ltd.	28.06
4.	American Airlines Inc.	37.95
5.	Sabre Group Inc.	126.32
6.	British Airways	12.22

1	2	3
7.	United Airways	1.24
8.	Japan Airlines	7.89
9.	Master Card International	18.93
10.	Visa International Services Association Co.	20 07
11.	Pan Amsat	52.10
12.	Asia Satellite Tele-communications Ltd.	195.70
13.	Intel Sat	17.80
14.	Shin Satellite Coy (P) Ltd.	10.26
15.	Inmarsat	15.67
16.	Nokia Network OY	119.82
17.	Ericsson Radio Systems AB	69.40
18.	Lucent Technologies Int. Inc.	125.87
19.	Motorola Inc.	50.09
20.	Siemens Inf. and Communication Network SPA (ITALTEL SPA)	1.69
21.	Metapath Software Intl. Ltd.	2.73
22.	Ashurst Morris Crisp	40.63
23.	Jones Day Reaves & Rogue	10.89
24.	Atlas Air inc.	8.72
25.	Turkmenistan Airlines	3.75
26.	Sheraton International Inc.	10.26
27.	Allied Signal Inc.	97.50
28.	Allied Signal international Inc.	3.20
29.	SOFEMA	25.08
30.	SWIFT	3.83
31.	Picker (India) Ltd.	2.51
32.	Perfetti S.P.A.	1.99
33.	Bentley Venture One LLC	1.25

1	2	3
34.	Skoda Exports Co. Ltd.	2.25
35.	ARB Inc. Ltd.	4.04
36.	Reuters India Ltd.	21.01
37.	Cray Research India Ltd.	1.05
38.	Caribjet Inc.	113.84
39.	Hoechst Marriou Roussel Ltd.	9.10
40.	Citicorp Securities & Investments Ltd.	2.92
41.	ABN Amro	29.04
42.	Bank of Tokyo	17.60
Total		1433.89

[Translation]

#### Foreign Investment in Distillery Sector

\*672. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether the opinion of the Attorney General has been sought with regard to foreign investment in the distillery sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received some foreign investment proposals in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Government had sought the opinion of the Attorney General of India, inter-alia, with regard to investment in the alcohol sector in India. The Attorney General of India opined that foreign collaborations fall within the exclusive domain of the Central Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposals are under examination.

[English]

#### Growth Rate of Capital Goods

\*673. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growth rate of capital goods, consumer durables, automobiles and cement industry has been steadily declining;

(b) If so, the growth rate during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) the reasons for decline; and

(d) the steps taken to boost the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The industrial growth rate during the last three years in respect of the different sectors are as follows :

Sectors	Weight	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1998-99 (April-Feb)	1999-2000 (April-Feb)
Overall	1000	12.7	5.6	6.6	4.0	3.8	7.9
Capital Goods	96.9	4.1	9.3	5.3	12.6	11.9	5.4
Consumer Durables	51.2	25.8	4.6	7.8	4.7	3.6	12.9
Cement all kinds	19.8913	6.7	8.2	13.1	5.8	5.2	15.0
Automobiles							
Passenger Cars	3.5795	26.2	20.7	-3.8	2.4	NA	48.5
Motorcycles	3.1970	25.3	22.6	9.8	22.7	NA	36.3
Scooters and Mopeds	4.8986	15.3	6.4	3.3	-5.0	NA	6.0

(c) In a dynamic economy, different segments of industry experience differential growth rates with the newer segments growing. Technological change and innovation takes place all the time. New products and/or processes replace the older ones. Some industries also follow a cyclical path and accordingly growth rate changes.

(d) The various measures to boost industrial growth, inter-alia, are deregulation of industry in terms of reduction in the number of Government approvals for setting up of industry, creating investor friendly environment for the infrastructure sector, introducing competition and rationalisation of tax structure, etc.

[Translation]

#### Economic Reforms

\*674. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of occasions when RBI has revised the interest rates of banks during the last three years;

(b) the extent to which the pace of economic

reforms has been accelerated due to constant decline in the rate of interest; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that each and every sector of the society is benefited through these economic reforms?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) With the rationalization and deregulation of interest rates, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not been prescribing interest rates of banks except in the case of interest rate on saving deposits and export credit. The interest rate on saving deposits which was at 4.5 percent per annum since November 1994 was reduced by RBI to 4 percent on April 1, 2000. The interest rate on export credit was revised by RBI on twelve occasions during the last three years. In April 1997, the Bank Rate was reactivated as signaling and reference rate. During the last three years the Bank Rate was revised by the Reserve Bank on nine occasions, including the latest reduction from 8 percent to 7 percent with effect from April 3, 2000.

(b) Though the aim has been to facilitate transition to a low interest rate regime, developments in financial markets both at home and abroad sometimes necessitate recourse to monetary policy measures, including hike in Bank Rate. Out of the nine occasions of Bank Rate revision cited above, on one occasion, i.e. on January 17, 1998, the

Bank Rate was raised from 9 percent to 11 percent in response to the developments in the external environment. However, RBI subsequently reviewed the monetary and credit situation, and the Bank Rate was reduced in phases to 9 percent with effect from April 29, 1998. Bank Rate was again reduced to 8 percent and 7 percent with effect from March 2, 1999 and April 3, 2000 respectively. Lower Bank Rate leads to lower cost of refinance, including export credit refinance, availed by banks from the Reserve Bank. Further, the reduction in the Prime Lending Rates (PLRs) of commercial banks following reduction in Bank Rate leads to lower cost of production and stimulates growth. As high economic growth depends on efficient functioning of financial markets and flexible interest rates, effective monetary management facilitates the growth process.

(c) As a sustained and broad-based growth of agriculture is essential for alleviating poverty, generating incomes and employment, assuring food security and sustaining a buoyant domestic market for industry and services, a wide array of initiatives have been taken to promote the flow of agricultural credit and strengthen the rural economy. All the public sector banks have been advised to prepare Special Agricultural Credit Plans. Aggregate disbursements under the plan increased from Rs. 14,808 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 17,788 crore in 1998-99. Other measures include promotional efforts to increase the issue of Kisan Credit Cards, enhanced allocation for Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), widening of the scope of RIDF to allow lending to Gram Panchayats, Self Help Groups, and other eligible organisations for implementing villages level infrastructure projects, provision of dwelling units in rural areas, especially for those below the poverty line, social security for the poor through the new group insurance scheme of "Janashree Bima Yojana" and empowerment of women.

[English]

#### Austerity Measures by DD

\*675. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Doordarshan has followed the instructions of the Government to adhere to the austerity measures to cut expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the result achieved during 1999-2000; and

(c) 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) to (c) Doordarshan has strived to economise its expenditure during 1999-2000. Expenditure during the financial year 1999-2000 was contained within the budgetary allocation. As a result, expenditure on office expenses, hospitality, motor vehicles and royalties has been less than the budgeted amounts.

#### World Bank Aid for North-Eastern Region

\*676. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approached the World Bank for more funds for infrastructural development in North-Eastern Region, particularly in the State of Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Government uses every opportunity to project proposals from the North-Eastern States to the World Bank as it does from other States. These proposals relate to all critical Sectors (including infrastructural development).

(b) The details of proposals under process in respect of North-Eastern Region (including Manipur) are given at Annexure A.

(c) Finalization of projects with the assistance of World Bank is an on-going process and at any given time there are some projects in the pipeline. These projects are at varying stages of obtaining Government of India clearances and consideration by the World Bank. The projects are being closely monitored.

#### Annexure A

S. No.	Projects	Central/State Sector	NE States Involved
1	2	3	4
1	3rd Technical Education	Multi-State	Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura, Nagaland

1	2	3	4
2	Assam Irrigation	State	Assam
3	Tripura Irrigation Schemes & Flood Management Work	State	Tripura
4	Burisuti Irrigation Scheme	State	Assam
5	Arunachal Pradesh Forestry	State	Arunachal Pradesh
6	Assam Forestry	State	Assam
7	Tripura Agriculture Development	State	Tripura
8	Mizoram State Road	State	Mizoram
9	Manipur State Road	State	Manipur
10	Tripura State Road	State	Tripura
11	Assam State Road	State	Assam

**Industrial Growth**

\*677. DR. GIRIJA VYAS :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether industrial growth during the current decade since liberalization of economy in 1991 is likely to fall considerably as compared to 1981-91;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of industrial growth;

(c) whether the industrial growth has gone down considerably during the second part of the current decade;

(d) if so, the year-wise fall during these years;

(e) the main reasons to which this fall in growth is attributed; and

(f) the effective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The comparative figures of industrial growth as measured by the index of industrial production between the period 1981-82 to 1991-92 and 1992-93 to 1999-2000 is given below :

Period	Average industrial growth rate (%)
1981-82 to 1991-92	7.01
1992-93 to 1999-2000	6.69*

\*Average based on April-February data on industrial growth rate for the year 1999-2000.

Source : Central Statistical Organization.

(c) No, Sir. The average industrial growth rate in the second part of the nineties was 6.02% compared to 4.72% during the first half of the nineties.

(d) The year to year industrial growth rate since 1995-96 till 1999-2000 (April-Feb) is given below :

Year	Growth Rate (%)
1995-96	12.7
1996-97	5.6
1997-98	6.6
1998-99	4.0
1999-2000 (April-Feb)	7.9

(e) The slow down in the growth rate of industrial production from 1996-97 to 1998-99 is attributable to a number of events, which followed in quick succession. The securities scam led to flight of capital from equity, leading to reduced investment. This was followed by the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997-98 which led to severe competition from exports from the East Asian countries whose currencies experienced massive devaluation. According to RBI, the poor growth in the industrial production during 1998-99 was partly due to the decline in agricultural production in 1997-98 and reduction in Central Plan outlay.

(f) The measures to boost industrial growth rate principally relate to creating an investor friendly environment by deregulation and decontrol of industry. Various fiscal incentives have been given and interest rates reduced. Investment is sought to be attracted particularly into infrastructure sectors such as roads, telecom, power and insurance.

This will ensure that infrastructure does not remain a bottleneck for industrial growth.

The upturn in industrial production in 1999-2000 suggests that the macro economic environment that has been put in place is achieving the desired results.

#### **Strategic Sale of PSUs**

\*678. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified some Public Sector Undertakings for strategic sale during the current year;

(b) if so, the names of PSUs which are likely to be sold and to whom;

(c) the stake proposed to be sold of these PSUs;

(d) the number of shares so far sold, till date and at what rate, PSU wise; and

(e) the extent to which the disinvestment of these PSUs is likely to help the economy of the country?

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 (c) Disinvestment is a continuous process and many PSEs remain under consideration of the Government for disinvestment. Disinvestment is carried out in a Public Sector Enterprises after considering various factors like market conditions, financial performance of the company, the advice of the professional consultants and views of the concerned Ministries. Under the circumstances, it is not possible to name any PSEs for disinvestment in a specified time frame.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

(e) The Government disinvestment policy is aimed at optimum utilization of capital, better corporate governance, reduction in commercial risks of taxpayer's money, release of scarce resources for deployment in social sectors like Family Welfare, Health and Education and other sectors of greater public interest. This would be in the overall interest of the economy.

#### **Statement**

*PSU-wise percentage of disinvestment and present Government share holding*

S. No.	Name of the PSE	As on 30/4/2000	
		Percentage of Disinvestment	Percentage of Government holding
1	2	3	4
1.	Andrew Yule	9.60	62.84**
2.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	39.19*	60.81

1	2	3	4
3.	Bharat Electronic Ltd.	24.14	75.86
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	32.28	75.86
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	33.80	66.20
6.	Bongaigaon Refineries & Petro Chem. Ltd.	25.54	74.46
7.	CMC Ltd.	16.69	83.31
8.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	6.12	55.04**
9.	Container Corp. of India Ltd.	36.92	63.08
10.	Dredging Corp. of India Ltd.	1.44	98.56
11.	Engineers India Ltd.	5.98	94.02
12.	Fert. & Chem. (Travancore) Ltd.	1.70	97.38**
13.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	32.66	67.34
14.	HMT Ltd.	8.44	91.56
15.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	1.04	98.96
16.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	1.24	98.76
17.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	41.39*	58.61
18.	Hindustan Petroleum Ltd.	48.94*	51.06
19.	Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.	9.87	90.13
20.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	24.08	75.92
21.	Indian Oil Corp. Ltd.	17.85	82.03
22.	Indian Petro Chemicals Corp. Ltd.	40.05*	59.95
23.	IRCON International Ltd.	0.27	99.73
24.	Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.	22.98	76.67**
25.	India Tourism & Dev. Corp.	10.03	89.97
26.	Kudremukh Iron & Ore Comp. Ltd.	1.00	99.00
27.	Madras Refineries Ltd.	16.92	53.80**
28.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	43.80*	56.20

1	2	3	4
29.	Minerals & Metal Trading Corp. Ltd.	0.67	99.33
30.	National Aluminium Ltd.	12.85	87.15
31.	National Fertilizers Ltd.	2.35	97.65
32.	National Mineral Dev. Corp. Ltd.	1.62	96.36**
33.	Nayveli Lignite Corp.	6.01	93.99
34.	Oil & Natural Gas Corp.	16.36	83.64
35.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fert. Ltd.	7.50	92.50
36.	Shipping Corp. of India Ltd.	19.88	80.12
37.	State Trading Corp.	8.97	91.03
38.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	14.18*	85.82
39.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	47.04	52.96
40.	Modern Foods Industries Ltd.	74.00	26.00

\*Including dilution of Government Share holding by Public Issue/GDR Issue.

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

#### **Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Handloom Development**

\*679. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of centrally sponsored schemes being implemented for the development and promotion of handloom industry in the country;

(b) the details of financial provisions made there-under during the last three year, State-wise;

(c) the details of the achievements made under such schemes indicating the number of handlooms functioning in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the details of problems being faced by the

handloom weavers and the action taken by the Government to mitigate their problems?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The details of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented for the development and promotion of handloom industry in the country and financial provisions made thereunder during the last three years are given in statement-I. The financial provisions are not made state-wise. However, on receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments, financial assistance is released under these schemes.

(c) The details of funds released under Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented for the development of handloom industry, during the last three years, are given in statement-II. The details of handlooms functioning in different States is not monitored by the Central Government on a regular basis. However, number of looms functioning, State-wise, according to the available information is given in statement-III.

(d) The problems faced by the handloom weavers differ from State to State and mostly pertain to availability of quality raw material, product development, marketing and credit facilities etc. In order to solve these problems, the Central Government has implemented various developmental and welfare schemes/programmes as given in statement-I.

#### **Statement-I**

##### *Details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes Implemented for development and promotion of Handloom Industry in the Country*

1. **Project Package Scheme** : The Scheme was introduced in the year 1991-92 with an objective to provide the requisite input in an integrated and coordinated manner to the handloom weavers. The funding under the scheme is on the basis of 50:50 between the Central and State Government/Implementing Agency. In case of North Eastern States and implementing agencies having 100% women, the funding is on 75:25 between the Central Government and State/Implementing Agency. A financial provision of Rs. 104.86 crores was made under the scheme during the last three years.

2. **Workshed Cum Housing Scheme** : The Scheme was introduced with the objective to provide a dwelling unit and suitable work place to weavers to improve their productivity and earnings. The assistance under the scheme for Rural Workshed is Rs. 7,000/- and for Urban Rs. 10,000/-. For Rural Workshed-cum-House, the assistance is Rs. 18,000/- and for Urban Rs. 20,000/-. A financial provision of Rs. 38.06 crores was made under the scheme during last three years.

3. **Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme :** In order to give substantial impetus to the export of handloom fabrics, made-ups and other handloom items from the country, Scheme for development of Exportable products and their Marketing was introduced in 1995-96. A financial provision of Rs. 12.35 crores was made under the scheme during last three years.

4. **Market Development Assistance Scheme :** With a view to ensure continuous production and employment in the handloom sector and to avoid periodic accumulation of stocks with the aid of rebated sale, the scheme of Market Development Assistance was introduced in the year 1989-90. A financial provision of Rs. 90.69 crores was made under the scheme during last three years.

5. **Group Insurance Scheme :** Group Insurance Scheme was introduced in order to meet the socio-economic

obligation of weavers towards his family and the uncertainty of his working capacity in old age. A financial provision of Rs. 6.75 crores was made under the scheme during last three years.

6. **New Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers :** In order to provide relief to handloom weavers, a New Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers was introduced in the year 1997-98 through United India Insurance. The New Insurance Scheme provides enhanced coverage against various types of risk at the same premium of Rs. 120/-. The share of Central Government has been increased from Rs. 40/- per annum to Rs. 60/- per annum and consequently the financial burden on handloom weavers towards payment of premium has reduced from Rs. 40/- per annum to Rs. 20/- per annum. A financial provision of Rs. 1.15 crores was made under the scheme during last three years.

#### Statement-II

*State-wise funds released under Centrally Sponsored Scheme during last three years*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of States	Workshed cum Housing Scheme			Project Package Scheme			Group Insurance Scheme		
		97-98	98-99	99-2000	97-98	98-99	99-2000	97-98	98-99	99-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Arunachal Pradesh	50.31	—	72.08	—	28.90	39.90	—	—	—
2	Andhra Pradesh	146.54	280.39	340.20	610.64	782.68	479.59	—	16.80	16.00
3	Assam	39.59	38.78	59.18	765.85	1052.40	591.47	—	1.50	1.50
4	Bihar	—	—	—	36.75	8.50	8.85	—	—	—
5	Gujarat	—	—	—	3.60	10.99	19.35	—	—	0.97
6	Haryana	—	—	—	10.89	1.08	4.00	—	—	—
7	Himachal Pradesh	—	22.93	22.93	79.13	35.26	34.16	—	—	—
8	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	159.74	54.18	28.55	—	—	—
9	Karnataka	53.70	116.47	—	51.14	16.85	20.95	—	—	20.00
10	Kerala	—	90.00	—	518.95	233.68	68.80	—	—	—
11	Madhya Pradesh	200.00	—	—	84.48	50.26	78.40	2.92	0.50	—
12	Maharashtra	28.39	124.04	0.95	54.35	14.78	5.03	—	—	—
13	Manipur	—	66.00	127.50	—	111.40	237.95	—	—	—
14	Mizoram	—	13.60	—	20.00	10.00	7.50	—	—	—



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	Nagaland	352.25	44.00	150.00	572.06	214.19	189.14	—	—	—
16	Orissa	90.36	88.54	180.00	69.08	126.55	198.53	—	—	—
17	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	Punjab	—	—	—	—	5.10	9.40	—	—	—
19	Rajasthan	120.50	—	92.24	2.50	34.05	92.99	—	—	—
20	Tamil Nadu	110.06	248.72	199.92	419.03	252.53	121.38	33.69	37.44	36.67
21	Tripura	14.05	—	—	9.50	11.25	66.75	—	—	—
22	Uttar Pradesh	—	20.00	—	419.27	610.96	644.51	—	—	—
23	West Bengal	96.25	—	—	55.80	56.74	150.52	3.00	2.63	2.77
24	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	Meghalaya	—	5.53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26	Sikkim	—	100.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		1302.00	1259.00	1245.00	3942.76	3722.33	3097.72	39.61	58.87	77.91

*State-wise funds released under Centrally Sponsored Scheme during last three years*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of States	New Insurance Scheme			Development of exportable products and their marketing scheme			MDA Scheme		
		97-98	98-99	99-2000	97-98	98-99	99-2000	97-98	98-99	99-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	Andhra Pradesh	32.98	12.28	15.19	14.00	—	14.72	37.57	66.27	450.31
3	Assam	—	—	0.25	—	27.00	4.40	81.76	33.04	50.22
4	Bihar	—	2.34	3.59	—	—	—	—	14.29	5.76
5	Gujarat	—	2.79	2.63	12.50	—	—	63.81	103.27	21.04
6	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	25.84	43.47	116.59
7	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	25.00	56.25	36.81	58.01	42.14
8	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	8.75	—	2.64	183.84	47.96	34.94
9	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	244.08	40.00	102.52
10	Kerala	3.00	—	—	11.00	—	—	319.46	761.06	308.49
11	Madhya Pradesh	—	2.55	1.83	27.75	—	7.50	278.25	81.30	99.59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50.45	—
13	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.74
14	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	7.48	—	—	—
15	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.77	—
16	Orissa	—	18.00	—	—	—	7.50	290.00	78.93	223.47
17	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.76	28.53	57.80
18	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	13.25	35.22	—	—
19	Rajasthan	—	1.68	1.36	—	—	—	60.34	8.02	11.99
20	Tamil Nadu	—	0.36	—	13.50	21.50	13.13	788.00	1294.20	700.00
21	Tripura	—	—	0.14	—	5.00	—	18.10	5.94	18.02
22	Uttar Pradesh	0.29	—	—	58.78	9.00	37.75	319.50	107.29	125.66
23	West Bengal	—	—	—	35.50	8.35	36.00	365.92	411.73	400.00
24	Delhi	—	—	—	—	8.75	8.25	123.24	71.47	135.09
25	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		36.27	40.00	24.99	179.78	104.60	208.87	3273.50	3306.00	2904.37

**Statement-III***Number of Handlooms functioning in the country*

S.No.	States	No. of Looms
1	2	3
1	Arunachal Pradesh	183093
2	Andhra Pradesh	35626
3	Assam	1199878
4	Bihar	40532
5	Delhi	5818
6	Goa	14
7	Gujarat	17387
8	Haryana	17398
9	Himachal Pradesh	46876

1	2	3
10	Jammu & Kashmir	16595
11	Karnataka	60344
12	Kerala	38060
13	Madhya Pradesh	17788
14	Maharashtra	35542
15	Manipur	267470
16	Nagaland	83305
17	Orissa	78667
18	Pondicherry	2924
19	Punjab	5460
20	Rajasthan	30336
21	Tamil Nadu	360474

1	2	3
22	Tripura	116078
23	Uttar Pradesh	157666
24	West Bengal	319807
Total		3137138

#### **Fashion T.V. Channel**

\*680. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the fashion programmes being telecast by Fashion-TV Channel, containing see-through dresses and semi-nude depiction of women;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to curb beaming of such obscene shows;

(c) whether instructions are likely to be issued by the Government to the local Cable TV operators not to give connections to such Channel in their satellite connection;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Fashion TV channel is uplinked from foreign soil. Therefore, its telecast does not fall within the purview of Indian laws. However, distribution of such channels through cable networks is subject to provisions of Cable Television Networks Act. The Programme code specified in the rules under the Act prohibits denigration of women. Obscenity is also punishable under the Indian Penal Code. Under both such provisions local officers have the jurisdiction to initiate action for prosecution with the Courts.

Government proposes to bring before the Parliament a comprehensive legislation which will inter-alia provide for regulatory mechanism for various aspects of broadcasting.

#### **Selling of Poison-Laced Shirts by NIKE**

7183. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether NIKE, an MNC has been accused of selling poison laced shirts in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No such accusation has been brought to the notice of Government.

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

#### **Cotton Technology Mission**

7184. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the present dimensions of Technology Mission on Cotton;

(b) the dimensions of this mission after five and ten years;

(c) the number of market yards in cotton growing States;

(d) which is the latest modern cotton market yard in the country;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide more facilities and infrastructure to other cotton market yards;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton for a period of three years from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. The mission comprises four mini missions with objectives of 'research', 'dissemination of technology to farmers', 'improvement in marketing infrastructure' and 'modernisation of ginning and pressing factories'.

(c) There are about 4000 market yards (including sub-yards) in 9 (nine) major and 2 (two) minor cotton growing states in the country.

(d) Raichur market yard in Karnataka may be considered as a modern cotton market yard considering the facilities and infrastructure available in the market yard.

(e) to (g) Mini Mission III of the Cotton Technology

Mission relates to improvement in marketing infrastructure, inter alia, includes activation of dormant market yard, improvement of existing market yard and construction of new market yard.

#### **Joint Meeting on Non-payment of CBAS**

7185. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from All India Texturisers' Association regarding non-payment of Central Backward Area Subsidy and non-payment of interest on delayed payment to several Small Scale Industry units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to convene a joint meeting to discuss the subsidy issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) The Government have received representations from the All India Texturisers' Association regarding non payment of subsidy and interest on delayed payment thereof to certain units located in the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu which have gone into production on 31.12.1989, under the erstwhile Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, 1971.

After the cessation of the Scheme on 30.9.1988, certain units which were denied subsidy had gone in appeal before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Apex Court in its order dated 5.12.1995 directed that all applications filed upto 30.9.1988, may be considered for the grant of subsidy provided applications were complete under the erstwhile Scheme.

All pending cases are now being settled in terms of guidelines set forth in the Apex Court order dated 5.12.1995.

The request of the Association for payment of subsidy to the units which have gone into production on 31.12.1989 is outside the purview of settled law. As regards payment of interest in delayed cases, no such provision existed under the erstwhile Scheme. No purpose will, therefore, be served by holding a Joint Meeting.

#### **Merger of Industrial Development and Industrial Policy and Promotion**

7186. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Industrial Development has been merged with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the saving that would be effected by this merger;

(d) the manner in which the inter-se seniority list of staff in both the Departments are to be decided and whether the interest of DID employees are to be protected; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The items of work handled by erstwhile Department of Industrial Development stand transferred to Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

(c) Extent of saving by way of rightsizing the Department will become evident after assessment of staff strength for the reorganized department.

(d) and (e) The cadres of the erstwhile Department of Industrial Development and the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion being common, there will be no implications on inter-se seniority of the employees.

[Translation]

#### **Banks of UAE**

7187. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some major U.A.E. banks are planning to start their business in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB) is also included in these banks;

(d) if so, the areas where the ADIB propose to start its business; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have no information whether some major UAE banks are planning to start their business in India.

(c) RBI have reported that no request from Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB) has been received by them.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Closing of Some Departments under the Ministry**

7188. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to close down some of the departments under his ministry in the near future;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of employees?

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

(b) The erstwhile Department of Industrial Development has been merged with the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion as part of rightsizing the Government.

(c) The cadres of the erstwhile Department of Industrial Development and the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion being common, there will be no implications on inter-se seniority of the employees.

#### Gold Deposit Scheme

7189. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of gold deposited under recently launched Gold Deposit Scheme in various public sector banks, as on date and the amount of interest paid on it, bank-wise;

(b) whether the gold deposited under the scheme fall short of the target;

(c) if so, the main reasons for lackluster performance of the scheme; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to mobilize the private held gold to curtail import of the yellow metal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The amount of gold deposited under the Gold Deposit Scheme in various banks which have launched the scheme, as on 30th April 2000, is given below :

State Bank of India	3871.15 Kgs
Corporation Bank	116.85 Kgs
Indian Overseas Bank	34.85 Kgs
Allahabad Bank	9.50 Kgs

As regards payments of interest, the designated bank shall pay interest at such rate and at such intervals as it may decide, subject to the interest rate directive on gold deposits issued by the Reserve Bank of India. As on 31st March 2000, the State Bank of India had paid Rs. 66.03 lakhs as interest to the depositors under the scheme.

(b) and (c) No targets were fixed under the scheme. This is a new scheme and the response so far has been encouraging.

(d) The Scheme was launched by the Government with a view to bringing privately held gold in circulation, reducing the country's reliance on import of gold and providing its owners with some income. The interest on the deposit certificates is exempt from income tax, the appreciation in gold is exempt from capital gains tax and deposits are free from wealth tax.

[Translation]

#### Loan Assistance to Farmers in Bihar

7190. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has formulated any scheme to provide loan assistance to the paddy, wheat, onion growers of Bihar as these crops were largely damaged by pests in the State;

(b) if so, whether a delegation from RBI has held talk with the State Government officials in Bihar regarding probable relief measures for affected farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which RBI/Government has given assistance to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that they have not received any information regarding crop damage by pests in Bihar. However, there are standing guidelines of RBI to banks for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities without awaiting instructions from RBI each time. These guidelines envisage conversion of short term production loans into medium term loans, rescheduling/postponement of existing term loan instalments, provision of additional need-based crop loans/working capital, relaxation in security and margin norms, etc.

[English]

#### Export of Agricultural Products

7191. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

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

(a) the quantum and value of Indian agricultural products exported during the last three years;

(b) the countries to which exported during the above period; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to boost the export of agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The value of total agro items exported including marine products, tea, coffee, castor oil and cotton including waste during the last three years is as below :-

1997-98	Rs. 24626.16 crores
1998-99	Rs. 25224.63 crores
1999-2000 (April-Dec)	Rs. 18207.80 crores

Source : DGCI&S

The details of quantity & value of each of the agricultural products and the countries to which exported during the last three years are available in monthly/annual number of foreign trade statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) The steps being taken to boost the export of agricultural products include :

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow to farmers through demonstrations, training and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers.
2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernisation of processing units.
3. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for eliminating pest incubation in the product especially the mangoes for gaining access to overseas markets.
4. Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and select fresh fruits and vegetables.

5. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

6. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and such as cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as flowers, fresh fruits and vegetables.

7. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.

8. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination & ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.

#### Closure of MAMC

7192. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to close down Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd., Durgapur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the effect on Small Scale Industries as a result thereof;

(d) whether some quarters, guest house and Auditorium of the company are not utilised by the Management;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the Voluntary Separation Scheme is applicable to the hospital staff of MAMC; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) MAMC is a sick company and referred to BIFR. BIFR after considering all aspects has issued a show cause notice on 11.1.1995 for winding up of the company which has been stayed by the Calcutta High Court.

(d) and (e) Infrastructure of the company like quarters, guest house and auditorium are being utilised as per requirement. The usages of these facilities has come down in the face of reduced employee strength and low level of operations.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The Voluntary Separation Scheme was introduced from 1.12.1998 to 31.05.1999 and was applicable to all employees of MAMC including hospital staff.

#### Textile and Apparel Parks

7193. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals to set up Textile Apparel Parks have been received by the Union Government from the State Governments;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Government had written to certain State Governments about the need for establishing Apparel Parks in important garment producing states. Some State Governments including State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have shown interest in establishing Textile and Apparel Parks in their respective States. The concrete proposals are yet to be received.

#### Coal Handling Plant in WCL

7194. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the W.C.L. has constructed coal handling plant in 1980 at Wony near Chandrapur District and Kahanan in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the amount spent on the construction of these plants; and

(c) the quantity of coal handled through these platforms so far, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No coal handling plant was constructed in 1980 at Wani area near Chandrapur of Kahanan in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) In view of the reply to part 'a' above, question does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Expansion of DD II Programmes

7195. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the programmes of DD-2 are being telecast by the Doordarshan in Delhi and other main metropolitan cities only;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to expand the coverage of the said channel;

(c) if so, the time by which the said channel is likely to be telecast at State level; 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 ARUNJAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Programmes of DD-2 are available throughout the country via satellite and can be received by using an appropriate dish antenna. For terrestrial transmission of DD-2 programmes, Doordarshan is at present operating 61 transmitters spread all over the country. For further expansion of DD-2 coverage, 38 transmitter projects are under implementation. These projects are expected to be completed during the Ninth Plan period.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Task Force to Study Problems of Tea Industry

7196. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken by the Government to set up a task force to study the problems of the Tea Industry and to recommend solutions of these problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this task force has been set up;

(d) if so, the date by which it was set up alongwith the details of its composition; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

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

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### DFP in Andhra Pradesh

7197. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the locations of offices of Directorate of Field Publicity in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more such units in other districts of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the offices likely to be set up in Andhra Pradesh during the Ninth Plan period?

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 locations of the existing Field Publicity Units of the Directorate of Field Publicity in the State of Andhra Pradesh are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No new offices are proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh during the Ninth Plan period.

#### Statement

*Locations of the existing Field Publicity Units  
of the Directorate of Field Publicity in  
the State of Andhra Pradesh*

S.No.	Location
1.	Hyderabad
2.	Warangal
3.	Kakinada
4.	Srikakulam
5.	Guntur
6.	Medak
7.	Nizamabad
8.	Cuddapah
9.	Kurnool
10.	Nellore
11.	Nalgonda
12.	Visakhapatnam

#### Interest Rate on Small Saving and PPF

7198. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds mobilised through small savings and Public Provident Fund have risen by 17% during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional profit likely to be earned in a year due to the reduction in interest rate on small savings and PPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The increase in gross collections was approximately 36% during 1997-98, 20% during 1998-99 and 23% during 1999-2000 (upto February, 2000) over the corresponding periods of the previous years. Figures pertaining to 1999-2000 are provisional.

(c) Any savings on account of reduction in rate of interest to the subscribers would be countered to some extent by a reduction in the interest receipts on account of transfers of net collections to State/Union Territory Governments, due to the concomitant decision to reduce the interest rate on these transfers also by 1%.

#### Unsafe Mines

7199. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Apex Monitoring Committee headed by the Chairman of Coal India Ltd. declared 40 sites in Asansol Sub-Division in West Bengal as unsafe for human habitation in 1990 because of the vacuum created by illegal mining;

(b) if so, the steps taken for stabilization, shifting and rehabilitation;

(c) whether a large stretch of land near GT Road in Benali caved-in on 28th January, 2000; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the above fall outs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) The Apex Monitoring Committee constituted by the Chairman, CIL and headed by Shri H.B. Ghose Ex-CMD, CMPDI carried out the study of the available details between 1990-92 in respect of the unstable areas in Raniganj coalfield and listed 49 locations which were considered to be unstable and potentially unsafe for human habitation. The places identified as unstable within the course of the above study relate to the old and abandoned workings which had been made prior to nationalisation and were not due to vacuum created by illegal mining.

(b) Since 1990, efforts have been made for stabilising some of these identified locations by filling sand using



a novel method known as 'Hydro-Pneumatic' sand stowing. This process is in use for stabilisation at the following locations.

1. Arun Talkies - In Raniganj Municipal area
2. Kumar Bazar - In Raniganj Municipal area
3. Haripur village - In Jamuria Municipal area
4. Barakar village - In Asansol Municipal Corporation area
5. Fatepur village - In Asansol Municipal Corporation area

However, the process of stabilisation by Hydro-Pneumatic stowing is slow.

A scheme for rehabilitation for four unstable localities had also been prepared in 1998 for a total cost of Rs. 32.52 crores and was approved by Government of India. However, the progress of implementation of this scheme is not satisfactory because of reluctance of the affected people to agree to shift to the identified safe locations.

(c) and (d) An area of about 15M X 18M east of ECL residential complex and Benali VTC and 800 metres north of G.T. Road, subsided at about 9.30 A.M. on 26-1-2000. The spot was dozed in presence of local police. Information of the incident was sent to DGMS and other senior officers of local Govt. administration. The subsidence took place due to illegal mining by making a number of "well" type pits in the outcrop region and not through any abandoned incline or pit of ECL.

#### Retirement Age

7200. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the burden on the Government in 2000-2001 on account of deferred retirement of Central Government employees whose retirement age was raised in 1998-99 during the current year; and

(b) how the deferred retirement liabilities are proposed to be tackled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) At the time of raising retirement age in 1998-99, an annual saving of Rs. 5200 crores was estimated on account of deferred retirement of Central Government employees. In Budget 2000-2001, a provision of Rs. 15,843 crores has been made on account of payment of pension and other retirement benefits. This covers both the old as well as the new retirees including Defence Services and non-commercial

departments. In respect of commercial departments, the provision for the purpose has been made as part of their operating expenses.

#### Gold Reserves/Production

7201. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) the location-wise details of mines where gold mining process is going on at present;

(b) the feasibility of gold available in these mines;

(c) the number of gold reserves discovered in the country during the last three years, State-wise and location-wise;

(d) the total production of gold during the same period;

(e) whether India is self sufficient in meeting the gold demand of the country;

(f) If so, the details thereof and if not, the steps being taken by the Government to extract more gold from the gold mines;

(g) the number of gold mines closed down during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the import of gold is cheaper than the gold produced in the country; and

(i) if so, the details thereof and the comparative figure of per ten gram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) As on 31.3.2000, the gold mines in the country where mining had been carried out were as follows :

	State	District	Name of the mine(s)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Chigargunta Old Bisanatham
2.	Karnataka	Kolar Raichur	Nunddyroog Hutti and Uti

(b) Feasibility of extracting gold from mines is governed by the techno-economic situation including the market price.

(c) In the last three years, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has estimated nine gold reserves whose location statewide are as follows :

- i) Dona East block, Kumool District, Andhra Pradesh.
- ii) Chikkanahalli South block, Chitradurga District, Karnataka.
- iii) Imaliya block, Jabalpur District, Madhya Pradesh.
- iv) Bhimsain-Killa Pahar area, Maharashtra.
- v) Parsori West block, Maharashtra.
- vi) Marupar-Kitari area, Maharashtra.
- vii) Puttumala and Kottathara blocks, Attapadi Valley, Kerala.
- viii) Bhukia (East) block, Banswara District, Rajasthan.
- ix) Tinsanmata (East) block, Banswara District, Rajasthan.

(d) The total gold production in the country as reported by Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML), and Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) (which produces gold as by product), during the three last years was as follows :

(In kilogram)	
1997-98	2865
1998-99	2901
1999-2000	3108 (provisional)

(e) and (f) There are no firm estimates of demand and consumption of gold in the country. However India is no self sufficient in gold. Possibility of increasing indigenous gold production from the existing mines depends on the economic feasibility of mining.

(g) No gold mine in the country has been closed under the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 in the last three years. However, from time to time mining operations in specific mines have been suspended due to economic considerations.

(h) and (i) The cost of production of 10 gram of gold by BGML during 1999-2000 was Rs. 20,406 (provisional) while the price of 10 gram of gold (which includes imported gold) ranges between 4300-4500.

[Translation]

#### Telecasting of Cricket by Buddha Films

7202. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the right for domestic telecast of cricket matches on Doordarshan has been awarded to a private company named 'Buddha Films';

(b) whether any contract has been signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the policy of the Government to award the contract;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the 'Buddha Films' is owned by private TV Channels-Zee TV; and

(f) if so, the reasons for awarding the contract to this company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has the exclusive telecast rights of cricket events organised by BCCI in India till September, 2004. However, it has entered into an agreement with M/s. Buddha Films Ltd. for marketing of airtime on telecast of these events. It is likely to generate a revenue of Rs. 450 crores from domestic telecasting.

(d) Prasar Bharati have intimated that the marketing of cricketing and other major events on DD are awarded to a private company through a bid process which is open for all to participate. If they fulfil the terms and conditions as mentioned in the bid document, the contracts are awarded to highest bidder for marketing of the events on Doordarshan.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The company was awarded the marketing rights because it was the highest bidder and it fulfilled all the terms and conditions of the bid document.

[English]

#### Export of Marine Products

7203. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) total earning to the Government from the export of marine products during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are satisfied with the earnings;

(c) If not, the steps proposed to be taken to increase the earnings; and

(d) the benefits provided to the marine product exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total earnings of India on account of export of marine products, during the last three years, as against the target set, have been as follows :

(US\$ Million)

Year	Total Earnings	Export Target
1999-2000	1184.23 (Provisional)	1216.00
1998-1999	1106.91	1350.00
1997-1998	1295.86	1200.00

(b) to (d) During the year 1997-98 the export of marine products exceeded the target set for the year, the target could not be achieved during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000. On the other hand, exports grew during the year 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97 by 12.41%, declined by 14.58% as compared to the year 1997-98 and have grown by 6.99% in the year 1999-2000 as compared to the year 1998-99. As such, the exports of marine products have not maintained, over the last few years, a consistent pattern of growth. 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 include, inter-alia, implementation of schemes for procurement of equipment used by the processing industry, development of new prawn farms, authorising MPEDA to conduct a market research in respect of US market, participating in seafood related fairs abroad, conducting market survey in the market of China, South Korea and Taiwan, conducting demonstration programmes for propagating eco-friendly aquaculture, laying thrust upon diversified aquaculture, approving a project for identifying the problems aimed at containing disease in shrimp farms, 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.

#### **Non-Payment of Wages and PF in Employees of PSUs**

7204. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are large number of Public Sector Undertakings which have not paid wages, Provident Fund and pension to their employees for the last some months;

(b) If so, the names of such PSUs with details of payment still outstanding including total amount of liability, PSU-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some remedial measures in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) There are some public sector enterprises which have defaulted in timely payment of wages and statutory dues like provident fund, pension etc. to their employees.

(b) The details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Government have reconstituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to examine and recommend to the Government inter-alia on the issue of payment of outstanding wages and statutory dues.

#### **Rules and Regulations for Cable Operators**

7205. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any general rules and regulations for Cable Operators in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether big groups who control the cable operation are allowed to use the electric post which is denied for the small cable TV operators;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether the pay channels increasing their charge frequently;

(f) if so, the reasons therefore;

(g) whether the Government have no control over the Pay Channels; and

(h) if so, 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 operation of cable television networks in the country are regulated under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable TV Networks Rule, 1994.

(c) and (d) These matters fall within the purview of local authorities of the State Governments and the Central Government is not empowered to decide on such issues.

(e) and (f) The subscription fee charged by private TV pay channels from cable operators is a matter between private parties and Government is not involved in the transaction.

(g) and (h) Pay channels, uplinked from outside the country, when transmitted through cable television networks are required to adhere to the programme and advertisement code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks Rule, 1994.

[Translation]

#### Film Series on Environment

7206. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the film series of environment and forest is proposed to be telecast on Doordarshan regularly;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be telecast; and

(c) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following programmes have already been telecast :-

(i) Programme 'Forest of India' in four parts series was telecast during 1999-2000.

(ii) Programme 'Prakriti Ek Nazar' was telecast at 4.30-5.30 p.m. slot during 1999-2000.

(iii) Programme 'Terri Quiz' telecast during 1999-2000 (Sponsored category) on DD-II (Quiz).

Following programmes are proposed to be telecast :-

(i) One six part series titled 'Aranayak' based on wild life sanctuaries of India on Forest and

Environment is proposed to be telecast in June, 2000.

(ii) Programme titled 'Bhoomi' is proposed to be started under sponsored category.

(iii) Four episodes of the programme "Head & Tails" is under production. As soon as the programme is made available, it will be scheduled for telecast.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Joint Venture between Spenser & Company and Dairy Farm International, Hong Kong

7207. SHRI S.P. LEPCHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval for a joint venture between Spencer and Company and Dairy Farm International, Hong Kong;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that this Joint Venture Company (JVC) will eventually set up 23 cash and carry wholesale centres in 23 major cities and towns;

(c) if so, whether the Government have imposed any condition that the proposed JVC will not undertake any local trading and will comply with the condition of dividend balancing;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to impose such conditions on such joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (e) M/s. Spencer and Company Ltd. has been granted foreign collaboration approval on 10.3.2000 to set up a JVC with M/s. DFI Mauritius Ltd., Member of Dairy Farm International Group, Hong Kong, to undertake cash and carry wholesale operations in India i.e. for building a chain of large distribution infrastructure to facilitate manufacturers to cut the length of supply chain by dealing directly and efficiently with the small and dispersed community of retailers as their customers with M/s. DFI Mauritius Ltd., Member of Dairy Farm International Group, Hong Kong. The company has proposed to set up 23 cash and carry wholesale centres in 23 major cities and towns. The approval has been issued subject to the following conditions as per extant policy on trading :-

(i) the company will carry on cash and carry wholesale operation in India and not engage in any retail trading;

(ii) the company will comply with the condition of dividend balancing; and

(iii) the activities of the company should be restricted to exports, bulk imports of permissible items export and ex-bonded warehouses to be set up by the company in accordance with customs regulations and investments into productive joint ventures.

[Translation]

#### Investment by NRIs

7208. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of investment (in rupees) made by the NRIs during each of the last three years and as on date; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase this investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The actual inflow of NRI investment during the last three years and up to January 2000 are given below :

Year	Amount in Rs. (Crores)
1997	1039.61
1998	360.08
1999	348.83
2000 (Up to January)	19.89

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

[English]

#### Clearance of Dues of Workers of NTC Mills in Mumbai

7209. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the management of 25 NTC mills of Mumbai (Maharashtra) propose to clear all the back-wages dues of the workers in order to avoid further litigation and minimise overhead expenses;

(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) Out of the 25 NTC mills in Mumbai, the liability on account of the back wages pertains to only 13 mills taken over by the Government under the Textile Undertakings (Taking Over of Management Act), 1983. Consequent upon the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Labour Commissioner has been authorised to determine the liability in each individual case of unabsorbed workmen. As and when the liabilities are determined by the Labour Commissioner, the same are being discharged by NTC.

As per available data the liability towards back wages as on the date of Nationalisation of 13 mills i.e. on 31.3.94 was estimated by NTC to be Rs. 129 crores approximately. Since then the amount to the extent of Rs. 13.85 crores has been paid to the concerned workers till date.

[Translation]

#### Spices Board

7210. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of companies and the amount of subsidy provided to them by the Spices Board during the last three years, company-wise;

(b) whether even after giving subsidy to so many companies, the export of spices has declined; and

(c) If so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) While there has been a marginal decline in the quantity of spices exported during last three years, in terms of value the export of spices has gone up.

(c) The exports of spices is dependent on pre-vailling international demand coinciding with domestic ability to supply, prevailling world prices of commodities, the varieties being traded and consumer preferences. Reduced supply, low productivity and increased domestic demand have raised the domestic prices of these commodities making it uncompetitive in the export market. Moreover the reduction

in the quantity of spices exported is on account of focus on export of value added spices. The value addition offsets the decline in the quantity of spices exported.

**Statement**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Company/Beneficiary	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Accelerated Freeze Drying Co.	0.27	0.29	1.08
2.	Arjuna Natural Extracts Ltd.	0.21	6.83	4.78
3.	AVT McCormic Ingredients Ltd.	0.50	5.72	13.71
4.	Akay Flavours & Aromatics Ltd.	0.21	0.79	8.77
5.	Alkoshy's All Spices	1.53	2.81	2.00
6.	Cochin Spices Ltd.	2.08	1.10	8.12
7.	Concert Spices Extracts Ltd.	0.49	--	--
8.	Devon Foods Ltd.	0.76	0.77	0.52
9.	Enjayes Spices and Chemical Oil Ltd.	0.39	0.51	2.08
10.	Esquire Food Products Pvt. Ltd.	--	0.15	0.13
11.	Eastern Spices and Exports	6.29	3.19	1.31
12.	GRK & Co.	1.09	0.43	6.98
13.	Global Spices Pvt. Ltd.	0.62	0.08	1.39
14.	Harmony Spices Ltd.	1.04	1.93	0.39
15.	Indiana Dry Foods Exports Co.	2.00	--	--
16.	Integrated Spices Foods Pvt. Ltd.	10.74	0.17	3.58
17.	Jamnadas Madhavji International Ltd.	1.31	0.27	0.37
18.	Jomar Exports Pvt. Ltd.	2.28	--	--

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Kishore Spices Co.	0.04	1.73	0.88
20.	Krishna & Co.	--	8.00	--
21.	Kancore Flavours & Extracts Ltd.	0.50	0.92	0.50
22.	Lanco Packers	1.21	0.06	0.09
23.	Sanat Products Ltd.	--	0.25	5.52
24.	Moolans International	--	1.78	1.78
25.	P. Mittulal Lalah & Sons	0.50	1.94	7.56
26.	Manraadiar & Sheth Foods Pvt. Ltd.	2.00	--	--
27.	MS International	3.97	1.03	0.34
28.	MVJ Foods (India) Pvt. Ltd.	5.49	5.83	3.70
29.	Naveen Marcos	--	0.95	0.83
30.	Plant Lipids Pvt. Ltd.	0.50	4.75	2.60
31.	VPSA Paramasiva Nadar & Co.	8.00	--	1.56
32.	Peermade Development Society	0.30	--	0.91
33.	SPG Ramasami Nadar & Sons	0.21	--	--
34.	Rani Food Products	1.24	0.84	0.76
35.	SA Rawther Spices (P) Ltd.	8.00	1.59	--
36.	Synthite Industrial Chemicals Ltd.	0.86	0.50	0.50
37.	Spico Masalas (P) Ltd.	1.95	0.35	0.93
38.	Sark Spices Products (P) Ltd.	--	--	0.29
39.	Swani Spice Mills Pvt. Ltd.	0.64	--	--
40.	Sree Balaji Gums & Spice Stuff Pvt. Ltd.	--	0.45	2.08
41.	Tata Tea Ltd.	1.06	7.03	5.33

1	2	3	4	5
42.	United Aromatics Pvt. Ltd.	0.33	0.44	0.06
43.	Unique Organics Ltd.	0.36	0.10	0.31
44.	Vanitha Flour Mills	1.49	--	--
45.	American Dry Fruit Store	--	--	0.78
46.	Kays Spice & Agro Industries Ltd.	--	--	2.05
47.	Bolst's Indian Condiments (P) Ltd.	1.98	0.59	1.77
48.	Vallabhadas Kanji Ltd.	4.24	2.55	5.31
49.	General Commodities Ltd.	2.15	--	--
50.	Lotus Spices	10.00	--	--
51.	AV Thomas & Co. Ltd.	0.63	0.23	0.45
52.	Sara Spices	--	0.17	0.12
53.	Naturate Agro Products Ltd.	0.65	--	--
54.	Dindigul Capsicum Resins P. Ltd.	--	0.55	0.69
55.	Absolute Aromatics Ltd.	0.60	--	--
56.	South India Produce	0.36		
57.	P&N Foods Pvt. Ltd.	1.00	--	
58.	GDPA Foods Pvt. Ltd.	--	0.19	2.30
59.	Arjun Industries Ltd.	8.07	--	--
60.	Ramdev Exports	--		1.53
61.	Sami Chemicals & Extracts Ltd.			9.44
62.	Thekkady Agro Products		--	0.47
63.	PC Kannan & Co.	--	--	0.17
64.	Madhur Food Products	--	--	1.23
65.	Enjayes Natural Flavours Ltd.	--		9.12
66.	Chordia Food Products		--	4.50
67.	Praveen Masalewale	--	--	6.05

1	2	3	4	5
68.	Sopariwala Exports	--	--	4.79
69.	Kesav Exports Pvt. Ltd.	--		0.40
70.	Aims Agro Products		--	10.00
71.	Mas Enterprises	--	--	0.24
72.	Gautam Export Corporation	--	--	1.86

Source : Spices Board

#### **.Appointment of Staff in T.V. Relay Centre in Maharashtra**

7211. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to appoint staff in T.V. Relay Centre at Nandurbar district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has not been approved by the Ministry of Finance;

(d) if so, the reasons for not according approval to said proposal; and

(e) the time by which the staff is likely to be appointed?

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 TVRC at Nandurbar is already commissioned with the requisite staff. There is no proposal to enhance the sanctioned strength.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Eradication of Corruption**

7212. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission have suggested the names of officers of Public Sector Undertakings against whom the action can be initiated to eradicate corruption; 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) Yes, Sir. The Central Vigilance Commission have advised prosecution of 12 employees of the PSUs listed in statement-I during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999. The Commission has advised imposition of major penalty on 29 employees of the PSUs listed in statement-II on finalisation of departmental enquiries against

them during the above period. This apart, the Commission has also advised initiation of major penalty proceedings against 163 employees and initiation of minor penalty proceedings against 25 employees of PSUs during last three years on the basis of the investigation reports received from CBI and CVOs. Charges against them are yet to be established.

#### Statement-I

*List of employees of PSUs against whom the Commission has advised prosecution*

S.No.	Name of the Officer (with Cadre & Year of Allotment)	Designation & Department at the time of commission of offence	Commission's advice with date	Date of issue of sanction order
1.	Shri Pran Mehta	Director (Commercial) NTC Limited	Prosecution 27/05/1997	Information awaited
2.	Shri R. Venkatesan	CMD, RCFL	Prosecution 28/10/1997	Information awaited
3.	Shri P.R.S. Rao	Ex-CMD, HPF Ltd.	Prosecution 26/11/1997	16/12/1997
4.	Shri P.K. Chandra	Ex-Vice Chairman ONGC	Prosecution 09/02/1998	25/08/1999
5.	Shri R.N. Mishra	Ex. REG. Director ONGC	Prosecution 09/02/1998	25/08/1999
6.	Shri B.L. Ahuja	Ex-Member Finance ONGC	Prosecution 09/02/1998	25/08/1999
7.	Shri P.K. Shrivastava	Ex General Manager NGC	Prosecution 09/02/1998	25/08/1999
8.	Shri G.C. Srivastava	Group GM ONGC	Prosecution 11/01/1999	17/02/1999
9.	Shri D.P. Mukherjee	Ex Addl. Director ONGC	Prosecution 11/01/1999	17/02/1999
10.	Shri L.P. Tiwari	Dy. Gen Manager ONGC	Prosecution 11/01/1999	17/02/1999
11.	Shri P.V. Bhoopathy	CMD, Neyveli Lignite Corporation	Prosecution 10/05/1999	24/05/1999
12.	Shri B. Purshotham	DGM, ECIL	Prosecution 20/07/1999	07/01/2000

#### Statement - II

*List of employees of PSUs against whom the Commission has  
advised imposition of major penalty at the second stage*

i. Sl. No.	Name of the Officer	Designation & Department at the time of commission of misconduct	Commission's advice with Date
2		3	4
	N.K Prasad	DDG (S), S.C.I.	11/08/1997
	T.R. Oberoi	Asst. Director, NHPC	16/05/1997



1	2	3	4
3.	S.V.R. Krishnamurthy	CE (Retd.), DVC	20/06/1997
4.	P. Sharma	Director (F), CMPDIL	25/09/1997
5.	R. Jaiswal	Dy. Manager, NHPC	29/07/1997
6.	P.C. Tiwari	JE, NHPC	21/07/1997
7.	Ramesh Kumar	JE, NHPC	25/09/1997
8.	Ramesh Pandey	ACME, CCL	25/09/1997
9.	R.S. Singh	ASO, CCL	25/09/1997
10	N.S. Anantha Prasad	Exe. Officer, S.C.I.	07/11/1998
11.	T.R. Oberoi	Asst. Dir., NHPC	10/09/1998
12.	P.N. Mathur	Dir. (T) (Retd.), BCCL	16/09/1998
13.	S.N. Diddee	Dir., CMPDIL	17/11/1998
14.	A.K. Roy	GM, BALCO	13/09/1998
15.	G.S. Mathur	BALCO	13/09/1998
16.	P.N. Sharma	ED, BALCO	13/09/1998
17.	Vinod Kamra	Dy. Manager, MDL	27/02/1998
18	Dr. J.P. Chungath	Director (Medical), Hospital Services Consultancy Corpn.	20/05/1998
19.	O.P. Malviya	OFFTG. GM (E&M), ITDC	06/07/1999
20.	A.K. Choudhary	OSD, CIWTC	30/12/1999
21.	B.K. Paik	OSD, CIWTC	30/12/1999
22.	A.A. Khan	TSO, ITDC	28/09/1999
23.	Capt. D. Singh	Director, SCI	28/06/1999
24.	Kamal Sharma	MD, HCIL	04/11/1999
25.	N.V. Bedi	ED, NALCO	25/02/1999
26.	R.N. Patnaik	Ch. MGR., NALCO	25/02/1999
27.	Jairaj Singh	Asst. Ch. Geologist, MECL	03/06/1999
28.	R. Sao	SAIL	29/06/1999
29.	S.C. Das	Director (F), HPC	08/07/1999

### Reservation against Policy of Disinvestment

7213. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some representations have been received by the Government to make some reservations against the policy and process of disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the policy of reservation in those PSUs which would be disinvested?

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 (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*Translation]*

### Projection of Women on DD

7214. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :

SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV :

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

(a) whether the damage is being caused to the Indian culture owing to the manner of presentation of women while propagating beauty cosmetics and advertising for market products on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the various steps taken to protect the Indian culture?

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 (c) No, Sir. Advertisements on Doordarshan are governed by its 'Code for Commercial Advertising' which, inter-alia, prohibits projection of women in a derogatory manner. It is ensured that the portrayal of the female form is tasteful and aesthetic, and is within the well established norms of good taste and decency.

*English]*

### US Exim Bank's Aid to Small Enterprises

7215. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Industrial Development Bank of India and US Exim Bank have signed a Memorandum of Understanding providing assistance worth 500 million dollars to Indian industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the US Exim bank offer to small enterprises is likely to give a boost to small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and US Exim Bank have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 24, 2000.

(b) and (c) MoU contemplates assistance upto \$ 500 million to Indian Industries. For small and medium enterprises it envisages providing maximum financial support to enterprises seeking to purchase US goods and services through appropriate financing opportunities which could include credit guarantee facilities, co-financing and parallel financing. The MoU is expected to increase co-operation in the area of Information Technology between US and Indian IT Companies. Operational details regarding further modalities are being worked out by all concerned.

### CBI Cases Against Doordarshan

7216. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI :

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether CBI has registered cases against Doordarshan employees and private firms for criminal conspiracy

and cheating to the Doordarshan to the tune of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of such cases during the last three years;

(c) the details of the cases of corruption at present with the Internal Vigilance Commission;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action in such cases; and

(e) 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) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Loss Due to Theft of Coal

7217. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

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

(a) whether Coal India Limited suffers annual loss

worth crores of rupees due to theft of coal from various mines of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details of cases noticed by the Government during the last three years in each subsidiary of CIL;

(c) whether 12-13 thousand permanent labourers of various mines are sitting idle and the work is got done on contract basis due to vested interest and the dominant mafia is active in the area covered by Coal India Limited;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct an enquiry through the CBI into the role of labour organisations, the patronage of politicians and the nexus between the officers of Coal India Limited and the mafia;

(e) if so, the time by which it would be done; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Theft of Coal is carried out clandestinely and as such it is not possible to exactly specify the quantity of theft. However, as per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments during last three years, the following quantities were recovered in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited :-

Company	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Quantity recovered (T)	Approximate Value (Rs. Lakh)	Quantity recovered (T)	Approximate Value (Rs. Lakh)	Quantity recovered (T)	Approximate Value (Rs. Lakh)
ECL	14223.00	99.54	8434.30	59.03	15324.00	122.60
BCCL	932.76	6.91	2457.00	21.38	277.62	2.99
CCL	567.00	1.93	177.00	1.06	510.00	5.10
NCL	9.00	0.08	15.00	0.06	33.00	0.22
WCL	105.68	0.97	84.47	0.83	133.42	1.33
SECL	123.70	0.97	12.50	0.09	32.00	--
MCL	65.00	0.19	96.00	0.51	--	--
NEC	--	--	25.00	0.18	50.00	0.50
Total	16026.14	110.59	11301.27	83.14	16360.04	132.74

(c) The workmen of the contractors are not being engaged by keeping the company's regular workmen idle.

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

### **Budgetary Allocation for Courts**

7218. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the budgetary allocation for judicial administrative while the funds allocated for the administrative expenses of the Supreme Court has been decreased during the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate fund for the smooth functioning of Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Government has been providing need-based budgetary allocation to the Supreme Court. The approved allocation for the year 1997-98 was Rs. 17.95 crores. During the year 1998-99, this was increased to Rs. 35.27 crores. During the year 1999-2000, the approved allocation was Rs. 40.00 crores, which included a provision of Rs. 10.00 crores for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations. For the current financial year, the approved allocation is Rs. 29.74 crores.

[English]

### **Halias Group of Companies**

7219. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the branches of Halias Group of Companies were functioning in Jaipur;

(b) if so, the time since when these branches were functioning;

(c) whether the Halias group was accredited by the Reserve Bank of India;

(d) if so, whether any amount was deposited by this company in the RBI;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether this company has disappeared after accepting the huge money from depositors;

(g) if so, whether there is any proposal to pay the

dues to all the concerned from the amount deposited in the RBI; and

(h) if so, the time by which the dues are likely to be paid to the concerned depositors?

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

### **Accountability of PGFIL and Sahara India**

7220. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Peerless General Finance and Investment Limited and Sahara India Limited are encouraging the public to deposit their money under various schemes;

(b) if so, whether the said companies have got permission from the Reserve Bank of India in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government is accountable to the public in case public money turns to be unrealizable in certain circumstances;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the basis on which the permission was granted to the above companies; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that encouraging public to deposit their money in various schemes is left to the companies within the ambit of RBI guidelines/directions issued from time to time.

(b) In terms of Section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, registration of Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) including Residuary Non-Banking Companies (RNBCs) with RBI has been made mandatory. RBI has reported that out of five Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) in the Sahara Group, three NBFCs namely Sahara India Financial Corporation Ltd., Sahara India Corporation Ltd. and Sahara India Investment Corporation Ltd. have been granted Certificates of Registration. The application for grant of certificate of Registration of Sahara India Ltd. and Sahara Investment India Ltd. have been kept pending by RBI as they have not achieved the minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) of Rs. 25.00 lakh. The other two companies in the group namely Sahara India Kuri Ltd. and Sahara India Mutual

Benefit Company Ltd. do not require certificates of Registration from the RBI, being Chit fund company and notified Nidhi Company respectively.

Peerless General Finance Co. has been granted extension of time by RBI upto January 8, 2001 to attain the prescribed NOF of Rs. 25 lakhs for the purpose of considering its application for grant of certificate of Registration.

(c) RBI or the Government do not guarantee the repayment of Deposits. The company asking deposits is required to make this position clear by incorporating a suitable disclaimer clause in the deposit application form and advertisement as per the extant regulations framed by RBI.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) RBI grants Certificate of Registration to the NBFCs after satisfying itself inter-alia that the grant of Certificate of Registration will be in public interest and the company has adequate capital structure and earning prospects. RBI has put in place a comprehensive supervisory and regulatory framework aimed at safeguarding the interest of depositors in NBFCs/RNBCs. In addition, action has been initiated to enact new legislation which would focus significantly on depositor protection.

#### **Integrated Infrastructural Industrial Development Scheme**

7221. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain areas of Madhya Pradesh have been included under the Integrated Infrastructural Industrial Development Scheme for the development of small scale industrial areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the loan request of Mandol industrial areas has been turned down by the SIDBI despite the same is being cleared by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which this scheme is likely to be implemented under these circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Two IID Centres have been sanctioned in the State of Madhya Pradesh, one at Nadantola in District Satna and the other at Bandol in District Seoni.

(c) to (e) Under the Integrated Infrastructural Develop-

ment Scheme the State Government is required to appoint the implementing agency having a good track record and financial position. The financial position of Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam, Jabalpur, the proposed implementing agency in respect of IID Centre at Bandol, was not found satisfactory. The agency is in default to Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and has accumulated losses. SIDBI is hence not willing to sanction loan. The State Government was given the option to invest its own funds in lieu of SIDBI loan or to change the implementing agency. The State Government has expressed inability to invest its own funds and very recently intimated that they have abandoned the implementation of IID Centre at Bandol, District Seoni.

#### **American Companies in Film Industry**

7222. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of American companies have proposed to set up branch-office operations in Film Industry in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total investment to be made in such offices?

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.

#### **Co-operative Banks**

7223. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Limited seeking including of some of the banks under it and some District Central Co-operative Banks in the second schedule of RBI Act, for giving them status of scheduled bank;

(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) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it had received a representation from the National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Ltd. (NAFSCOB) requesting for grant of Scheduled Status to some State Co-operative Banks and District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs). Since the banks in question were not licensed ones or were not

complying with the norms and policy of scheduling, the request was not acceded to.

[Translation]

### **Complaints Against Employees of DD**

7224. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindi daily, 'Jansatta' captioned "Doordarshan aur Akashvani ke kai Karamchariyon Ke Khilaf Karva" dated April 6, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard with details thereof;

(c) the details of such employees and officers working particularly in the Pitampura T.V. Tower of Door-darshan against whom some action has been taken or is proposed to be taken;

(d) whether the Union Government and senior officers of Doordarshan have received complaints against the employees and officers working in the Pitampura T.V. Tower during the last year and as on date;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken or being taken 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has inter alia been stated that 9 employees of Doordarshan have been suspended and disciplinary proceedings against another 9 employees have been initiated. Apart from this the penalty of dismissal from service against one employee and penalty of removal against two employees has been imposed after disciplinary proceedings.

(c) to (f) Complaints have been received against an Asstt. Engineer, posted at HPT, Pitampura relating to unauthorised sharing of Govt. accommodation, dereliction of duty, LTC claim etc. A preliminary enquiry was conducted into the allegations but the report was found insufficient. Further enquiry is on to gather additional facts relating to the allegations.

### **Loans to Private Airline Companies**

7225. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has reviewed the guidelines regarding amendments in the fixed term loans for providing funds to the private airline companies in the country;

wed the guidelines regarding amendments in the fixed term loans for providing funds to the private airline companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RBI had done any consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Air Taxi operators in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of the new guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not issued any separate guidelines to banks regarding financing of private airline companies. RBI has given full operational freedom to Banks in the matter of credit dispensation. The decision regarding financing a particular economic activity (including Air-line companies) has to be taken by banks themselves based on the lending policy laid down by their respective boards within the framework of prudential regulations and exposure norms prescribed by RBI from time to time.

(c) and (d) RBI had deliberated during various meetings on the issues relating to financing of Air-lines companies with Government of India (Ministry of Civil Aviation) Banks, Financial Institutions and Airlines Companies way back in the year 1997. According to RBI the consensus of the meeting was that there was no need to lay down special guidelines for financing airline companies as the existing guidelines can take care of the needs of all sectors including financing of Private Airline companies.

[English]

### **Tariff Advisory Committee**

7226. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken for effective functioning of the Tariff Advisory Committee as a research and statistical body for the non-life insurance and also for rationalization of the tariff;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration to revoke tariff;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Tariff Advisory Committee (TAC) has been recently reconstituted making it more broad based. The Chairperson of Insurance

Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) who is also Controller of Insurance has been made Chairman of the TAC. Earlier the Members of the Committee were predominantly drawn from the general insurance industry but now in the reconstituted TAC the number of representatives from the insurance industry has been kept at seven out of sixteen Members, with other Members from State Governments, industry and professionals. So as to function as a Research & Statistical Body also in the field of non-life insurance, the TAC has set up a small sub-Committee called VISION-2000 to recommend the steps to be taken in this behalf.

(b) At present there is no decision to move away from the tariff regime.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The TAC has reported that possibly after five to ten years acting on the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee, tariffs will be eased out and thereafter there may not be any tariff in the industry.

[Translation]

#### Import of Soyabean

7227. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether America has requested India to lift Phytosanitary ban on import of Soyabean;

(b) whether the soyabean is broken into two parts at the ports itself under this process;

(c) whether such sort of ban has not been lifted by any other country; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Import of all agricultural items, inter-alia, is governed under the Plant Quarantine Provisions. With a view to preventing introduction of exotic plant diseases in the country, import of soyabean into India is allowed only in the split form.

USA has been requesting for a review of this stipulation. However, no changes in the present import conditions have been made.

#### RBI Guidelines for Extending Credit to Agriculture Sector

7228. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

SHRI R.L.BHATIA

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any RBI guidelines for extending credit facilities to priority sector, particularly for agriculture sector by nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the loans provided by the public sector banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks to farmers, particularly to small and marginal farmers during each of the last three years, State-wise and bank-wise;

(c) the amount of loan repaid by the farmers during the above period, State-wise and bank-wise;

(d) to what extent the nationalised banks have achieved the target fixed during the last three years;

(e) whether there are shortfalls in achieving the target;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the action taken against the erring banks and the steps being taken to make the nationalised banks achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the existing guidelines a target of 40 per cent of net credit has been stipulated for lending to priority sector. A sub-target of 18 per cent of net bank credit has been prescribed for extending credit to agricultural sector under the priority sector by the domestic scheduled commercial banks (including nationalised banks). State-wise loans provided to the Agriculture sector by the scheduled commercial banks and bank-wise loans extended by public sector banks as available are furnished at Statement-I and Statement-II respectively. Agricultural lending by Regional Rural Banks and Co-Operative Banks are also given in Statement-III.

(c) Information regarding State-wise and Bank-wise recovery of advances by scheduled commercial banks are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

(d) to (g) The public sector banks have achieved the overall priority sector lending of 40 per cent. However, there is some shortfall in lending to agricultural sector. RBI have advised all banks to make every efforts to achieve the stipulated target and sub-target for lending to priority sector and agricultural sector. Banks were advised in 1994 that failure to achieve the target/sub-target would invite banks' specific policy measures. In case of non-fulfilment of priority sector/agriculture lending target by public sector banks, they are asked to contribute to RIDF to the extent of their shortfall.

The Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) has been established with National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) for assisting State Governments and State owned corporations in quick completion of on going projects relating to rural infrastructure.

#### Statement-I

##### *Agricultural Loans by all Scheduled Commercial Banks during last three years*

(Rs. in Crore)

	State/Union Territory	March 1996	March 1997	March 1998
	1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3359.15	4116.35	4489.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.68	9.32	9.99
3.	Assam	227.70	428.54	298.70
4.	Bihar	1039.27	1057.24	1075.78
5.	Goa	50.69	74.65	66.11
6.	Gujarat	1507.75	1713.23	1963.93
7.	Haryana	903.41	1023.95	1192.02
8.	Himachal Pradesh	106.14	125.03	134.60
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	36.98	120.30	139.67
10.	Karnataka	2195.23	2984.44	3411.01
11.	Kerala	1076.75	1700.76	1701.32
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1711.05	1996.79	2277.13
13.	Maharashtra	2685.35	3587.03	3991.27

	1	2	3	4
14.	Manipur	15.01	17.25	19.91
15.	Meghalaya	13.16	14.88	16.43
16.	Mizoram	3.78	4.03	4.13
17.	Nagaland	29.55	28.15	20.48
18.	NCT of Delhi	412.90	511.72	747.56
19.	Orissa	601.03	629.48	678.66
20.	Punjab	1752.33	1987.15	2255.29
21.	Rajasthan	1127.70	1307.88	1611.25
22.	Sikkim	5.71	7.18	8.53
23.	Tamil Nadu	3568.54	4357.82	4582.09
24.	Tripura	38.72	46.91	48.35
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2577.20	2773.33	3056.02
26.	West Bengal	976.76	1517.64	1706.29
27.	Andaman & NI	2.65	5.68	3.15
28.	Chandigarh	221.62	231.68	214.37
29.	Dadra & NH	1.37	1.32	1.32
30.	Daman & Diu	1.21	0.99	0.87
31.	Lakshadweep	0.46	0.46	0.56
32.	Pondicherry	43.93	52.78	51.13
	All India	26302.94	32434.10	35777.31

#### Statement-II

##### *Public Sector Banks Advances to Agriculture Sector*

(Rs. in crore)

Name of Bank	Agricultural Lending Under Priority Sector		
	March 1997	March 1998	March 1999
1	2	3	4
SB of India	7606.00	8799.0	10637.0
SB of B&J	400.88	490.73	548.21



1	2	3	4
SB of Hyderabad	779.47	767.45	851.05
SB of Indore	297.81	335.22	401.22
SB of Mysore	393.57	431.6	499.63
SB of Patiala	778.0	744.0	863.0
SB of Saurashtra	351.33	359.12	440.88
SB of Travancore	499.84	507.62	519.25
Allahabad Bank	694.55	785.54	1071.43
Andhra Bank	521.55	616.68	785.73
Bank of Baroda	2156.78	2326.13	2506.39
Bank of India	2094.10	2401.07	2656.52
Bank of Maharashtra	584.85	651.18	717.05
Canara Bank	2462.37	2750.65	2832.1
Central Bank of India	1139.27	1191.66	1452.07
Corporation Bank	292.44	358.31	431.57
Dena Bank	579.62	726.73	1003.81
Indian Bank	1169.84	1096.50	1079.68
Indian Overseas Bank	1033.44	1181.62	1390.88
Oriental Bank of Com.	957.34	1160.0	1500.0
Punjab National Bank	1915.57	2086.97	2440.90
Punjab & Sind Bank	431.24	493.16	629.94
Syndicate Bank	763.0	851.0	1208.0
Union Bank of India	1224.13	1419.73	1569.66
United Bank of India	637.0	642.0	729.0
Uco Bank	630.12	895.83	750.67
Vijaya Bank	35389.0	435.0	562.0
All PS Banks	31012.11	34304.5	40077.64

**Statement-III***Agricultural Credit of Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks during the last three years*

Year	Regional Rural Banks	Co-operative Banks
1996-97	1884	11944
1997-98	2040	14035
1998-99	2530	15916

*[English]***Money Spent of Idle Time Wages**

7229. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large sum of money is being spent on idle time wages by the Government due to closure of sick industries in various sectors;

(b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken to reduce such wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) The Government provides non-plan loans to terminally sick public sectors units for payment of wages and salaries, meeting cash losses, working capital expenses etc. During the year 1999-2000, and amount of Rs. 1735 crore was allocated for the purpose. The allocation for the year 2000-2001 has been reduced to Rs. 1236 crore. State-wise details are not centrally maintained.

**Decline in Prices of Tobacco**

7230. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI RAJAJAH MALYALA :

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI :

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

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the prices of tobacco during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the tobacco growers delegation from all the country, particularly from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh had submitted their memorandum to the Union Government urging remunerative prices of tobacco; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Average prices realised by farmers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka during the last three years are :

Average Prices realised (Rs/Kg)

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka
1997	40.00	48.95
1998	40.12	34.47
1999	34.85	42.07

The price trend has been mixed. Declines have occurred due to supply exceeding domestic and international demand.

(c) and (d) Farmers have made representations for remunerative prices. Government has encouraged crop sizes based on projected domestic and international demand, curbing excess production and through market intervention when deemed necessary.

#### Open General Licence

7231. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has imported tur dal and other agricultural commodities under the Open General Licence during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for importing these agricultural commodities;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the import of tur dal and other agricultural commodities has affected the tur dal growers of Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop import of tur dal and other agricultural commodities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. STC has imported 97,000 tons of pulses, including 31,000 tons of Tur

dal during the year 1999-2000 on Government account to meet the domestic shortage. Government of Karnataka has suggested increase in import duty and price support operations by Government agencies after suitable increase in minimum support prices. The Ministry of Agriculture which is the nodal Ministry in respect of such proposals has reported that they have not received any communication from the Government of Karnataka drawing their attention to the harmful effects of imports on domestic production of pulses.

Looking at the overall demand supply position in respect of pulses, there is no proposal at present to stop the imports.

#### Cotton Procurement Centre

7232. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal to open a Cotton Procurement Centre for buying cotton at Jadcheralla in Mahaboob-Nagar District Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in processing; and

(c) the reasons for shelving the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) There was a proposal, in December, 1998, from Shri Ravi Mallu, Member of Parliament for establishment of purchase centre of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) at Jadcheralla in Mahaboob Nagar District of Andhra Pradesh and he was informed that the market yard at Jadcheralla was functioning two days a week and that the representative of CCI remain present at the time of auction at the market yard. At present, the CCI is operating at Jadcheralla (Badepalli market yard) as 'satellite centre' to its Shadnagar centre.

#### Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme

7233. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether any request has been received by the Government from the Federation of Hotels and Restaurants Association of India (FHRAI) regarding extension of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) scheme to the hotel industry besides other export incentives in the forthcoming 2000-01 EXIM Policy;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had received a request from the Federation of Hotels and Restaurants Association of India (FHRAI) regarding extension of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) scheme to the hotel industry. However, the same was not agreed to as the DEPB benefit is allowed to be availed only against the exports of goods and not of services.

(c) The Government does not intend to extend the DEPB benefit against the export of services.

#### Export of Iron Ore

7234. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of iron ore exported from Sukinda-Daitari Iron Ore Mines in Orissa by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been a sharp decline in the export of iron ore as compared to previous three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the areas identified by MMTC to increase export during next year and the target fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Sir, the quantum of iron ore exported by MMTC from Sukinda-Daitari Mines in Orissa during the last three years is as follows :

(Quantity in tonnes)

Year	Export
1997-98	21127
1998-99	38003
1999-2000 (Provisional)	39011

(b) and (c) There has been no decline in the total value of iron ore export by MMTC as compared to previous three years.

(d) Besides the largest market of Japan, MMTC has identified China and South Korea as thrust area for increased iron ore export during the year 2000-2001. It has been targeted to increase value of iron ore export to these,

two markets by approximately 10% over the last year. The details are as follows :

Country	Value of iron ore exports (Rs. Crores)	
	1999-2000 (Provisional)	2000-2001 (Target)
China	250	270
South Korea	123	135

#### Export of Shellac

7235. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the shellac is being exported;

(b) if so, the rate of export duty imposed on the shellac during each of the last three years; and

(c) the quantity of shellac exported during the last three years?

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

(b) No export duty was imposed on shellac during the last three years.

(c) The quantity of shellac exported from India during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Qty (MTs)
1997-1998	8916.2
1998-1999	7209.6
1999-2000* (April-December, 99)	7169.2

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta

\*Provisional

#### Allocation of Funds to NE States for Infrastructure

7236. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount as developmental expenditure support given to each of the North-Eastern States during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and contemplated for 2000-2001;

(b) the amount spent on creation and maintenance of infrastructure; and

(c) the amount demanded by each North-Eastern States for the purpose during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Central Assistance for State Plan is released as block grants and block loans to the States for developmental activities and is not tied to any specific sector/scheme. Statement indicating details of Plan outlay and expenditure on infrastructure in North Eastern States during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is

enclosed. Plan outlays and sectoral allocations for 2000-2001 are yet to be decided.

(c) During the last three years, the plan size of each of NE States was determined in the meeting between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and respective Chief Ministers. The State Government were advised to send their proposals for sectoral allocations based on the agreed outlays which have been by and large accepted.

#### Statement

*Plan outlay and expenditure incurred under infrastructure during 1998-99 and 1999-2000—NE States*

(Rs. In Crores)

State	1998-99		1999-2000	
	Plan outlay approved by the Planning Commission	Expenditure reported by State Government	Plan outlay approved by the Planning Commission	Expenditure reported by State Government
1 Arunachal Pradesh	238.15	217.22	223.46	223.11
2 Assam	457.93	322.22	496.82	455.40
3 Manipur	178.70	187.63	199.26	303.33
4 Meghalaya	152.77	107.18	186.42	113.07
5 Mizoram	79.97	62.01	105.21	110.94
6 Nagaland	47.08	45.77	47.38	48.03
7 Tripura	151.49	78.85	159.88	78.63
8 Sikkim	66.71	56.97	63.91	68.01

Plan Outlays for the year 2000-2001 have yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

#### Tax-Payers

7237. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of tax-payers was expected to reach 25 million in 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the expected break-up thereof State-wise;

(c) whether a number of small businessmen had been enrolled in tax net;

(d) if so, whether the small and petty businessmen were harassed by the I.T. authorities;

(e) if so, the steps were taken to with regard to the entitlement of petty businessmen into the taxation net; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The department had expected to reach a projected number

of 25 million of assessee on 31.03.2000. However, such expectation did not materialise.

(b) The number of taxpayers as on 31.03.2000 stood at 21.4 million. The country has been divided into various Chief Commissioners/Directors General charges. The charge-wise breakup of the taxpayers as on 31.03.2000 is as per enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) No specific incidents of harassment caused to the small and petty businessmen have come to the notice of the Department.

**Statement**

S.No.	CC/DGIT Region	Assessee as on 31.03.2000
1	2	3
1.	Mumbai	503177
2.	Mumbai-II	709251
3.	Mumbai-III	722309
4.	DGIT (E) Calcutta	35856
5.	Delhi	917872
6.	Delhi-II	321024
7.	Delhi-III	201280
8.	Chandigarh	1435028
9.	Panchkula	623187
10.	Calcutta	1028910
11.	Calcutta-II	440940
12.	Calcutta-III	760609
13.	Kanpur	788337
14.	Lucknow	847537
15.	Patna	938238
16.	Guwahati	469618
17.	Bhubaneshwar	305460
18.	Ahmedabad	805987
19.	Ahmedabad-II	984587

1	2	3
20.	Bhopal	1040014
21.	Jaipur	1080569
22.	Pune	1983153
23.	Bangalore	1102645
24.	Cochin	585393
25.	Hyderabad	953014
26.	Chennai	1139370
27.	Chennai-II	687396
28.	DG (Inv.) Delhi	3915
29.	DG (Inv.) North Lucknow	1731
30.	DG (Inv.) South Bangalore	1730
31.	DG (Inv.) East Calcutta	4545
32.	DG (Inv.) West Ahmedabad	1660
33.	DG (Inv.) Mumbai	3291
34.	DG (Inv.) Chennai	1719
Grand Total		21429352

**Creation of Financial Restructuring Authority**

7238. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA :  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :  
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :  
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the laws governing banks and to create a Financial Restructuring Authority which would have the powers to supersede the boards of weak banks facilitate their effective restructuring;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RBI has examined the recommendations of the Verma Working Group Report;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted by the Government and the action taken thereon;

(e) the reasons for non acceptance of rest of the recommendations; and

(f) to what extent the efforts of the Government are going to save the weak banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) In respect of any bank which is considered to be weak or potentially weak, the statutes governing public sector banks would be amended to provide for supersession of the Board of Directors on the basis of recommendations of the RBI and constitution of a Financial Restructuring Authority (FRA) for such a bank, comprising experts and professionals. The amendment would also enable FRA to exercise special powers including all the powers of the Board of the bank.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Verma Working Group on weak public sector banks has suggested a comprehensive restructuring of three weak public sector banks covering operational, organizational, financial and systemic restructuring. Government has directed the Chief Executives of three weak public sector banks to prepare a comprehensive restructuring plan for the respective bank keeping in view the recommendations of Verma Working Group.

(f) The comprehensive restructuring of the three weak banks is expected to help them to become viable and financially strong.

#### **Pure Darjeeling Logo Tea**

7239. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to register Darjeeling Tea Trade Mark in European market in order to prevent the misuse of Darjeeling Tea Logo by foreign Blenders/traders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Darjeeling Tea Logo is owned by the Tea Board of India and is registered as a Certification Trade Mark/Trade Mark in UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, Japan and Egypt so as to protect the said Marks from being misrepresented.

(c) Further the Tea Board has initiated steps for registration of the word "Darjeeling" for teas which are grown, produced and manufactured in the district of Darjeeling before the Trade Mark Registries of Mumbai and UK.

#### **Tobacco Board**

7240. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers registered with the Tobacco Board in the country, State-wise;

(b) the production of tobacco during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, State-wise;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to improve the quality of such tobacco grown in the country;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the results of such efforts?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The number of farmers registered with the Tobacco Board in the country, State-wise (in 1999-2000 seasons) are :

States	Andhra Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa	Karnataka	Total
No. of farmers	44436	60	128	18427	63051
(b) Corresponding production of tobacco for each State during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are follows :-					
Name of the State	Estimated production (M. Kgs.)				
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (P)		
Andhra Pradesh	130.95	148.81		137.98	
Maharashtra	0.21	0.24		0.20	
Orissa	0.45	0.55		0.50	
Karnataka	45.64	54.89		48.00	
Total	177.25	204.49		186.68	

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Steps taken by Tobacco Board to improve yields and quality of FCV tobacco in India include :-
- (i) Supply of inputs like, genuine and approved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation equipment, pesticides, suckercides, coal, briquettes, tarpaulins, and spraying equipment to tobacco farmers.
  - (ii) Training programmes/meetings for farmers to adopt improved varieties and package of practices recommended by C.T.R.I.
  - (iii) Typing up bank loans for growers for tobacco production.
  - (iv) Supply of coal and briquettes at the barn site to the needy growers for curing of tobacco and subsidies for roof insulation of barns to economise curing costs, and encouraging farmers to adopt improved design of furnace to save fuel for curing of tobacco.
  - (v) Analysis of soil and water samples and advising farmers on their suitably and fertilizer requirement.
  - (vi) Coordination with CTRI in popularising high yielding disease-resistant varieties through demonstration trials.
  - (vii) Distribution of booklets and pamphlets on tobacco cultivation to all farmers in the local language.
  - (viii) Maintaining constant watch on pesticide residues on tobacco leaf through analysis on leaf samples and undertaking measures to reduce the residue levels by properly educating the farmers.
  - (ix) Encouraging farmers to go for water harvest structure like micro-farm ponds and check dams for providing life saving irrigation to tobacco crop.
  - (x) Major research efforts of CTRI and collaborative extension efforts of Board and CTRI in transferring the modern technologies to FCV tobacco growers resulted in improvement of yields from 50 kg/ha with 25% to 30% of bright grades in 1960's to 1600 to 1800 kg/ha, with 60% to 70% of bright grades at present.

#### **Violation of Code of Ethics**

7241. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to take stringent action against TV commercials violating the minimum ethical standards;

(b) if so, the details of the commercial subjected to scrutiny by the Committee on Code of Ethics and those found violating the code during 1999-2000, indicating the details of violation of the code;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to present the cultural invasion through uplinking of foreign and other channels by cable operators and others in violation of the code of ethics; and

(d) the annual earning of revenue from granting of uplinking rights to satellite television channels during each of the last three 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) and (b) As per existing Doordarshan's Advertisement code, no advertisement is permitted which inter-alia, glorifies violence or obscenity or projects a derogatory image of women, Indian satellite channels, which have been permission to uplink from India are also required to adhere to the same code. Encrypted foreign satellite channels when transmitted through cable television networks, are required to adhere to the advertisement code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 which also prohibits carriage of advertisement inter-alia, glorifying violence or obscenity or projecting derogatory image of women. Enforcement of these provisions of the said Act lies with the local authorities of respective State Governments. There is no Committee on code of ethics. In so far as Doordarshan is concerned, it previews storyboards of all proposed advertisement to check that they are in accordance with Doordarshan's code for 'Commercial Advertising'. If it is noticed that unapproved advertisements are aired on Doordarshan's channel, penalty as per norms is imposed on the concerned advertising agency in addition to stopping of the ads.

(c) With a view to bring the foreign satellite channels within the ambit of Indian laws including programme codes and Standards, Government proposes to bring before Parliament a comprehensive legislation for inter-alia, regulating private broadcasting in the country.

(d) Uplinking from India has been permitted to Private Satellite Television Channels since June, 1998. The annual revenue earning from uplinking facilities to satellite channels during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as follows :

Annual earnings	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3
(a) Revenue earned by WPC Wing of Ministry of Communications	1.3 crores	1.4 crores

1	2	3
(b) Revenue earned by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL)	7.0 crores	16.0 crores
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.3 crores</b>	<b>17.4 crores</b>

[Translation]

### Wholesale Price Index

7242. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched a new system to work out the wholesale price index for calculating the rate of inflation in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of items covered thereunder to calculate the wholesale index price along with their names;

(c) whether certain new items have been added in the new system which did not exist in the old system; and

(d) if so, the names thereof alongwith the items which have been excluded from the old system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. A new Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series with base 1993-94 = 100 has been launched from April 1, 2000.

(b) The revised commodity basket in the new WPI includes 435 items. The number of items covered under the three major commodity groups and some sub groups in the new series are as follows :

Commodity Groups	Items Covered
1	2
I. Primary Articles Group	98
Food Articles	54
Non Food Articles	25
Minerals	19
II. Fuel Group	19

1	2
Coal Mining	4
Mineral Oils	10
Electricity	5
III. Manufactured Product Group	318
Food Products	41
Textiles	29
Chemicals & Chem. Products	69
Non Metallic Mineral Prod.	9
Basic Metals, Alloys & Metal Prod.	53

(c) and (d) To reflect the structural changes that have taken place in the economy since 1981-82, 136 new commodities have been added in the new WPI series. 150 items of the earlier series have been dropped due to their having become insignificant in terms of their relative value of production in the economy.

Items added/deleted in the new WPI series are listed below :

Commodity Groups	No. of Items added	No. of Items deleted
1	2	3
I. Primary Articles Group	13	9
Food Articles	9	Nil
Non Food Articles	Nil	3
Minerals	4	6
II. Fuel Group	1	2
Coal Mining	Nil	Nil
Mineral Oils	Nil	Nil
Electricity	1	2
III. Manufactured Products Group	122	139
Food Products	9	13
Textiles	17	15
Chemicals & Chem. Products	23	31



1	2	3
Non Metallic Mineral Prod.	Nil	3
Basic Metals, Alloys & Metal Prod.	22	26
Other Sub-Groups	51	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>150</b>

The names of some of the items added/deleted in the new WPI series are as follows :

#### Items Added

1. Primary Group  
Brinjal, Cabbage, Bhindi, Phosporite, Felspar, ceramic etc.
2. Fuel Group  
Electricity (railway traction)
3. Manufactured Group  
Cakes & Sweet rolls, bagasse, unrefined oil, processed tea, aerated water, synthetic yarn, mixed fabrics, phenol, roll films etc.

#### Items Deleted

1. Primary Group  
Raw hemp, lac, mica, petroleum crude etc.
2. Fuel Group  
Electricity (special), Electricity (other uses)
3. Manufactured Group  
Tin milk power, canned juices, kardi oil, instant coffee, powerloom cloths, tooth brush, crockery, stainless steel, road rollers, refrigerators (domestic), table fans etc.

[English]

#### Profit/Losses of Banks

7243. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI BRIJ MOHAN RAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to

state :

(a) the profit/losses incurred by each nationalised bank during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons for losses;

(c) the action taken against the bank employees and officers responsible for such losses;

(d) the strategies adopted to check the bank losses; and

(e) the amount of loan written off due to non-recovery of debts during the last three years, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Statement-I indicating profit/losses incurred by each nationalised bank during each of the last three years as on 31.3.99 (latest available) is enclosed. Only two banks namely Indian Bank and UCO Bank have made net losses for the year 1998-99.

(b) Some of the reasons affecting the profitability of the banks are high cost of deposit, low income on advances, high overhead expenditure, increasing operational cost, excess manpower, high incidence of non-performing assets and the need for making provision in the light of introducing of prudential norms by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the year 1992-93.

(c) The losses/non-performing assets arise for a number of reasons not all of which are attributable to action or inaction on the part of the officials of the banks. Some of the reasons are external to the bank and do not arise from either deficiency in credit appraisal or malafide action on the part of any official. Staff accountability is also looked into whenever an account goes bad and action is taken as per the policy laid by banks.

(d) Banks/Government of India/Reserve Bank of India have taken several steps for recovery of bank dues which include framing and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits with Civil courts, filing cases with Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), strengthening and setting up more DRTs and DRATs compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of non-performing accounts.

In addition, an amendment to Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (amendment) Act, 2000 bringing about various amendments to the Debts due to banks and financial institutions Act, 1993, which are intended to give more powers to the Tribunals has been made.

The three identified weak banks including the loss making banks have been asked to submit their draft viable restructuring programme.

(e) Statement-II indicating bank-wise amount of loan written-off during the last three years, as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is enclosed.

## Statement-I

## Nationalised Banks - Profit/Loss position

(Rs. Crore)

Name of the Bank	As on 31.03.1993(*)		As on 31.03.1994		As on 31.03.1995		As on 31.03.1996		As on 31.03.1997		As on 31.03.1998		As on 31.03.1999	
	Oper. Profit	Net Profit	Oper. Profit	Net Profit	Oper. Profit	Net Profit	Oper. Profit	Net Profit	Oper. Profit	Net Profit	Oper. Profit	Net Profit	Oper. Profit	Net Profit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Allahabad Bank	0.61	-105.88	22.84	-367.72	30.42	-76.36	103.21	5.62	184.26	64.30	227.49	129.21	233.68	135.00
Andhra Bank	-34.10	-141.09	-18.66	-162.25	13.13	-43.57	61.67	11.07	87.55	35.70	155.25	75.25	156.52	90.04
Bank of Baroda	343.16	8.23	726.82	66.15	774.87	175.54	877.27	204.27	776.43	276.53	806.05	458.73	945.30	421.44
Bank of India	108.01	-331.12	204.80	-1089.15	317.10	50.36	473.86	276.48	580.00	360.02	697.18	364.51	705.00	201.14
Bank of Maharashtra	-54.00	-196.51	-33.86	-296.93	26.98	-40.80	66.49	12.60	103.37	47.26	124.10	56.29	134.91	51.89
Canara Bank	461.56	26.07	319.54	120.35	552.27	204.10	684.63	252.52	654.20	147.40	672.52	203.02	957.41	225.06
Central Bank of India	-49.82	-383.31	-122.01	-711.93	49.18	-84.24	210.89	-73.53	299.59	150.83	360.71	174.89	298.75	146.25
Corporation Bank	47.83	4.12	108.22	27.04	174.03	72.55	216.10	104.75	245.95	125.13	302.85	166.87	305.96	192.03
Dena Bank	2.92	-90.46	39.39	-69.84	68.80	30.02	145.49	51.69	194.04	72.91	273.61	105.04	216.01	110.09
Indian Bank	112.10	6.50	49.78	-390.65	75.12	14.26	-223.68	-1336.40	-138.36	-389.09	-209.50	-301.50	-163.24	-778.50
Indian Overseas Bank	-46.33	-752.74	45.86	-351.18	75.19	10.39	21.95	3.20	129.45	104.51	154.34	113.06	142.96	55.34
Oriental Bank of Commerce	56.37	20.50	109.54	32.11	194.77	113.36	276.14	172.75	300.70	180.25	337.38	210.00	386.05	230.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Punjab & Sind Bank	-70.68	-195.19	-6.06	-175.99	40.97	-7.42	8.40	-132.18	56.63	20.00	100.07	65.09	91.73	60.45
Punjab National Bank	258.43	38.01	287.59	74.52	321.27	85.79	384.28	-95.92	620.00	238.00	801.11	477.35	821.27	372.12
Syndicate Bank	-104.07	-670.08	4.05	-299.40	14.29	-91.79	99.40	20.17	98.65	66.96	135.40	82.66	186.06	142.58
UCO Bank	-113.35	-444.19	-161.82	-546.45	36.63	-83.81	-26.13	-236.66	-72.76	-176.23	15.04	-96.22	38.38	-67.77
Union Bank of India	70.47	11.26	163.26	50.27	285.25	106.48	311.02	80.49	341.32	215.68	349.53	250.10	309.98	160.22
United Bank of India	-121.37	-279.36	-119.00	-618.06	-82.73	-197.23	-50.24	-234.46	-54.97	-113.64	164.31	9.62	46.40	14.70
Vijaya Bank	3.98	-97.88	40.53	4.10	77.58	31.70	4.91	-250.95	34.77	18.96	63.75	23.31	116.14	30.23
Total Profit for Natl. Banks	1465.44	114.69	2122.22	374.54	3127.85	894.55	3945.71	1195.61	4706.91	2124.44	5740.69	2965.00	6092.51	2638.70
Total Loss for Natl. Banks	-593.72	-3687.81	-461.41	-5079.55	-82.73	-625.22	-300.05	-2360.10	-266.09	-678.96	-209.50	-397.72	-163.24	-846.27
Total Profit for PSBs	3729.14	394.73	4157.64	730.58	5711.06	1741.04	7868.92	2219.05	9164.72	3774.38	10521.30	5424.77	10740.57	4104.36
Total Loss for PSBs	-593.72	-3687.81	-461.41	-5079.55	-82.73	-625.22	-300.05	-2590.41	-266.09	-678.96	-209.50	-397.72	-163.24	-846.27
Net Position for PSBs	3135.42	-3293.08	3696.33	-4348.97	5628.33	1115.82	7568.87	-371.36	8898.63	3095.42	10311.80	5027.05	10577.33	3258.09

Source : Balance Sheets

(\*) excluding New Bank of India

**Statement-II**

*Bad debts written off by the Nationalised banks  
during the last three years*

(Amount Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the bank	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Allahabad Bank	21.39	46.61	88.42
2.	Andhra Bank	37.42	72.58	17.91
3.	Bank of Baroda	70.17	157.30	41.53
4.	Bank of India	217.15	309.29	325.22
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	47.30	121.26	126.40
6.	Canara Bank	18.20	47.18	468.50
7.	Central Bank of India	156.83	154.62	253.62
8.	Corporation Bank	0.94	13.69	40.56
9.	Dena Bank	58.76	67.87	83.54
10.	Indian Bank	10.28	1.37	10.38
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	375.73	201.76	72.02
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	46.22	0.13	1.81
13.	Punjab National Bank	150.34	372.70	218.66
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	9.93	16.98	10.29
15.	Syndicate Bank	58.79	109.16	75.73
16.	Union Bank of India	30.57	16.55	63.72
17.	UCO Bank	220.57	176.34	176.74
18.	United Bank of India	65.48	29.90	18.84
19.	Vijaya Bank	12.72	6.72	4.96

Note : Bad debts include other losses/assets written off.

**Rate of Poverty**

7244. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether IMF has drawn the attention of the Indian Government towards the country's uneven progress and high rate of poverty through its report "World Economic Outlook";

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

(c) the reaction of the Government towards the criticism made by IMF; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to remove the poverty from the country upto the world level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Recent issues of World Economic Outlook (February 2000) observes that India has been among the fast growing economies in the world over the last two decades and has achieved trend improvements in growth, literacy, mortality and poverty rates. In recent years, deft handling of monetary policy has helped India to successfully weather the Asian crisis, while maintaining low inflation and a comfortable external position. Yet despite these gains, poverty rates remain high, with more than a third of the population still living below the poverty line.

Further, the poverty rate remains very high, and the impressive rate of decline from the mid-1970s through the 1980s may have slowed. This outcome partly reflects the relatively poor performance of the agricultural sector during the 1990s, since some 70 percent of the labour force still relies on the land for its livelihood.

(c) and (d) The specific objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) such as (i) priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty; (ii) accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices; (iii) ensuring food and nutritional security for all, particularly the vulnerable sections of the society; and (iv) providing the basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care facilities, universal primary education, shelter, and connectivity to all in a time bound manner are expected to speed up the tempo of development process in the country. Some of the steps to achieve these are detailed in the Ninth Five-Year Plan.

**Lifting Ban from Powerlooms to Manufacture Lungis**

7245. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to the Government's new policy of lifting the restriction on "powerloom" to manufacture lungis, lacs of Handloom Weavers/workers will become jobless;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons to bring such new policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Government has not lifted the restriction on powerloom to manufacture lungis. Therefore, the question of handloom weavers/workers becoming jobless due to this reason does not arise.

(c) and (c) The question do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Facilities to Telecom Sector by SIDBI**

7246. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GAHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SIDBI has formulated any scheme to provide internet E-Mail facilities to private telephone booths;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of PCOs selected under the said scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has reported that it has enlarged eligibility criteria of refinance scheme to include certain information technology related services which meet other norms and parameters of refinance scheme of SIDBI. Up-gradation of existing Public Call Office/ Subscribers Trunk Dialing (PCO/STD) booths into cyber cafes would be eligible for assistance under the refinance scheme. The applications for refinance of these activities are being received by SIDBI from some lending institutions such as commercial banks and SFCs on a regular basis. These activities have only recently been made eligible for refinance from SIDBI. As per the latest information available from SIDBI as on 31.3.2000, 61 applications with respect to some (PLIs) have been sanctioned refinance to the tune of Rs. 3.48 crore and an amount of Rs. 96 lakhs have been disbursed against these sanctions.

#### **Facilities to the Exporters**

7247. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to strengthen the existing basic facilities, such as ports, electricity, communication, transport and requisite concessional loans to exporters to promote the exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to remove the obstacles being faced by the exporters in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Government is taking concerted action in continuous strengthening of the infrastructure. The Ministry of Commerce acts in close co-ordination with the other Ministries, Departments and agencies for the purpose. Standing Committees on Promotion of Exports (SCOPE) in respect of air cargo (SCOPE-AIR) and sea borne cargo (SCOPE-SHIPPING) are functioning in the Ministry. These help to resolve constraints encountered in export transportation and to advise on long term strengthening of infrastructure. The Ministry of Surface Transport is upgrading the port infrastructure. Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSS) are being established in various parts of the country to facilitate container transportation of goods and intermodal conveyance. An inter-Ministerial Committee accords single-window clearance for establishing these ICDs and CFSSs. An Open Sky Policy has been adopted to permit uninterrupted clearance of air cargo. Private initiatives is being harnessed in creating infrastructure at ports, airports, in upgrading highways and in setting up of ICDs/CFSSs, warehouses, etc.

To speed up the transactions and to bring about transparency in the offices of DGFT, electronic filing of applications has been already introduced in 7 major ports and is being extended to all the remaining ports which would help the exporters in getting licences within 24 hours. With the proposed electronic data interchange with the other Government organisations, the transaction time and cost shall get reduced substantially.

Under RBI's schemes, credit facilities are provided by the commercial banks to exporters at pre-shipment and post-shipment stages both in Rupees as well as in foreign currency at concessional rates of interest. To ensure adequate availability of credit to the export sector, RBI is closely monitoring the flow of credit to the export sector both under Rupee Scheme as well as Foreign Currency Schemes viz: Pre-shipment credit in foreign currency (PCFC) and Rediscounting of Exports Bills abroad (EBR). To ensure timely availability of funds to the exporters, RBI has prescribed time limits for banks for sanction of fresh/enhanced/adhoc credit limits and also for renewal of existing credit limits. Banks are required to Sanction Fresh/enhanced credit limits to finance exports within 45 days from the date of receipt of application with complete data and financial accounts. In case of renewal of credit limits and sanction of adhoc credit facilities, banks are required to act within a period of 30 days and 15 days respectively from the date of application with relevant particulars. All cases of rejection of export credit are to be brought to the notice of the Chief Executive of the banks with reasons for such rejection. Banks have been further advised to see that no export order suffers for want of banks finance.

While reviewing the monetary and credit policy for the year 1999-2000 the following measures have been taken by RBI :-

- (i) It has been decided to withdraw the interest rate surcharge of 30% on import finance (which has been in force since January, 1998) w.e.f. 29.10.99 which will reduce the financing cost of imports for the industry.
- (ii) Banks were required to charge a minimum rate of 20% interest on overdue export bills. This stipulation has also been withdrawn w.e.f. 20.10.99 and banks will henceforth have the freedom to decide the appropriate rate of interest on overdue export bills.

[English]

### **Anti-Dumping Legislation**

7248. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to bring forward an anti-dumping legislation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which it is likely to protect the production and marketing of Indian goods in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Section 9, of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995 and the rules framed thereunder, empowers the Central Government to impose anti-dumping duties.

(c) The Designated Authority, appointed by the Government in accordance with Customs Tariff Rules investigates the existence and degree of dumping and submit its findings, provisional and/or final to the Central Government recommending the amount of anti-dumping to be levied. This is a continuous process and as and when new petitions alleging dumping and injury are submitted, by domestic industry they are processed as per the procedures and within the time limits specified under the Anti-dumping rules. The above action taken by the Directorate provides security to the Domestic Industry against dumping of goods in India.

### **Vigilance Department of GIC**

7249. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the organisational set up of the Vigilance Department in the General Insurance Corporation of India, (GIC) and its subsidiaries;
- (b) the number of cases investigated by the

respective Vigilance Department during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, company-wise, alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) the details of cases pending, as on date, year-wise and Company-wise;

(d) whether there is any time schedule upto which the Vigilance Department is allowed to keep the case pending;

(e) if so, the details of those cases which are pending, as on date, but pertain to the period from 1990 onwards, Company-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken for the speedy disposal of Vigilance cases in each subsidiary of GIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Vigilance Department of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) is headed by Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) who is supported by a few Officers at Head Offices. The Vigilance Department of each Subsidiary of GIC is headed by a separate CVO who is supported by Officers at Head Office as well as by the Vigilance Officers at the Regional level.

(b) The number of cases investigated by Vigilance Department of GIC and Companies during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as follows :

Company	No. of Cases Investigated	
	1998-99	1999-2000
G.I.C.	15	6
National	86	97
New India	326	384
Oriental	144	101
United India	196	114
Total	767	702

Details of action taken on these investigations are as under :

Company	Details of action taken thereon on during 1998-99		
	Regular Departmental action	Administrative action	Closure
1	2	3	4
G.I.C.	Nil	1	14
National	64	3	6

1	2	3	4
New India	104	15	166
Oriental	74	8	62
United India	104	4	88
Total	346	31	336

Details of action taken during 1999-2000

Company	Details of action taken thereon on during 1999-2000		
	Regular Departmental action	Administrative action	Closure
G.I.C.	2	2	2
National	66	2	4
New India	84	54	185
Oriental	37	15	49
United India	73	9	32
Total	262	82	272

(c) Details of cases pending as on 31.3.99 and 31.3.2000 are as follows :

(i) Pending Investigations :

Company	As on 31.3.99	As on 31.3.2000
G.I.C.	3	Nil
National	1	Nil
New India	48	78
Oriental	4	46
United India	21	50
Total	77	174

(ii) Pending RDA :

Company	As on 31.3.99	As on 31.3.2000
G.I.C.	1	3
National	88	65
New India	92	90
Oriental	94	77
United India	95	110
Total	370	345

(d) The cases are disposed off as soon as possible as per the guidelines given by the Central Vigilance Commission.

(e) The number of Regular Departmental Action (RDA) cases which were pending for over 1 year as on 31.3.2000, going up to 1990 are as follows :

Company	As on 31.3.2000
G.I.C.	1
National	14
New India	41
Oriental	37
United India	68
Total	161

Most of the RDA cases are pending with the Enquiry Officers mainly due to the delaying tactics adopted by the charged employees.

(f) For speedy disposal of the cases, review meetings are held both at Head Office as well as Regional Office level of the Companies, at regular intervals. Appropriate instructions are given to the Disciplinary Authorities to complete the cases within the stipulated time.

**Decline in the Price of Coffee**

7250. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of coffee have crashed recently;

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

(c) whether the Government have any programme to help the coffee growers in this hardship;

(d) if so, whether the Government intend to impose anti-dumping duty for revival of coffee products which are in the free list of imports; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help the coffee growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) In the recent months the international coffee prices have fallen due to surplus coffee supply due to over production. Since nearly 80% of the coffee produced in India is exported, the domestic prices are influenced by and is mainly dependent upon the international

coffee prices. Hence the Indian coffee growers are not getting the same remunerative prices today as they were getting 2-3 years ago. Particularly in the case of Robusta, the coffee farm gate prices are hovering just above the cost of production level.

(c) and (d) Consequent to liberalisation of coffee trade, the Coffee Board is no longer directly involved in the marketing activities. However, the Govt. of India through Coffee Board closely monitors the market/price situation and if situation warrants, will take suitable ameliorative measures so as to safeguard the interests of the coffee growers.

In order to discourage import of coffee, the Govt. of India has recently increased the import duty on coffee from 15% to 35%.

(e) The Government of India through the Coffee Board, besides operating several plan schemes and developmental activities aimed at intensive cultivation, replanting, quality improvement and water augmentation has also been providing necessary support in the form of agricultural research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other necessary backup support like supply of seed for planting purposes, etc.

[Translation]

#### **Corruption and Income Tax Evasion by IT/Customs & Excise Officials**

7251. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government keep a vigil on Income Tax, Customs and Excise Officials for amassing wealth disproportionate to their known source of income;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of alleged corruption and income tax evasion by such officers during each of the last three years; and

(d) the action taken against those officials during the above period?

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

(b) The Department of Revenue has a vigilance set up, functional at different levels, headed by all Chief Vigilance Officers (CVO) in Revenue Head Quarters, and a CVO in each of the two Boards. At field level, all the Heads of Department keep a vigil through various provisions of the CCS (Conduct) rules. The CBI is also empowered to investigate cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

(e) During the last three years, the number of cases of corruption registered by CBI against the officials of the Income tax, Customs and Central Excise Departments is given below :

	1997	1998	1999
Income Tax	23	18	19
Customs	27	21	36
Central Excise	18	17	20

(d) Action has been taken for filing of charge sheet/initiation of departmental action in all cases in which investigation has been completed.

[English]

#### **Small Savings**

7252. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the small savings, as part of capital receipts of the Government have drastically declined during the last three years;

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

(c) the policy of the Government in regard to meeting the receipt gap arising due to sharp decline in small savings; and

(d) the reasons for decreasing dependence on small savings to mobilize resources for meeting capital requirements of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Reservation of Posts of SCs/STs in Doordarshan and AIR**

7253. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :

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



(a) the total number of officers and employees in Doordarshan and All India Radio including the staff working on daily wages, category-wise;

(b) the scheme of the Government to regularise the employees working on daily wages;

(c) whether the reservation rules are not being complied with in regard to the appointment to the posts of all categories;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of vacancies of officers or employees reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Doordarshan and All India Radio;

(f) whether the Government propose to launch any special recruitment drive to fill up the said vacancies;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the details of the transfer policy of employees of Prasar Bharati?

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 (h) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Grant of temporary status and regulation of casual workers in Government is done in accordance with Government of India, Department of Personnel & Trainings Office Memorandum No. 51016/2/90-Estt (C) dated 10th September 1993.

(c) The reservation rules are being complied with in regard to the appointment to various posts.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Steel and Metallurgical Coke Projects**

7254. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether MMTC is planning to set up some steel and metallurgical coke projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places where these projects are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the estimated cost of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) An integrated Steel Plant, namely, M/s Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) & M/s. Konark Met Coke Ltd. (KMCL) is being set up by MMTC. MMTC is jointly promoting this project along with Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (IPICOL), a Govt. of Orissa Undertaking. The project will produce 1.1 million tonnes of pig iron, steel billet and wire rods while KMCL has the capacity to produce 0.81 million tonnes of Metallurgical coke and 55 MW power in the State of Orissa. This plant is being set up at Kalinga Nagar Industrial Complex, Duburi District, Jaipur in the State of Orissa. NINL's integrated iron ore and steel plant encompasses many sub-plants like Blast Furnace for making iron, Basic Oxygen Furnace for making steel, Billet Casting Shop & Wire Rod Mill for making wire rods, Sinter Plant for preparing Sinter for Blast Furnace, etc.

(c) The estimated cost of NINL project is Rs. 1510 crores and that of KMCL is Rs. 480 crores.

[Translation]

#### **Foreign/domestic Investment in Coal Sector**

7255. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to invite 100 percent foreign and domestic investment in the field of coal, lignite and other minerals in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ascertained the effects of this decision on the Indian coal companies;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to keep the Indian coal companies viable;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any concrete strategy/action plan to revive and make these loss incurring subsidiaries of the Coal India Limited viable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) In coal sector the private Indian companies setting up or operating power projects as well as coal or lignite mines for captive consumption in such projects have been allowed foreign equity upto 100% provided that the coal or lignite produced by them is meant entirely for captive consumption

in power generation. Government has also approved 100% foreign investment in the equity of an Indian subsidiary of a foreign company or in the equity of an Indian company for setting up of coal processing plants in India subject to the conditions that such an Indian subsidiary or the Indian company (a) shall not do coal mining and (b) shall not sell the washed coal or sized coal from their Coal Processing Plants to the respective parties sending raw coal to such Coal Processing Plants for washing or sizing. The other private Indian companies engaged in exploration or mining of coal and lignite for captive consumption for production of iron and steel and production of cement may be allowed foreign equity upto 74%. In respect of other minerals the Government has approved foreign equity holding upto 100% on the automatic route for all minerals (except diamonds and precious stones). This covers exploration, mining, mineral processing and metallurgy. In the case of diamonds and precious stones, foreign equity upto 74% will be allowed in the automatic route for both exploration and mining operations.

(c) and (e) Coal India Limited in its attempt to revive three loss making subsidiaries viz. Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) has engaged the services of ICICI and IDBI/PWC. In respect of ECL, ICICI has submitted its report. A proposal for revival of ECL, based on the recommendations of ICICI is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

### Export of Cycles

7256. SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of women and men cycles exported to foreign countries during 1999-2000;

(b) the names of the States which exported such cycles; and

(c) the details of countries to which these were exported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) During the period April, 1999 to September, 1999, a total number of 7,16,322 bicycles (covered under ITC HS code No. 87120001) have been exported, mainly from Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The major destinations were Brazil, Germany, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom.

### Fibre Ratio

7257. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the ratio of cotton in man-made fibre in the Indian textile industry at present against the world average;

(b) whether there is some scope to increase the use of man-made fibres;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the export of cotton/cotton production with high value addition; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The consumption of cotton to man fibre/yarn is 60:40 in India as compared to world ratio of 46:54.

(b) to (e) The consumption/use of textiles (man-made fibres), primarily depends on cost, quality, consumer preferences, climate etc. However, the ratio of consumption of non cotton fibres/yarn to cotton fibres is gradually increasing in favour of non cotton fibres/yarns. Export of cotton/cotton products with high value addition, depends on various factors, viz., price competitiveness, quality, adherence to delivery schedules, customer satisfaction etc. Export of cotton during the current year has been estimated 1.5 lakh bales in comparison to 1 lakh bales during the last year. The export of cotton products with high value addition has increased during the period April, 1999 to March, 2000 by 4.7% over the corresponding period of the last year. The Government has taken following steps to boost export of textiles including cotton textiles :-

- 1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of textile 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) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.

- 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.

#### Indian Bourses

7258. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI R.S. PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal pertaining to listing of foreign companies on Indian Bourses;

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

(c) the details of the foreign companies likely to be listed in the Indian Bourses; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has moved a proposal for listing of foreign companies on Indian stock exchanges. The proposal is under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of Doordarshan Relay Centres

7259. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Doordarshan relay centres set up in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during the last three years, location-wise;

(b) the amount spent thereon separately, in each of the State;

(c) the estimated amount spent normally on setting up of a single Doordarshan Relay Centre at any place;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to set up more such centres in Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) . If so, the names of the places where these centres are likely to be set up?

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) Location-wise details of TV transmitters along with their capital cost are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) Approximately capital cost involved in establishment of a single TV transmitter is as under :

i. HPTs—Rs. 8.00 Crores.

ii. LPTs/VLPTs—Rs. 1.00 crore.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The names of the locations where new transmitters are being set up are given in statement-II.

#### Statement-I

#### TV Transmitters commissioned in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh

State	Type	Location	Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
MP	HPT	Raipur (DD II)	511.00
	LPT	Bada Malehra	97.00
	LPT	Bhanpura	97.00
	LPT	Garot	97.00
	LPT	Pendra Road	100.00
	LPT	Piparia	97.00
	LPT	Sitamau	97.00
	VLPT	Bijapur	83.00
	VLPT	Koylibeda	83.00
	VLPT	Sarangarh	83.00
Rajasthan	VLPT	Singrauli	38.50
	HPT	Jodhpur	856.44
	LPT	Bharatpur	96.00
	LPT	Hindaun	89.65
	LPT	Kishangarh VAS	76.00

1	2	3	4
UP	LPT	Sagwara	76.00
	VLPT	Aandhi	59.20
	VLPT	Kotra	59.20
	VLPT	Sikrai	59.20
	VLPT	Viratnagar	59.20
	LPT	Amroha	97.00
	LPT	Chhibramau	97.00
	LPT	Haldwani	89.65
	LPT	Karwi	97.00
	LPT	Mahroni	97.00
	LPT	Mau (DD - II)	0.72**
	LPT	Rampur (DD - II)	14.60**
	LPT	Rath	97.00
	LPT	Rudauli	97.00
	VLPT	Almora	89.65
	VLPT	Basot	77.65
	VLPT	Khubia Nangal	77.65
	VLPT	Maneshwar	83.00
	VLPT	Manikpur	83.00
	VLPT	Nandprayag	59.20
	VLPT	Naugaonkhal	83.00
	VLPT	Okhimath	83.00
	VLPT	Pokhri	59.20
	VLPT	Rajgarhi	77.65
	VLPT	Rudraprayag	83.00
	VLPT	Saahiya	77.65
	VLPT	Thakurdwara (DD II)	87.70
	VLPT	Tharali	83.00

\*\* Available transmitter in the network utilised.  
Cost towards installation/minor equipments.

# Statement-II

## TV Transmitters under Implementation in the State of Madhya Pradesh

(As on 08.05.2000)

S. No.	Transmitter	
1.	HPT	Ambikapur
2.	HPT	Bhopal (DD II)
3.	HPT	Guna
4.	HPT	Indore (DD II)
5.	HPT	Jabalpur (DD II)
6.	HPT	Shadol
7.	LPT	Agar
8.	LPT	Badwani
9.	LPT	Barilli
10.	LPT	Champa
11.	LPT	Karaila
12.	LPT	Kharod
13.	LPT	Konta
14.	LPT	Kukshi
15.	LPT	Lakhnadon
16.	LPT	Mutai
17.	LPT	Pandaria
18.	LPT	Sindhwa
19.	VLPT	Alot
20.	VLPT	Pathaigaon

[English]

## Computerisation of Income Tax Department

7260. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to slow pace of computerisation in the Income Tax Department, it has badly affected the efficiency and revenue collection performance of the administration and widening of the tax base operations all over the country causing valuable loss of revenue as well as human resources; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps, the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. Computerisation in the Income Tax Department is an ongoing programme and the Department has achieved good progress. In fact the number of assesseees has increased substantially and the tax collection also has increased in absolute terms for 1999-2000.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Performance of GIC and LIC**

7261. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for restructuring of General Insurance Corporation of India and the Life Insurance Corporation of India to meet the challenges posed by the entry of private operators in the insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the special incentives, the Government plans to provide to the LIC/GIC for ensuring a level-playing field in the insurance sector in the wake of privatisation; and

(d) the progress so far made by LIC and GIC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Malhotra Committee on reforms in the insurance sector as a part of its recommendations to improve the functioning of the insurance sector had suggested restructuring of LIC/GIC. These are under examination.

(c) and (d) To face the competition, adequate autonomy has been granted to LIC and GIC. To revamp their functioning, these corporations have taken a number of steps which include upgradation of technology, delegation of powers for quicker servicing and claims settlement, adoption of Citizen's charters offering wide range of products etc.

[Translation]

#### **Internet Banking by IDBI and SIDBI**

7262. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce the internet banking in the country by IDBI and SIDBI jointly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the rural people of remote areas of the country would be benefited by this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Leasing out of Mines to Private Sector**

7263. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the mines at the moment having substantial deposits are on lease to the private parties in each State;

(b) whether further proposals of leasing out are under consideration for disposing fully to the private parties; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) Mining activity in the country has historically been undertaken both, by public sector as well as private sector companies. The applications for grants of mining leases both from the private sector and public sector are continuously received and processed by the State Governments. Mining Leases are granted by the State Governments as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Since the grant of mining leases is under the domain of State Governments, the information regarding the names of individual mines etc is not centrally maintained. However, as per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of the Deptt. of Mines, during 1998-99, the number of mining leases with private sector was 8254, out of which, 2320 were operating mines. The State-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

*Number of Mining Leases/Operating Mines during 1998-99*

S.No.	State	No. of mining leases in Private Sector	No. of operating mines of Private Sector
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1329	298
2.	Assam	16	2

1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar	393	128
4.	Delhi	4	--
5.	Goa	402	71
6.	Gujarat	1392	408
7.	Himachal Pradesh	46	35
8.	Haryana	107	23
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10	1
10.	Karnataka	475	154
11.	Kerala	100	47
12.	Manipur	2	--
13.	Meghalaya	11	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1218	324
15.	Maharashtra	170	75
16.	Orissa	544	172
17.	Rajasthan	1261	438
18.	Sikkim	1	--
19.	Tamil Nadu	552	105
20.	Uttar Pradesh	121	28
21.	West Bengal	100	10
Total		8254	2320

#### Gold Reserves

7264. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GHELOT

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the stock of gold with RBI, as on date and the quantum of gold imported during the last three years and the value thereof;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment of gold in the possession of common public and

the quantum of consumption of gold in the country during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the quantum and value of gold seized by the Government from smugglers during the last three years; and

(e) the details of rewards given to customs officers and informers in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The stock of gold with RBI as on date is 357.76 tonnes. The quantity of gold imported during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is 643.27 tonnes, 521.73 tonnes and 480.37 tonnes (provisional), respectively. Value of gold imported during these years is not available.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The quantum and value of gold seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, and rewards given to Customs officers and informers in this regard during the last three years, is as follows :-

Year	Quantity (in Kg.)	Value (Rs. Cr.)	Reward to	
			Officers (Rs. Cr.)	Informers (Rs. Cr.)
1997-98	115.18	5.13	0.17	0.23
1998-99	60.33	2.62	0.03	0.02
1999-2000	313.64	14.00	Nil	0.03

#### Implementation of Recommendations of EDP Commission

7265. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per Fourth Pay Commission recommendations, EDP Commission was set up in 1987 and submitted its report on October 11, 1989;

(b) if so, whether the Government have implemented the recommendations in different organisations, particularly in the data processing division of the National Sample Survey Organisation;

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) On the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission a committee was set up in November, 1986 by Deptt. of Electronics to examine and suggest re-organisation of existing EDP posts and prescribe uniform pay scale and designations. The Committee submitted its report on 5.6.1987.

(b) to (e) Based on the recommendations of the committee, orders dated 11.9.1989 issued by the Ministry of Finance. In pursuance of these orders, Ministry of Statistics and programme Implementation issued orders on 2.7.1990 and 16.3.1998 implementing the revised pay structure in Deptt. of Statistics including Data Processing Division of National Sample Survey Organisation. However, some EDP staff of Data Processing Division in NSSO were not satisfied and had approached various courts and in some cases the matter is sub-judice. A committee was also set up in Deptt. of Statistics to examine the entire issue. The recommendations of the committee are under examination.

#### **USA Embargo on Shrimp Import**

7266. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the USA embargo on import of shrimp from India is still in operation;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the USA has implemented the decision of the dispute settlement body of the W.T.O. taken in the formal session held on November 6, 1998;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to avert the USA embargo on shrimp import?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) India alongwith Malaysia, Thailand and Pakistan had filed a dispute against US regarding the ban imposed on imports of certain shrimps and shrimp products under section 609 of US Public Law under the provisions of Understanding on Rules and procedure Governing the Settlement of Dispute (DSU). The Panel decided the case in favour of India. US appealed against the Panel's findings. The Appellate Body, while ruling that section

609 was provisionally justified under Article XX of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994, observed that this measure of US has been applied in a manner which constitutes an arbitrary and unjustifiable discrimination between the members of the WTO, contrary to the requirements of the chapeau of the Article XX of the GATT, 1994. The Panel and the Appellate Body report were adopted in the meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) held on 6th November, 1998. It was jointly agreed that the Reasonable Period of Time (RPT) granted to US will be 13 months (the RPT commenced on 6th November, 1998 and to expire on 6th December, 1999) for implementing the rulings and recommendations of the DSB.

As regard the exports of shrimps to USA, it may be mentioned that reports of shrimps from India to USA are taking place on the basis of a certificate being given by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) as prescribed by US Department of State. However, the shrimps harvested from the sea by vessels using mechanical means of net retrieval are not eligible to be exported to USA unless the vessels use Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs). Government of India also constituted an Expert Scientific Panel (ESP) to conduct a detailed study on the distribution of sea turtles, their incidental mortalities in fishing nets and use of TED in fishing trawlers, etc. The report has since been made available and is being examined. As part of the process of implementation, the US's Department of State has revised its guidelines for implementing Section 609. The revised guidelines, in accordance with the rulings and recommendations of the DSB are intended to (i) introduce greater flexibility in considering the comparability of foreign programmes and the US programmes, which implies that US is willing to consider credible alternate programmes other than use of TEDs; (ii) It has introduced transparency and application of due process in decision making procedures for certifying nations who will be eligible to export shrimps; and (iii) It has expanded the list of the exempted harvesting methods. Further, US has taken initiative for having negotiations with an aim to arrive at an Agreement with the Governments of the Indian Ocean Region on the protection of the sea turtles in that region. US has also offered technical training in the design, construction, installation and operation of TEDs to any member country that requests it.

#### **Cheating by Kirloskar Investment and Finance Limited**

7267. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Kirloskar Investment and Finance Limited has defaulted in making payment of interest and original deposit amount to the investors;

(b) if so, whether investors have lodged a complaint with various regulatory agencies against the management of this company;

(c) whether the Kirloskar Group after duping Rs. 122 crore from small investors have sold the ownership to an unknown person in Gujarat;

(d) if so, whether the new owner plans to change the name of the company and also the nature of the business to Software Technology;

(e) if so, whether the management of KIFL have started manipulating their own scrip in the secondary market;

(f) if so, whether Investors' Grievances Forum has made a representation against these unscrupulous promoters to the regulatory agencies; and

(g) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to help the small investors?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. Many depositors have lodged complaints against the Company with the Reserve Bank of India as well as with the Company Law Board.

(c) Kirloskar Group to which M/s. Kirloskar Investments and Finance Ltd. belonged have sold their controlling stake in the Company to Ahmedabad-based Shri Hari Singh Champawat and his associates.

(d) The Company had applied to Registrar of Companies for a change in its name from Kirloskar Investments and Finance Ltd. to KIRFIN INVESTMENTS AND FINANCE LTD. However, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company did not approve the proposal and hence the resolution was withdrawn. The AGM of the company approved its Board's resolution to enter into information technology including software business.

(e) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reported that certain reports regarding alleged price manipulation in the scrip of M/s. Kirloskar Investments and Finance Limited were received in SEBI. In the course of the enquiry, Bombay Stock Exchange has reported that no connection/evidence regarding transfer of funds was established between various brokers/clients who had dealt in this scrip and the company.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) In order to protect the interests of depositors,

RBI has taken a large number of steps which include, inter-alia, issuance of a Prohibitory Order restraining the company from accepting deposits and alienating its assets, rejecting of Company's application for Certificate of Registration, filing of a Winding Up Petition and appointment of a special officer to monitor day-to-day functioning of the company etc.

[Translation]

#### Performance of HEC at Ranchi

7268. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of purchase orders with the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) Ranchi in Bihar;

(b) whether the HEC has made necessary improvements in its functioning;

(c) if so, the details of profits and losses of the HEC during the last three years; and

(d) the details of measures taken by the Government to ensure smooth functioning of this Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) HEC has purchase orders mainly from Steel, Coal and Defence sectors valued at approx. Rs. 108 crores as on 1.5.2000.

(b) HEC has not been able to make necessary improvements in its functioning mainly due to shortage of orders.

(c) The net loss during the last three years is as follows :

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Net Loss
1997-98	71.97 (audited)
1998-99	50.63 (audited)
1999-2000	57.18 (unaudited)

(d) The attempts made include close and regular monitoring of the performance of the company providing budgetary support and extending assistance in securing orders from user sector.



*[English]***Cashew Plantation**

7269. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that large areas under cashew-nut plantation in Contai sub-division of Midnapore district in West Bengal are facing gradual decline and extinction on account of the absence of any remedial steps;

(b) if so, whether the Central Cashew Board has ever adopted any measures for helping the distressed cashew growers and cashew workers in this area;

(c) whether the Government propose to send a team of experts to assess the present state of this plantation and suggest appropriate remedial measures for bringing it back to normal health so that it can contribute significantly in production and export of cashewnut; and

(d) when such a team is likely to visit this area?

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

(b) Development of Cashew in India is looked after by the Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development under the Ministry of Agriculture. National Research Centre for Cashew, Puthoor, Dakshin Kanara, Karnataka (under ICAR) and Research Centres in various Regions including Jhargram in West Bengal extends support to Cashew Directorate.

(c) and (d) A communication has been made to the Cashew Export Promotion Council to put together a team. It is suggested that experts from Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development and National Research Centre for Cashew be included.

**Tobacco Crop Holiday in Karnataka**

7270. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka is reluctant to the proposal of tobacco crop holiday for 2000-2001 in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the tobacco crop size allowed for cultivation to the Karnataka; and

(d) the steps taken to dispose off the unsold tobacco lying with the tobacco traders?

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

(b) The successful marketing of the Karnataka Tobacco crop has negated the demand for a crop holiday.

(c) FCV tobacco crop size fixed for 2000-2001 Karnataka season is 25 M. Kgs.

(d) A delegation visited Libya, Jordan, Egypt and Algeria in February, 2000 to promote Indian tobacco export. Another Indian tobacco trade delegation including STC representatives visited Russia to explore opportunities for tobacco export. Further, a delegation will be visiting countries like China, Vietnam, South Korea and Taiwan to find new markets for export of tobacco.

*[Translation]***Minting of Fake Coins**

7271. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether case of minting of fake coins have been noticed by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in this regards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A few cases of circulation/manufacture of fake coins have come to notice.

(b) to (d) A statement indicating the details of the case is enclosed. "Public Order" and "Police" are State subjects under the Constitution of India. As such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments from time to time to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system to ensure effective prevention of crime.

**Details of Counterfeited Coins seized during 1998 and 1999**  
(State/UT-wise)

S. No.	State/UT	Distt./P.S., FIR No. & Date	Number of Pieces	Denomination	No. of Accused	Details of Accused
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Year 1998</b>						
1.	West Bengal	Distt. Murshidabad P.S. Berhampur. FIR No. 295/98 dated 1/8/98	11	Rs. 5	1	Ashok Mondal S/o Jitu @Jiten Mondal R/o Baranagar P.S. Jiyaganj Distt. Murshidabad (WB)
2.	West Bengal	Distt. Murshidabad P.S. Rejinagar, FIR No. 109/98 dated 32/11/98	75	Rs. 5	1	Sankar Biswas S/o Lt. Sahadeb Biswas Age 81 R/o Chhoto Kandua P.S. Nakashipara, Distt. Nadia (WB)
<b>Year 1999</b>						
1.	Assam	Distt. Morigaon P.S. Jagi Road FIR No. 97/99 Dated 14/6/99	2	Rs. 5	1	Moh. Abdul Kader R/o Fakali P.S. Jagiroad Distt. Morigaon (Assam)
2.	Haryana	Distt. Gurgaon P.S. Purnhana FIR No. 216/99 Dated 7/8/99	720	Rs. 1 (India Old Time)	1	Rashid S/o Nabla Meo R/o Vill. Nai P.S. Purnhana Distt. Gurgaon (Haryana)
3.	Haryana	Distt. Panipat P.S. City Panipat FIR No. 354/99 Dated 6/8/99	139	--	8	1. Bhupender @ Goga S/o Narayan Singh Kahtri R/o 183/3 Mahjan Wali Gali, Panipat, Haryana 2. Gurpreet Kaur W/o Bhupender Singh Kahtri R/o 183/3 Mahjan Wali Gali, Panipat, Haryana 3. Kishan Lal S/o Ram Nath Kahtri House No. 168/3 Mahjan Wali Gali, Panipat, Haryana 4. Prema @ Reeta W/o Kishan Lal, House No. 168/3 Mahjan Wali Gali, Panipat, Haryana 5. Manender Singh S/o Arjun Das Khatri R/o Ward 1 Godhana, Sonapat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Haryana	Distt. Gurgaon P.S. Firozpur Jhirka FIR No. 218/99 Dated 24/12/99	53	Rs. 1	7	<p>6. Kala @ Ashok S/o Arun Das Khatri R/o Ward 1 Godhana, Sonapat.</p> <p>7. Rajesh @ Dimple S/o Hemraj Mahajan R/o 22/7 Amar Bhawan Chowk, Panipat.</p> <p>8. Rajesh Kumar S/o Darbari Lal R/o 189 Asandh Road, Ram Lal Chowk, Panipat.</p> <p>1. Ayub S/o Idu R/o Nai P.S. Punahana Distt. Gurgaon.</p> <p>2. Hussain Mand S/o Jagroop R/o Nai P.S. Punahana Distt. Gurgaon.</p> <p>3. Isha S/o Mohmad Khan R/o Nai P.S. Punahana Distt. Gurgaon.</p> <p>4. Kassam S/o Shahbuddin R/o Vill. Bisru P.S. Punahana Distt. Gurgaon.</p> <p>5. Farukh S/o Ishakh R/o Nai P.S. Punahana Distt. Gurgaon.</p> <p>6. Suban S/o Ishakh R/o Nai P.S. Punahana Distt. Gurgaon.</p> <p>7. Amin S/o Shad Mand R/o Vill. Tirwass, P.S. Punahana Distt. Gurgaon.</p> <p>1. Ramesh Rajpurohit S/o Lahusingh R/o Patni Pul Kalyan.</p> <p>2. Nagesh Dewendra S/o Munuranji R/o Jijamata Colony.</p> <p>3. Jalaram Purohit @ Zhalasing S/o Hakomji R/o Ganesh Nagar.</p> <p>Nil</p>
5.	Maharashtra	Distt. Thane City P.S. MFC Kalyan FIR No. 19/99 Dated 18/1/99.	1000	Rs. 5	3	<p>Shambhu Das S/o Rajan Das R/o Kansat P.S. Sibganj Distt. Chapai Nababganj, Bangladesh.</p>
6.	Maharashtra	Distt. Latur P.S. Nilanga FIR No. 101/99 Dated 3/8/99.	1	Rs. 5	--	
7.	West Bengal	Distt. Malka P.S. Kaliachak FIR No. 256/99 Dated 9/10/99.	2	Rs. 2	1	

*English]***Setting up of Technology Upgradation Centre**

7272. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need to modernise the handloom industry in the country to enable them to produce improved varieties of handloom products;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to extend enough financial assistance for setting up of more technology Upgradation Centres in the States;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the other measures taken to modernise the handloom industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) to (d) At present 24 Weavers Service Centres are functioning in the country, including one in Kerala at Cannanore, under the Government of India, as per details given below, they provide services to handloom industry for technology upgradation :-

No	State	Location
2	3	
	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Vijayawada
	Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya	Guwahati
	Bihar	Bhagalpur
	Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir	Delhi
	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
	Haryana, Punjab	Panipat
	Karnataka	Bangalore
	Kerala, Lakshadweep & Minicoy Islands	Cannanore

1	2	3
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Raigarh, Indore
10.	Maharashtra, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Mumbai, Nagpur
11.	Manipur	Imphal
12.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
13.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
14.	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Chennai, Kancheepuram Salem
15.	Tripura	Agartala
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi, Meerut, Chamoli
17.	West Bengal, Sikkim	Calcutta

(e) The Government of India, from the year 1997-98, has introduced a Scheme for extending financial assistance to State Governments desirous of setting up of Weavers Service Centre in handloom intensive areas.

**Agro-Based Industries with Foreign Investment**

7273. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received by the Government regarding setting up of agro-based industries with foreign investment in each State during the last three years;

(b) the details of proposals approved by the Government and the number of proposals implemented so far;

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation of the remaining approved proposals; and

(d) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) A total number of 6335 proposals involving Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of Rs. 114,071.37 crore have been approved in all sectors (including agro-based industries) during the last three years (January, 1997 to December, 1999). Out of this 91 nos. of proposals involving FDI of Rs. 1344.95 crore have

been approved in Sugar/Vegetable Oils & Vanaspati/Horticulture/Agriculture/Floriculture which are the agro-based industries. A statement showing details of State-wise proposals is enclosed. The data on implementation of projects is not centrally maintained.

#### Statement

*State-wise Break up of Foreign Collaboration & Foreign Direct Investment Proposals Approved during (January, 1997 to December, 1999)*

State	No. of Approvals			Amt. of FDI Approved (Rs. Crores)	% to Total
	Total	Tech	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	271	55	216	6260.11	5.49
Assam	7	7	0	0.00	0.00
Bihar	44	26	18	700.43	0.61
Gujarat	309	136	173	7596.48	6.66
Haryana	245	109	136	1784.62	1.56
Himachal Pradesh	14	3	11	30.63	0.03
Jammu and Kashmir	4	3	1	0.40	0.00
Karnataka	566	112	454	10654.96	9.34
Kerala	69	15	54	291.00	0.26
Madhya Pradesh	77	21	56	7593.00	6.66
Maharashtra	1142	362	780	15534.35	13.62
Manipur	1	0	1	3.19	0.00
Meghalaya	3	0	3	50.46	0.04
Nagaland	1	0	1	3.68	0.00
Orissa	55	20	35	5249.55	4.60
Punjab	54	12	42	686.48	0.60
Rajasthan	86	27	59	1873.48	1.64
Tamil Nadu	686	197	489	8643.12	7.58
Tripura	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	256	80	176	1275.87	1.12
West Bengal	196	76	120	2512.58	2.20

1	2	3	4	5	6
Andaman & Nicobar	2	0	2	12.80	0.01
Chandigarh	11	1	10	67.57	0.06
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	18	11	7	54.11	0.05
Delhi	552	77	475	13050.64	11.44
Goa	62	18	44	219.87	0.19
Pondicherry	29	11	18	140.93	0.12
Daman & Diu	17	5	12	36.87	0.03
State not indicated	1557	366	1191	29744.19	26.06
Total	6335	1751	4584	114071.37	

#### Looting of Bank Drafts and Cheques of PNB

7274. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some unidentified gunmen had looted in the broad day light bank drafts and cheques worth two crores of rupees from the cashier of the Punjab National Bank on April 21, 2000 near railway station in Muzaffarnagar city of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the bank drafts and cheques has been encashed;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the date on which the encashment was made; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to nab them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Punjab National Bank has reported that on 20th April, 2000 at 10:40 AM an unidentified gunman has looted a bag containing 260 bank drafts, cheques and other instruments worth Rs. 1.89 crore from a bank employee of the New Mandi, Muzaffarnagar Branch, near the railway station while he was going to the Clearing House.

(c) and (d) None of the customers has so far reported any encashment of cheques/drafts looted in the incident.

(e) All the cheques and drafts which were looted were bearing the crossing stamp and as such the possibility

of misuse of these instruments is minimal. However, to protect the interest of the account holders the branch had requested their customers to get stop payment marked by the payee banks and if required get a duplicate instruments issued in lieu of the original. The incident of looting has also been reported to other banks and the details of cheques/drafts has also been sent to the payee bankers to mark necessary caution against their fraudulent use. An FIR relating to the incident has been lodged with the Police Department on 20th April, 2000.

#### **Investor Protection Fund**

7275. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to form Investor Protection Fund (IPF);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the IPF is likely to be formed and made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has, in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section 4 of section 205 C of Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) has constituted a committee under Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Company Affairs with ten other members to administer the Investor Education and Protection Fund and to maintain separate accounts and other relevant records in relation to that Fund in such form as may be prescribed in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The members of the Committee shall hold office for a period of two years. The Fund shall be utilized for promotion of investor awareness and protection of the interest of investor in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 17th December, 1999 and the second meeting was held on 24th January, 2000. As per decisions taken in the meetings, finalisation of the Rules for Investor Protection Fund, 1999 and the Head of accounts wherein the funds will be accrued is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Pay Anomalies**

7276. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases of pay scale anomaly arisen after the Fifth Pay Commission Report pending for consideration of the Anomaly Committee set up in the Ministry of Finance to review such cases, grade-wise and Ministry/Department-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in taking decision on such cases; and

(c) the time by when decision on such cases is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Departmental anomaly Committee for the Ministry of Finance was constituted on 16.02.2000. The Anomaly Committee is required to receive cases of anomalies through the Leader of the Staff Side of the Departmental Council, upto six months from the date of constitution. No case of anomaly has been received through the Leader, Staff Side, for consideration by the Anomaly Committee till date.

#### **Consolidated Fund of India**

7277. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is empowered under Article 292 of the Constitution of India to borrow upon the security of the Consolidated Fund of India, within such limits as may be fixed by Parliament by law;

(b) if so, whether the Government have not fixed any limit on the borrowings with the approval of the Parliament in compliance to the provision of the Constitution despite the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total borrowings upon the security of the Consolidated Fund of India from the domestic market, as on date, and in what proportion to the receipts in the said Fund; and

(e) the reasons for disproportionate borrowings to the receipts in the Consolidated Fund of India and the corrective steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have, from time to time felt that a ceiling on borrowings was not necessary as the annual budget passed by Parliament implied an implicit ceiling on borrowing during the year.

(d) Against the total borrowings of Rs. 112275 crore (net of repayment) during 2000-01, Rs. 76383 crore (net of repayment) has been estimated as domestic borrowings in B.E. 2000-01. This works out to be 22.56 % of the total receipts of Rs. 338487 crore estimated in B.E. 2000-01 under Consolidated Fund of India.

(e) Borrowings have increased as the growth in expenditure of Government has outpaced the growth in its non-debt receipts. Finance Minister has announced a series of measures in para 10 of Budget Speech, 2000-01 to contain growth in Government expenditure with concomitant deceleration in the growth in Government borrowings.

#### **Export of Tea and Coffee**

7278. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of tea and coffee has decreased during April to November 1999 in terms of rupee;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Decline in the value of export of tea and coffee during the period April-November 1999 over the same period of the previous year was Rs. 290.53 crores and Rs. 12.73 crores respectively.

(b) The reasons for decline in export of tea are mainly competition from other producing countries and decline in exports to Kazakhstan, Ireland, U.A.E. Iraq, Egypt, Turkey etc. due to factors which are country specific.

The reasons for decrease in export of coffee in terms value is attributed mainly to decline in the international coffee prices because of excess supply on account of over production.

(c) The steps taken by the Government/Commodity Boards to increase exports of tea and coffee include analysing country-wise exports giving special attention to areas offering potential, removing bottlenecks in exports to individual markets. Certain other steps taken to increase export include :

- (i) participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad.
- (ii) field sampling at speciality stores and in principal markets.
- (iii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness.
- (iv) exchange of delegations between India and importing countries.

#### **Performance of 48 Public Sector Undertakings**

7279. SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

SHRI ABDUL HAMID :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether the Government have drawn a plan to redefine the role of 48 public sector undertakings through joint ventures and financial restructuring;

(b) if so, the details of the plan;

(c) whether 32 out of 48 PSUs have incurred losses during 1998-99;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government are also considering to sell non-viable PSUs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Government formulates Plans for restructuring of PSUs having regard to the internal economies of the Company and/or the recommendations given by the BIFR. So far, schemes of restructuring have been sanctioned by the BIFR in respect of 12 PSUs and are in progress. In regard to 5 other PSUs, Government have taken up restructuring programmes on their own. Government also decided to convert 24 PSUs into Joint Ventures in order to improve their operations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The losses are on account of non-competitive working, lack of orders, financial constraints, surplus workforce, outdated technology and, in some cases, inherited problems.

(e) and (f) Government have adopted various strategies appropriate to the circumstances of the case in respect of the non-viable PSUs, taking into account recommendations of the BIFR. These include winding up and disposal of assets where no other alternative is possible.

#### **Qualitative Restriction on Imports**

7280. DR. V. SAROJA :

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether under the new Exim Policy Government have thrown wide-open the doors for imports of as many as 714 consumer goods and undertaken to abolish import curbs on the remaining 715 items next year;

(b) if so, the details of the items which are to be freely imported without licence and the category of items are to be so opened up next year and the details of the farm products included therein;

(c) how far this decision is in line with WTO obligation; and

(d) the steps contemplated to provide safeguard, at least even playing field, to domestic producers especially farmers and SSI?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) India has been following a continuous policy of removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Tariff line-wise import policy was first announced on 31.3.1996. As on that date import of 6161 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) out of the total number of 10202 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) was free. Import restrictions on 488 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) were removed during the period 1.4.96 to 31.3.97. Further 391 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed during the period 1.4.97 to 13.4.98 and 894 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed on 1.4.99. Thus removal of import restrictions on 714 tariff lines as carried out on 31.3.2000 was nothing but the continuation of the stated policy of the Government over the years.

Under the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT), 1947 all Members were obliged to remove all the Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) maintained on imports. India being a Founder Member, was also obliged to remove the QRs but it took recourse to the exception provided in GATT for maintaining such QRs owing to balance of payments (BOP) difficulties.

However, since 1995, with substantial improvement in India's BOP Position, certain Members questioned India's continued justification for maintaining QRs on BoP grounds. India could negotiate with all other trading partners, with the exception of USA, for phasing out these QRs. USA filed a dispute against India in WTO and the Dispute

Settlement Panel ruled against India. India filed a appeal before the Appellate Body of WTO against the findings of the Panel but the Appellate Body also upheld the findings of Panel. Both these Reports were adopted by the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB). Consequently, a bilateral Agreement was signed between India and USA for determining the reasonable period of time for implementing the rulings and recommendations of DSB. As per the Agreement, QRs on 714 items have been removed with effect from 1.4.2000 and QRs on remaining 715 items are to be removed by 1.4.2001.

Out of these 714 items on which the restrictions were removed on 31.03.2000, 230 are agricultural items, 47 are textile items and 437 are other industrial products. Out of the 715 items on which restrictions are to be removed by 31.03.2001, 147 are agricultural items, 342 are textile items and 226 are other industrial products. The details of the 1429 items on which QRs are being removed is available in the Parliament Library.

However, all the imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of Custom duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic industry. Further, the imports are being closely monitored and Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry.

India's tariff bindings at W.T.O. for most of the agricultural items are fairly high and effective rates or customs duties can be raised to those levels, in case there is any evidence of substantial increase in imports. In the Budget for the year 2000-2001, presented before the Parliament, import duties on many of the agricultural items, (Chapter 1 to 24 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, have been increased to provide further protection to domestic farmers.

Government is aware of the emerging scenario for the SSI Units and has taken several steps to help them become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology up-gradation, infrastructure assistance through the cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure, marketing and timely information dissemination, including sensitization of small industries to the emerging challenges of trade liberalization.

#### Setting up of Restructuring Fund

7281. DR. A.D.K JAYASEELAN :

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :



Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up a separate Restructuring Fund consisting of a portion of sale proceeds of public sector enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Export of Raw Leather**

7282. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether a large number of units in the country have been permitted by the Government to export raw leather;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total value and quantum of raw leather exported by them during the last three years and foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(d) whether the Government have received any representations for imposing ban on the export of raw leather; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. Export of raw-hides and skins are under Restricted list since 1973. There has been no export of raw leather.

#### **Study made by SITRA**

7283. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the study by the Coimbatore based South India Textile Research Association

(SITRA) the profitability of the spinning mills has been showing an unprecedentedly declining trend in the 1990's;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have examined this study report;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to stop the crisis in the textile industry;

(d) whether according to this report, mills should get into value addition and enhance their unit realisation; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (e) The studies are conducted by SITRA on their own periodically and it is regular feature to inform the spinning mills about the status of the industry. The profitability of the spinning mills had been showing the declining trends in the 1990's. However in the year 1999 the industry showed signs of improvement. Sliding in profits and losses are mainly due to steep increase in the four input costs, viz., cotton, power, interest and overheads without commensurate increase in yarn selling prices.

Government have taken a number of steps to promote the production of textile goods. Some of these are as follows :

(i) Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries, which is in operation since 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years. 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.

(ii) In order to increase the productivity and quality of cotton, the Government has launched a Cotton Technology Mission on Cotton Development, with objectives of research, dissemination of technology to farmers, improvement in marketing infra-structure and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing Factories.

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

- (iv) The Textile Sector has inter-alia, been extended the facility of concessional rate of import duty @ 5% under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme.
- v) Upgradation through appropriate training programmes, providing comprehensive testing facility through network of laboratories.
- vi) The Government has placed all the imports of textile fibre/yarn under O.G.L. to augment the availability of such fibre/yarn to the textile mills.
- vii) Initiated measures for application of information technology in the textile industry to improve trade.

**Loans under New Self-Employment Scheme to Unemployed Youths of OBCs**

7284. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any new self-employment scheme to provide loans to the unemployed youths of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms to be adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) No proposal to launch any new Self-Employment Scheme to provide loans to the Unemployed youths specifically for the other backward classes (OBCs) is under consideration by the Government. However, under the existing Government Sponsored Schemes, banks provide loans to unemployed youths including those of OBCs.

[English]

**Bilateral Trade with Mauritius**

7285. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Mauritius have agreed to promote bilateral trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed by both the countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. India and Mauritius have agreed to promote bilateral trade. In this regard a bilateral Trade Agreement between two countries has been signed at Port Louis on 10th March, 2000 by Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. Ajit Kumar Panja from Indian side and Hon'ble Dy. Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Trade Mr. Rajeswur Purryag from Mauritian side. Inter-alia, the Agreement notes that both countries are members of WTO and are accordingly bound by multilateral trade disciplines as enunciated by Uruguay Round Agreement, Decisions & Declaration. Both the countries have agreed to strengthen trade & economic relations and to encourage and facilitate contacts through the exchange of visits and delegations, participation in fairs and exhibitions and sharing of information. The focus of the Agreement is on establishment of Joint Trade Committee for reviewing the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement and recommending measures for increasing the commercial exchange of goods and services between the contracting parties. It shall take stock of developments on trade taking place at the multilateral and regional levels, and examine the trade pattern and flows of trade at the bi-lateral level. It will work out common strategies with regard to trade negotiations and other trade related issues at the Multilateral and Regional levels. It will advise on the setting up of joint ventures in the trade sector and trade related sectors and work out technical cooperation programmes in the trade sector and monitor their implementation. The Trade Agreement also specifies that import of goods and services shall be on the basis of contracts between the natural & juridical persons of the two countries and the payments for goods & services shall be in convertible currency. Safeguard clause have also been included in the trade agreement.

**Sale of Land by Sick Textiles Mills**

7286. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded permission to the sick textile mills to sale their land, provided the money to be obtained from sale of land is spent for revival of those mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of such sick textile mills which have been given such permission;

(c) whether the Government are aware that this has led to clashes at many places in Mumbai; and

(d) If so, the steps taken by the Government to tackle such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) No permission has been given for NTC mills by the Central Government as the approval of the concerned State Government especially the Government of Maharashtra could not be obtained. These permissions are to be given by State Government concerned in the case of private textile mills.

[Translation]

#### Heavy Industries in Rajasthan

7287. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) the details of the heavy industries in Public Sector running in Rajasthan;

(b) the performance of Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Ltd.;

(c) whether a number of industries out of these are running in losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps being taken by the Government to make up their losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) There are six Central Public Sector Undertakings having their registered offices in Rajasthan viz. Hindustan Salts Limited, Hindustan Zinc Limited, Instrumentation Limited, Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd. and Sambhar Salts Limited.

(b) The Rajasthan Electronic and Instruments Ltd. has earned a net profit of Rs. 4 lakhs during 1998-99, till which period the information is available.

(c) There are only 2 Central PSUs i.e. Hindustan Salts Ltd. and Sambhar Salts Ltd. which have incurred losses during 1998-99.

(d) The steps taken by Govt. to improve the performance of Hindustan Salts Ltd. include installation of Salt Refinery and a Bromine Plant with state of the art technology at Kharaghoda which would reduce the cost of production and improve the quality of salt. For Sambhar

Salts Ltd. the major steps proposed are installation of Salt Washery at Sambhar Lake to improve the quality of salt to make it suitable for Chlor-Alkali industry and sinking of borewells to reduce the dependence on rainfall.

[English]

#### Dumping of Agricultural Products

7288. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide adequate remunerative price to the agricultural farmers for their products like natural rubber, coconut, arecanut in view of the new Exim Policy 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to avert the dumping of agricultural products from abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Under the current Exim Policy, import of natural rubber is in the Restricted List and is permitted only against Advance Licence/Special Import Licence except from SAARC countries. The import under Advance Licence Scheme has also been banned w.e.f. 20.2.1999. The export of natural rubber is free under the current Exim Policy.

As per the existing Exim Policy, Copra, Coconut and its products are canalized through State Trading Corporation (STC) and Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation (HVOC).

The Import of Arecanut has been allowed against Special Import Licence in the current Exim Policy and its import is free from SAARC countries.

(c) and (d) The Government constantly monitors import of individual agricultural products. Since the import of the above items is insignificant, the question of dumping does not arise.

#### Jute Packaging Order

7289. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently diluted the mandatory Jute Packaging Order; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

In view of an indefinite strike in jute mills in West Bengal w.e.f. 22.3.2000 and in order to meet the requirement of packaging of essential items namely, Foodgrains, Sugar and Urea, the Government of India considered it necessary to provide relaxation in the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 and hence amended its earlier Notification dated 1.7.1999 vide Gazette Notification No. S.O. 327 (E) dated 31.3.2000 for the following commodities to be packed in Jute Bags :-

S. No.	Commodities	% age of total production to be packed in jute packaging material as per Notification dated	
		01.07.1999	31.3.2000 (Valid upto 30.6.2000)
1.	Foodgrains	100%	90%
2.	Sugar	100%	90%
3.	Fertilizer (Urea Only)	20%	15%

#### Marketing Rights under TRIPS

7290. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any application for exclusive marketing rights (EMR) under TRIPS;

(b) if so, the number of such applications and the products for which such EMR applications have been received; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Indian Patent Office has received one application for grant of exclusive marketing rights (EMR) for the product titled "Pharmaceutical Compositions" stated to be useful for the treatment of diseases caused by retroviruses, filed by M/s. F. Hoffmann La Roche AG, Basle, Switzerland.

(c) The above EMR application is under process. No EMR has yet been granted.

#### Single Window System for Exporters

7291. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

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

(a) whether the multiple Government agencies both at Central and State levels add to more of paper work and consignment delays and harassment of exporters of various items/commodities including seafood;

(b) If so, whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to simplify and streamline the procedure and system at various levels by introducing single window system for all the export items uniformly all over the State to boost up exports; and

(c) the details of the representations/suggestions received in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) With the liberalization of the economy, Government has consciously moved towards de-control and de-centralisation of Export and Import regime, simplification of procedures and towards reducing avoidable interface between the exporters and various Government agencies. These steps have resulted in reducing delays and harassment, if any, caused to exporters in the process of exporting various commodities, including Seafood.

(b) and (c) Since different Central & State agencies provide different services, it is not possible to introduce a Single Window System for all export items. However, Government has formulated various measures towards streamlining procedures. These include provision for electronic filing of applications time schedules for considering licence applications, substantial delegation of powers and rationalisation of export promotion schemes. All these steps have reflected in the amendments to the Exim Policy and Procedures announced on 31.03.2000. This Policy was formulated after due consultations with the representatives of exporters and after considering various suggestions given by them.

#### Allocation of Funds to Assam

7292. SHRI ABDUL HAMID : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to Assam Government during the current Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether any special economic package has

been prepared for North-Eastern States including Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Prime Minister has announced Rs. 10271 crores package for socio-economic development of the North Eastern States and Sikkim during his visit to North Eastern Region in January, 2000. The package of North-East comprises assistance in various areas including Banking and Commerce, Border Roads and Border Trade, Health, Education, Power, Civil Aviation, Flood Control, Information Technology, Horticulture etc. The schemes have to be prepared by the different agencies of the Central Government and the State Governments concerned.

#### Statement

*The Funds allocated under various items during 9th Five Year Plan period*

(Rs. in crores)			
Items	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
1. Normal Central Assistance	1147.67	1067.98	1149.85
2. Externally Aided projects	80.00	47.00	166.77
3. Basic Minimum Services	163.80	172.46	188.53
4. Slum Development Scheme	2.84	2.84	3.12
5. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	15.00	25.00	25.00
6. Border Area Development Programme	4.12	4.17	7.20
7. Hill Area Development Programme	46.32	50.16	50.90
8. Additional Central Assistance	10.00	4.10	16.50
9. Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources	--	28.81	136.86

1	2	3	4
10. Share in Central taxes including taxes in lieu of Railway passenger fare grants	1480.45	1354.53	1453.98
11. Calamity Relief Fund	39.58	41.60	43.37
12. Grants as recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission :			
(i) Local Bodies	36.89	36.89	36.89
(ii) Upgradation Grants	36.72	44.06	36.71
(iii) Special Problems	15.00	18.00	15.00
13. Tribal Sub-Plan	15.45	23.27	24.49
14. Shifting Cultivation	0.25	0.25	0.25

#### ICA Agreement with WIPO

7293. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) has signed an agreement with World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) for settlement of international arbitration cases involving issues of patents, copyrights and transfer of technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding time schedule for implementation; and

(d) the present status of the proposal and the action plan for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) An agreement between World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Arbitration and Mediation Centre and the Indian Council of Arbitration has been signed on 1st November, 1999.

(b) The purpose of this agreement is to promote alternative dispute-resolution procedures for the settlement of international commercial disputes, in particular those involving intellectual property rights, as neutral dispute settlement mechanism that are responsive to the needs and rapid pace of international trade and its evolving interdependent environment. The agreement provides for cooperation between the two parties in the form of exchange of information, assistance in the conduct of arbitral proceedings and training activities.

(c) This is an ongoing arrangement and will require continuing efforts towards implementation.

(d) The agreement was signed in the month of November, 1999. The Indian Council of Arbitration proposes to interact with WIPO for executing some of the activities mentioned above. To begin with, the ICA proposes to organise training programmes particularly on techniques of arbitration, mediation and conciliation in the near future.

#### Export Performance in Kerala

7294. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve industrial sector in Kerala;

(b) the number of new industries have been started in Kerala during the last three years;

(c) the export performance of the industries in Kerala pertaining to spices, rubber and other cash crops in the last three years;

(d) whether the prospect of export of spices from Kerala is very high in the coming years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Developing and improving the industrial sector in any State is primarily the sole responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government supplements their efforts by way of various incentive schemes like Growth Centre Scheme, Transport Subsidy Scheme etc.

The Government of Kerala has announced its new Industrial Policy in October, 1998. They have taken various steps with the aim of accelerating average annual industrial growth to 9%, creating massive employment opportunities, developing necessary industrial infrastructure, attracting domestic and foreign investment and optimising utilisation of natural resources and potential available in the State.

(b) The details of the number of Letters of Intent (LOIs), Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs) and Export Oriented Units (EOUs) that have been granted during the last three years in the State of Kerala are as under :-

	1997		1998		1999	
	No.	Investment (Rs. Crore)	No.	Investment (Rs. Crore)	No.	Investment (Rs. Crore)
LOIs	--	--	--	--	1	0.40
IEMs	33	251	16	72	31	1388.00
EOUs	2	12	3	8	3	7.00

During the period from January, 1997 to December, 1999 four letters of intent have been converted into Industrial Licences and 24 IEMs have reported implementation.

Government of Kerala has reported that following units have been established in that State during the period in the Question :-

Technopark	23 companies
KINFRA	27 companies
SSI Sector under DIC	56704 units
KSIDC assisted projects	160

(c) Kerala is a leading producer of spices and

cashew in the country and thereby contributes to the bulk of exports. As far as Natural Rubber is concerned our country has traditionally been a net importer of this item. Though from the year 1997-98 onwards, the production of natural rubber in the country has exceeded the consumption due to recession in the user industry, major export of natural rubber has not been possible because the international prices are mostly below the domestic price levels.

State-wise export data is not centrally maintained.

(d) and (e) The export potential of spices from Kerala is very bright. The demand is for pepper ginger and turmeric. The State is also having spice based oil and oleoresin industries. The export of these products is on the increase every year.

**Value Added Tax Procedure**

7295. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a Committee for evolving methods for simplification of Value Added Tax Procedure;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government feels it will help to augment tax collection and compliance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the union Government have consulted trade/profession associations in order to incorporate simplified procedures for easy compliance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Union Government has set up a VAT Council of States headed by the Union Finance Minister to oversee implementation of VAT by all States/Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2001 and also set up a Standing Council of Commissioners of Sales Tax of all the States/Union Territories headed by the Union Finance Secretary/Revenue Secretary. The Standing Council of Commissioners will provide a mechanism for collection of data and notifications for the management of VAT in the States and also have the mandate to hold consultations amongst the States.

(d) and (e) Government of India had entrusted National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPF & P) to act as nodal agency for training, computerisation and publicity of Value Added Tax System. NIPF & P with the concerned State agencies has been organising interactive workshops with the various trade/profession associations.

**Appointment of Stringers**

7296. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for appointment of stringers in Doordarshan;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the camera suggested for stringers is very costly;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide camera to stringers on lease basis; 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) The criteria taken into consideration for empanelment of stringers in Doordarshan is :

(i) Ownership of Betacam/digital camera compatible with technical parameters of broadcasting;

(ii) Proof of expertise in covering news items.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**List of Projects Exempted from Import Duty**

7297. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar Project is fulfilling the required criteria for including the same in the list of projects, specially for exemption from payment of import duty; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said project is included in the list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Under the revised mega power policy announced by the Government of India in November, 1998, certain power projects sites have been identified as mega power projects for development as multi-state mega power projects, both in the public as well as private sector. The identified mega power projects are being given certain fiscal concessions, which, inter-alia, includes exemption from payment of customs duty on import of capital equipment for these projects. Apart from the projects already identified for such concessions, Government has not decided to include any more projects for grant of the fiscal concession and also, no criteria has been laid down for including more projects in future. The River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar Project has not been included in the list of identified

mega power projects and notified for grant of the said fiscal concessions.

(b) As stated above, the list of identified mega power projects does not include the River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar Project, which is an ongoing project. The revised mega power policy also does not provide for inclusion of such ongoing projects.

#### **Merger of Department of Supply with Commerce and Industry**

7298. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to merge the Department of Supply with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the savings that would be effected by this merger;

(d) whether the interest of employees working in the Department of Supply, including its Pay and Accounts Office are to be protected in the inter-seniority list; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has under its consideration the question of restructuring of Department of Supply.

(c) The savings would depend on the nature of restructuring.

(d) and (e) The issue of seniority would be dealt with in accordance with the relevant rules and Government instructions on the subject.

[Translation]

#### **Import of Gold**

7299. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the import of gold during the last two years;

(b) if so, the total import of gold made during 1997-98 and 1998-99 alongwith the value thereof;

(c) whether there has been a decline in the export of gold jewellery; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The quantity and value of the gold imported during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as under :

Year	Quantity (In tonnes)	Value (In Rupees Crores)
1997-98	635.786	27633
1998-99	511.018	21320

Source : Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi.

(c) No, Sir. The export of gold jewellery during the last 3 years has been as under :

Year	Value of exports (In US\$ million)	Percentage Increase
1997-98	802.97	55.76
1998-99	870.15	8.37
1999-2000	992.34	14.04

Source : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta for 1997-98, 1998-99 and Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for 1999-2000.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **NABARD Loan for Irrigation Projects**

7300. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any amount has been provided by the NABARD for irrigation projects in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details on which this amount is likely to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance assistance to the banks for their onlending to farmers as well as loans to State Governments under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for irrigation projects. The refinance disbursed by



NABARD to participating banks in Bihar under Minor Irrigation for the last three years is given below :

Year	Amount (Rs.lakhs)
1997-98	1623
1998-99	856
1999-2000	1004

The details of the irrigation projects sanctioned to Government of Bihar since the inception of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), as reported by NABARD, are given below :

(Rs. crore)						
Sanctions	RIDF-I 1995-96	RIDF-II 1996-97	RIDF-III 1997-98	RIDF-IV 1998-99	RIDF-V 1999-00	Total
Minor Irrigation	22.17	--	62.31	--	21.43	105.91
Major Irrigation	--	--	--	116.00	75.00	191.00
Total	22.17	--	62.31	116.00	96.43	296.91

(c) The loans sanctioned out of RIDF are project specific and are on reimbursement basis. As per the terms and conditions of the sanction, amount sanctioned to a particular project has to be spent for the implementation of the same project.

#### Loans by Financial Institutions

7301. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been fixed for financial institutions in regard to consideration of applications of small entrepreneurs for granting the loans to enable them to set up their industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government are aware that different procedures are being adopted in respect of different categories of entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, the reasons for giving such differential treatment to the entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The decision regarding financing a particular economic activity or category of entrepreneur is taken by Financial

Institutions themselves based on their commercial judgement and the lending policy laid down by their respective boards within the framework of prudential regulations and exposure norms prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time. There is no discrimination with regard to lending against any particular category of borrowers/entrepreneurs. All those projects which are financially viable and where the creditworthiness of the borrowers is sound are financed.

#### Promotion of Sericulture

7302. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the vast scope to promote sericulture in the country, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether any emphasis plan had been prepared by the Union Government in this regard during the Eighth Plan;

(c) if so, the achievement made in this regard, State-wise; and

(d) the funds earmarked for the Ninth Plan Period to promote sericulture in the country, State-wise, particularly for Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During a period overlapping the period of the VIII Plan from June 1989 to December 1996, Govt. implemented the National Sericulture Project (NSP) with World Bank assistance at a cost of Rs. 508.21 crores and a local credit assistance of Rs. 194.015 crores. Among other States, this project also covered Karnataka.

(c) Achievement as reported under NSP was net increase in area under mulberry as follows :-

Karnataka	26137 ha.
Andhra Pradesh	21615 ha.
Tamil Nadu	809 ha.
West Bengal	5564 ha.
Jammu & Kashmir	3302 ha.
12 Pilot States	2565 ha.

(Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana & Himachal Pradesh)

Overall per year increase in silk production in the terminal year of the project was :

Karnataka	2947 tonnes
Andhra Pradesh	634 tonnes
Tamil Nadu	365 tonnes
West Bengal	220 tonnes
Jammu & Kashmir	30 tonnes
12 Pilot States	17 tonnes

(Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana & Himachal Pradesh).

(d) Funds in the IX Plan for sericulture development are allotted to various schemes of the Central Silk Board without any earmarking for particular States.

#### Recovery of Loans

7303. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banks have to take legal action against those customers who do not refund the loan of the nationalised banks;

(b) the names of such banks along with the amount for which legal action was taken during the last three years;

(c) whether as a result of this legal action, the loans have been recovered; and

(d) if so, the amount recovered by the each bank during the said period, till date, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Banks follow up with the defaulters for recovery of banks' dues, in accordance with their loan recovery policy. Suits for recovery are normally filed when other attempts at recovery do not appear to bear fruit.

(b) to (d) Based on the data received from Reserve Bank of India, information in respect of number of cases transferred to Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) and the amount involved upto 31.3.1999 in respect of nationalised banks is given in statement-I. Similarly, the number of cases decided, amount recovered and number of cases pending as on 31.3.1999 alongwith the amount involved is given in statement-II.

#### Statement-I

*Debt Recovery Tribunals - Data as on 31.3.1999*

*(Amount in crores of rupees)*

*(A) Cases transferred to/filed with DRT's upto 31.3.1999*

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	Number	Amount
1.	Allahabad Bank	773	746.86
2.	Andhra Bank	460	263.16
3.	Bank of Baroda	1443	1290.49
4.	Bank of India	1215	1205.69
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	181	104.98
6.	Canara Bank	1572	1451.78
7.	Central Bank of India	1108	926.6
8.	Corporation Bank	252	84.21
9.	Dena Bank	227	130.28
10.	Indian Bank	2094	2767.04
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	730	674
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	393	294.87
13.	Punjab National Bank	1165	677.01
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	631	521.27
15.	Syndicate Bank	844	269.24
16.	Union Bank of India	702	420.1
17.	United Bank of India	706	628.16
18.	UCO Bank	673	573.68
19.	Vijaya Bank	354	272.07

#### Statement-II

*(B) Cases decided and cases pending upto 31.3.1999*  
*(Amount in crores of rupees)*

S. No.	Name of bank	No. of Cases decided	Amount involved	Amount recovered	No. of cases pending	Amount involved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Allahabad Bank	125	116.73	24.88	648	630.13
2.	Andhra Bank	141	54.11	12.18	319	209.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Bank of Baroda	200	112.17	19.05	1243	1178.32
4.	Bank of India	146	56.45	20.91	1069	1149.24
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	32	15.1	2.3	149	89.88
6.	Canara Bank	342	217.76	33.77	1230	1234.02
7.	Central Bank of India	149	65.29	29.11	959	861.31
8.	Corporation Bank	42	13.71	7.35	210	70.5
9.	Dena Bank	46	21.54	3.74	182	108.74
10.	Indian Bank	279	133.67	20.84	1815	2633.37
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	93	31.83	13.18	637	642.17
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	103	27.04	4.45	290	267.83
13.	Punjab National Bank	71	45.12	21.71	1094	631.89
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	129	59.84	28.02	502	461.43
15.	Syndicate Bank	200	52.09	4.6	644	217.15
16.	Union Bank of India	119	38.95	11	583	381.15
17.	United Bank of India	91	70.39	4.56	615	557.77
18.	UCO Bank	142	75.87	20.96	531	497.81
19.	Vijaya Bank	59	34.48	3.41	295	237.59

### **Ivory Trade**

7304. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for a complete ban on ivory trade;

(b) whether the issue ranged from poaching and the threat to elephants to ignorance of the consumer;

(c) whether Wild Life Experts say that Indian ivory in the International Market is considered much better;

(d) if so, the details regarding the demand along with the names of the countries; and

(e) the details regarding the earning of foreign exchange during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Trade in Indian elephant ivory is totally banned since 1986. The consumers, specially in developed countries, use ivory as a status symbol. In the opinion of wild life experts, Indian ivory is considered to be of better quality.

As the 'trade' in Ivory is banned since 1986, the question of earning any foreign exchange, on account of this, in last three years does not arise.

[Translation]

### **Printing Minting of Currency Notes/Coins**

7305. PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the denomination of currency notes/coins whose printing/minting has been stopped during the last five years, till date;

(b) the time upto which these currency notes/coins would remain in circulation;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the problems being faced by the people due to shortage of these currency notes/coins;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to solve the problem being faced by the people; and

(e) the denomination of new currency notes/coins proposed to be printed/minted in the near future alongwith the design and format thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Consequent upon coinisation of Re.1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 denomination notes, the printing of these notes has been discontinued from November, 1994, February, 1995 and November, 1995 respectively. There are still a few pieces of notes in these denominations in circulation which have not been returned by the public for exchanging these notes for coins or banknotes of higher denomination despite wide publicity given in newspapers in English and vernacular languages and also through electronic media. However, a definite time-frame for the withdrawal of these notes has not been fixed as this would cause immediate inconvenience to the public.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Modernisation of India Government Mint at Calcutta, Hyderabad and Mumbai is underway for increasing the present production capacity of coins. Besides, Government is also importing coins of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 denominations for meeting the immediate requirement.

(e) Government has decided to issue note in the denomination of Rs. 1000, by end of July, 2000.

[English]

#### Use of NRIs Funds

7306. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total NRIs fund has been raised from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) upto December, 1999;

(b) how much part of NRIs fund has been utilised in implementation of large infrastructure projects; and

(c) the National Policy on the subject along with a perspective plan of two years and ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Total investment inflows from NRIs under various invest-

ment schemes and the share of investment in the infrastructure sector during the last three calendar years as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have been as follows :

Year	(Rupees Crores)		
	1997	1998	1999 (Provisional)
(I) NRI investment inflows	1039.61	360.08	522.43
(II) Invest inflows in the infrastructure sector	325.46	168.41	48.30

In addition, an amount of Rs. 18,051 crores had been mobilised through issue of Resurgent India Bonds in August, 1998 for deployment in the infrastructure sector. Government securities and meeting CRR requirement of RBI.

(c) With a view to fully associate NRIs in the growth and deployment of India, policies are announced from time to time based on periodical review, to attract NRI funds into India.

#### Exchange Programme of Television

7307. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for extending co-operation in Television Network and exchange of programmes with other countries of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

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

(e) the time by which the agreement 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) to (e) Prasar Bharati have intimated that cooperation between Doordarshan and other broadcasting organisations is an ongoing process and agreements are signed from time to time on mutual convenience of the parties. Recently on 22nd February, 2000 Doordarshan has signed an agreement with the Radiodiffusion Marocaine (RTM), Morocco in the fields of programme exchange, co-productions, training

of personnel in each other's organisation on mutual basis and reciprocal visits of delegates/correspondents. The various clauses of the agreement will be implemented as per the mutual convenience of the two parties or at the initiative of one of the parties.

#### **Bank of PSUs**

7308. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a separate and exclusive Bank of PSUs; and

(b) if so, by when the said bank is likely to be set up with objectives to be achieved from the move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Tobacco Industry**

7309. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) present status of the tobacco industry in India;

(b) whether the Indian tobacco industry is having any significant role in the global tobacco industry;

(c) if so, in what manner;

(d) the present tobacco consumption of the country;

(e) the total workers employed in this sector; and

(f) the foreign exchange earnings of the tobacco industry annually?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Indian tobacco industry is in private sector.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. India at present is among the World's three largest producers of tobacco, 6th largest exporter of unmanufactured tobacco (all types), and ranks 4th among exporters of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco.

(d) The present tobacco consumption in India is about 480 million kgs. In dry weight.

(e) Indian tobacco sector provides employment to about 7.5 million families.

(f) The total value of export of FCV tobacco in the form of foreign exchange earnings for the last three years are as follows :-

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
1997-98	1070.24
1998-99	779.11
1999-2000 (April-Dec)	781.49

(Source DGCI&S)

#### **Export of Gems and Jewellery**

7310. SHRI ANANT NAYAK :

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the export of gems and jewellery;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase made on export of gems and jewellery during the last three years;

(c) the total foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of gems and jewellery?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) With a view to increase the export of gems & jewellery, several steps including amendments to Export Import Policy, have been taken from time to time based on the feedback and requests received from the trade. The important steps as have been taken since 1.4.98 to boost the exports of gems & jewellery are (i) Exemption from levy of sales tax by the State Government of Maharashtra on supply of gold by specified agencies for export. Many other State Governments have also reduced the incidence of sales tax on the supply of gold for exports, (ii) Permission for establishment of Private/Public Bonded Warehouses in Export Processing Zones (EPZ)/Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) for import supply and re-export of rough diamonds and rough precious and semi-precious stones. Besides the above, import and re-export of cut and polished diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones was also permitted subject to the achievement of minimum value addition of

5%, (iii) Reduction in the threshold limit for zero duty imports under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme from the earlier level of Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 1 crore only. With effect from 1st April, 2000, Capital Goods have been permitted to be imported at 5% Custom duty subject to an export obligation on Free on Board (FOB) basis equivalent to 5 times Cost Insurance Freight (CIF) value of Capital goods or 4 times the CIF value of capital goods on Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) basis to be fulfilled over a period of 18 years reckoned from the date of issuance of licence, (iv) Modification in the wastage norms for gold/silver/platinum jewellery and articles by way of linking them up with the type and category of jewellery, (v) Extension of the Replenishment Licence scheme to platinum and silver jewellery also, (vi) Permission for personal carriage of jewellery by foreign buyers from Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/EPZ units. With effect from 1st April, 2000 personal carriage of gems and jewellery parcels, from all EPZ/EOU/DTA units by all foreign bound Passengers departing from Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai airports, has been permitted, (vii) Provision for issuance of Diamond Imprest Licence to the status holders upto 5% of the export performance of the preceding year of cut or polished diamonds, for import of cut & polished diamonds for subsequent exports subject to achieving value addition of 10%, (viii) Permission of EOU/EPZ units to import plain gold/silver/platinum jewellery for repairs/ remake and subsequent export subject to earning a minimum Net Foreign Exchange Earning as a Percentage of Exports (NFEP) of 7.5%. With effect from 1st April, 2000, the above scheme has been extended to studded jewellery also with an NFEP of 12.5%, (ix) Permission for duty free import of consumables required by the jewellery and diamond processing industries to the extent of 1% of the FOB value of gems and jewellery exports in the preceding year. With a view to simplify the scheme/procedure, issuance of a separate Replenishment Licence has been provided with effect from 1st April, 2000 for duty free import of consumables, (x) Permission to firms and companies dealing in the purchase/sale of rough or cut & polished diamonds with a track record of at least three years in import or export of diamonds and having an average annual turnover of Rs. 5 crore or above during the preceding three licensing years to carry out their business through designated Diamond Dollar Accounts, (xi) Permission to foreign buyers to supply directly gold/silver/platinum and also plain semi-finished gold/silver/platinum jewellery to the status holders in India for manufacture and export of gold/silver/platinum jewellery, (xii) Doing away with the necessity to co-relate every export consignment of gems and jewellery with the corresponding import consignment in EPZ units, (xiii) Permission for personal carriage of gems and jewellery import parcels, (xiv) Allowing wastage of 2.5% in case of imported

gold/silver/platinum mountings used in studded jewellery, (xv) Permission for duty paid import of plain/studded jewellery items under Replenishment Licence to the extent of 2.5% of the FOB value of exports of the preceding year with a view to permit import of jewellery samples for research and development purpose, (xvi) Rationalisation of definition of gold/silver/platinum jewellery/articles and prescription of value addition and wastage norms for articles like medallions etc., (xvii) Permission to import and supply platinum of 0.900 fineness, (xviii) Reduction in custom duty on platinum and cut and polished diamonds to 15%, (xix) Hall marking and assaying of gold items by Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) accredited agencies has been introduced in some centres in India with a view to improve the quality standards and the "Made in India" brand image.

The details of total foreign exchange earned and the percentage of increase made by way of exports of gems & jewellery during the last three year is as given below :

(Value in US\$ million)

Year	Value of Exports	Percentage variation over the previous year
1996-97	4744.30	(-) 10.07
1997-98	5345.34	12.67
1998-99	5904.05	10.45
1999-2000	8024.76	35.92

Source : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta for 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for 1999-2000.

### **New National Media Policy**

7311. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to evolve a National Media Policy with a view to integrating advances in various fields of Media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry prepared a working paper on National Media Policy;

(d) if so, whether a final decision has since been taken on the National Media Policy;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the new Media Policy is likely to be announced; and

(f) 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) and (b) The Government is not contemplating to evolve any new National Media Policy.

(c) to (f) A Working Paper on National Media Policy had been prepared by a Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament, attached to this Ministry. The Paper had been submitted to the then Chairman of the Consultative Committee in March, 1996. The Working Paper could not be considered by the Consultative Committee then. It has been placed before the present Consultative Committee of the Ministry on 5th May, 2000. No timeframe can be given for a final decision on the said Paper.

[Translation]

#### Spices Growers

7312. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the benefits being accrued by the spices growers from the Spices Board during the last two years;

(b) the functioning of the Board in South India and Eastern India;

(c) whether the Chairman of the Spices Board undertake tours of spice growing area and if so, the places visited during the year 1999-2000; and

(d) the system of functioning of the export members and the details of assistance they get from the Board during 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As per Spices Board Act, 1986, Board's responsibility for production development is limited to cardamom only. For the benefit of cardamom growers, Spices Board has been implementing plan schemes under which financial assistance is provided for production and supply of quality planting materials, replanting of cardamom, irrigation and land development, construction/renovation of curing houses.

(b) Spices Board has a well knit field set up in South and Eastern India which includes 29 field offices and 6 Departmental nurseries. For export promotion activities and post harvest improvement of spices. Spices Board has 8 regional offices and 14 zonal offices in these regions. Besides Spices Board has set up 3 research stations in these regions.

(c) Yes, Sir. The places to which Chairman, Spices Board has undertaken tours during 1999 include Palghat Santhanpara, Munnar, Adimaly, Trivandrum, Udumbanchola, Nedumkandam, Peermade, Vandamattu, Kumily, Muvattupuzha, Thodupuzha, Kattappana, Kothamangalam (Kerala), Pulney, Periyakulam, Theni, Bodinayakanur, Nagercoil, Nilgiris, Dodabetta, Coonoor (Tamil Nadu) and Dehradun (U.P.).

(d) As per the Spices Board Act 1986 and Spices Board (Registration of exporters) Regulation 1989, any person who exports spices from India has to get registered as an exporter of spices. The registration certificate is issued for a block period of three years. So far, Spices Board has registered 1724 number of exporters. From the registered exporters, ten exporters are included in the Board representing the export sector. As far as the assistance under the export promotion schemes of the Spices Board are concerned, all registered exporters are eligible to avail the assistance subjected to satisfying the criteria stipulated under different schemes. The total amount of direct assistance given to the registered exporters during the year 1998-99 was Rs. 68.25 lakhs and during 1999-2000 was Rs. 156.19 lakhs. However, Spices Board has also spent Rs. 176.40 lakhs in 1998-99 and Rs. 254.00 lakhs during 1999-2000 for generic promotion which has helped exporters to improve their exports.

[English]

#### Closely-Held Companies

7313. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of non-banking financial companies including Residuary non-Banking Companies which are closely-held companies together with their names and their gross annual turnover;

(b) whether some of these institutions are highly cash-rich companies having public deposits worth several thousands crore from small class depositors;

(c) if so, the reasons for their enjoying the status of closely-held companies; and

(d) the constraints, legal or administrative, to open up these companies for full participation of the public by issue of public equities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that their data reporting system does not generate information on closely held NBFCs including Residuary Non-Banking Companies (RNBCs).

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank has not issued any guidelines relating to holding pattern of the capital of such companies. The decision whether to go for public or not is left to the discretion of the promoters subject to applicability of statutory provisions.

#### **MoU with BALCO and NALCO**

7314. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER :

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

(a) whether the Government have signed any Memorandum of Understandings with Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) and National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal of disinvestment of BALCO or to sale it to a private party is under consideration of the Government;

(d) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have also formulated any plan to save the interests of workers of this plant before taking a final decision; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have signed Memorandum of Understanding with BALCO and NALCO which will be laid on the Table of the House in the current session of Parliament.

(c) to (f) Government have decided to divest 51% of its equity to a strategic partner who is expected to bring state-of-art technology and fresh investment for modernisation and expansion. Infusion of fresh resources by the strategic partner is expected to take care of the interests of the workers and sustain employment.

#### **Use of Expensive Equipments of DD by Private Persons**

7315. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the employees of Door-

darshan were found making use of the under-utilised expensive equipments by illegally renting it out to private persons;

(b) If so, whether any enquiry was ordered in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the guilty?

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 (c) CBI is conducting a Preliminary Enquiry relating to alleged misuse of engineering equipments at Central Production Centre, Delhi. CBI is yet to submit its findings to this Ministry.

[Translation]

#### **Shareholding of NTC**

7316. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of Government holding in the Swadeshi Polytex Ltd., Ghaziabad; and

(b) the reasons for not included any Member from the NTC in the Board of Directors of the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Government has no share holding in Swadeshi Polytex Ltd. (SPL). However National Textile Corporation (UP) Ltd. which is a subsidiary of National Textile Corporation Ltd. holds 33.63% shares in Swadeshi Polytex Limited.

(b) At present the Board of SPL has a total of ten Directors. Of these five are nominee Directors of NTC (UP) Ltd.

[English]

#### **Co-operation with US Pharma Sector**

7317. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether the American leading research based pharma and bio-technology companies have asked the US Government to designate Indian as priority foreign country to review process and initiate dispute settlement



proceedings in WTO to challenge India's failure to meet its current WTO obligations under the TRIPS agreement;

(b) if so, whether the US Pharma companies have decided to increase the investment by another \$ 2.4 billion this year to record a shattering 26.4 billion dollars which is 20.3% of the total US sales and export in pharma;

(c) if so, whether the Indian Government have agreed to co-operate with the US Pharma sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Pharmaceutical Research & manufacturers of America (Ph RMA) and its member companies have asked the US Government to designate India as a priority foreign country under special 301 for the year 2000. Ph RMA also requested the US Government to initiate dispute settlement proceedings in WTO to challenge India's failure to meet its current WTO obligations under TRIPS agreement.

(b) Yes, Sir, the US Companies plan to increase investment in R&D by another \$ 2.4 billion to projected investment of \$ 26.4 billion.

(c) and (b) The Government has not entered into any agreement with the US on these matters. However, during the period August 1991, to February 2000, Government has approved 74 cases of foreign collaboration in the drugs and pharmaceutical sector with the US companies.

#### **Production of Wool**

7318. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of wool in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the quantity of wool imported and exported during each of the last three years, separately;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan/scheme to boost the production of wool including Angora Wool in the country and to improve its quality;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the Central Wool Development Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Production of Wool in the country for the last three years :

('000 Kgs)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99*
Andhra Pradesh	1880	1910	1934
Arunachal Pradesh	58	59	60
Bihar	1230	1260	1270
Gujarat	2418	2450	2500
Haryana	1864	1873	1930
Himachal Pradesh	1555	1570	1564
Jammu & Kashmir	5061	5365	5450
Karnataka	4229	4691	4864
Madhya Pradesh	784	803	810
Maharashtra	1569	1581	1597
Punjab	1200	1220	1250
Rajasthan	18000	18300	18700
Sikkim	36	36	37
Tamil Nadu	714	715	660
Uttar Pradesh	2065	2130	2199
West Bengal	626	629	631
All India Total	43289	44592	45456

\*Provisional

(b) The detail of the quantity and value of raw wool imported during the last three years are as follows :

#### **Import of raw wool**

Year	Quantity (In ton)	Value (Rs. in crore)
1997-98	57750	600.42
1998-99	54986	490.30
1999-2000 (up to Feb. 2000)	59436	445.25

#### **Export of Wool :**

The value of the export of wool and woollen items for the last three years is given below :

Year	(Rs. in crore)
1997-98	1948.29
1998-99	1870.42
1999-2000	2110.35

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Wool Development Board, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Textiles, administers the following schemes/projects aimed at boosting the production of wool and improving its quality:

- (i) Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project
- (ii) Integrates Angora Rabbit Development Project
- (iii) Machine Shearing-cum-Training Project
- (iv) Wool Scouring Plant
- (v) Wool Testing Centre
- (vi) Industrial Service Centre
- (vii) Area Based Project for Development of Wool & Woolens
- (viii) U.N.D.P. (CCF-I) for Angora Rabbit Development Programme

In addition, Wool Research Association has been undertaking research projects aimed at improving the quality of wool for past several years.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Government has been increasing the allocation of funds to the Central Wool Development Board for various schemes and programmes for the development of wool and woolens in the country which it administers through State Government Departments/Bodies or Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs). The budget allocation for Central Wool Development Board for the last 2 years and for the current year is as follows :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)
1998-99	450.00
1999-2000	500.00
2000-2001	600.00

#### Production of Tobacco

7319. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of tobacco produced in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the production of tobacco has declined drastically during this period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Corresponding production of tobacco during each of the last 3 years, State-wise are as follows :

Name of State	Estimated Production (M.Kgs)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (P)
Andhra Pradesh	130.95	148.81	137.98
Maharashtra	0.21	0.24	0.20
Orissa	0.45	0.55	0.50
Karnataka	45.64	54.89	48.00
Total	177.25	204.49	186.68

Source : Tobacco Board

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Import and Export of Pulses

7320. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA :

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

(a) whether the import and export of pulses is permitted;

(b) if so, whether there is a balance in the demand and supply of pulses in the country;

(c) if not, the reasons for making the import and export by the Government on equal terms;

(d) the quantum of pulses imported and exported during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 alongwith the price thereof; and

(e) the additional revenue earned therefrom during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Pulses are classified under Exim Code 07.13 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002. Import of all pulses except that of Australian Lupin Seeds and toxic pulses is free. However, export of all type of pulses including lentils, grams, beans and flour made therefrom except those in consumer packs upto 5 Kg., is restricted.

As per the data available with the Government the quantity, value and per unit value of the import and export of pulses for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto November, '99) are as follows :

#### Import of Pulses

Year	Quantity (in '000 tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	Unit value spent (Rs. lakhs/000 tonnes)
1997-98	1008	119464	118.5
1998-99	313	40452	129.2
1999-2000 (upto November, '99)	137	18324	133.7

#### Export of Pulses

Year	Quantity (in '000 tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	Unit value realised (Rs. lakhs/000 tonnes)
1997-98	168	36089	214.8
1998-99	101	21874	216.5
1999-2000 (upto November, '99)	127	27706	218.15

[Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta]

As can be seen from the figures provided above,

India has been a net importer of pulses during the period. Export of pulses is allowed only in consumer packs. Thus the unit value of export is higher than the unit value of import of pulses. Since India had been a net importer of pulses the total foreign exchange spent on import of pulses, is higher than the earned through export of pulses, even though the unit value realized on exports is higher.

#### Grant-in-Aid to States

7321. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise details of the Grant-in-Aid provided to the State Government during the last three years and for the current financial year;

(b) the basis on which it is given;

(c) whether there is a provision of special Central Grant for the poor and backward States; and

(d) if so, the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Central assistance to State Plans is given as per the allocations decided by the Planning Commission. This Plan assistance is released in the shape of Block Grants and Block Loans. Plan allocations are decided by the Planning Commission on the basis of a formula which takes into account various factors like population, per-capita income, performance and special problem of States. Also, Non-plan grants are given to the States for various purposes as recommended by the Finance Commission. Details of the grants given to the States during the last three years and during the current year, so far, are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

*Non-Plan and Plan Grants released to States during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (So Far)*

(Rs. Lakhs)

State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001 (so far)	
	Non-Plan*	Plan	Non-Plan*	Plan	Non-Plan*	Plan	Non-Plan*	Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	28752.46	62386.76	15204.80	57483.38	49789.14	72414.08	8458.20	7866.43
Arunachal Pradesh	5806.18	40554.58	4077.18	47388.45	811.90	50812.91	219.91	6493.92
Assam	17978.18	107598.39	18519.04	119674.77	4083.92	128875.35	1734.47	16594.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bihar	9943.69	40512.41	9010.88	56951.69	16730.96	61969.28	760.00	6942.08
Goa	1163.07	2302.02	714.72	2319.03	377.94	2182.71	49.58	159.80
Gujarat	23981.88	20348.29	21019.38	22868.84	41273.88	32177.06	13675.51	3278.36
Haryana	4092.95	13049.07	4553.46	12349.66	11132.96	15163.41	940.32	1914.37
Himachal Pradesh	18764.51	48566.35	6870.64	67804.47	9108.07	84168.10	851.90	9846.71
Jammu & Kashmir	19525.24	203482.50	8839.57	214852.95	18596.64	260597.14	677.49	16700.31
Karnataka	8815.44	23782.23	15780.69	29308.33	21283.44	33555.42	1586.81	4186.25
Kerala	12166.85	16535.16	13543.88	21089.45	14904.39	22457.42	2018.39	2987.02
Madhya Pradesh	16746.82	33045.88	30990.86	38373.97	27993.43	53301.39	2158.97	4990.72
Maharashtra	21572.24	55201.20	16841.24	45415.35	25757.74	35800.57	1428.00	5362.69
Manipur	6624.77	33105.97	3657.51	36643.53	3187.21	48544.19	2.00	4787.42
Meghalaya	4945.69	23555.60	2281.76	30438.20	1155.21	33964.87	89.75	4173.26
Mizoram	9595.77	29431.84	2287.28	29667.22	966.44	36999.74	40.08	4886.20
Nagaland	9485.77	28001.00	3918.68	33148.78	1844.85	40331.96	65.08	4827.44
Orissa	13730.57	32341.75	9142.53	34996.26	104178.48	35232.96	1675.06	2558.78
Punjab	7339.97	13370.24	8047.47	13913.43	10453.65	11513.94	1961.39	1642.78
Rajasthan	21720.78	34483.32	29422.80	36279.96	39325.40	33785.91	11574.30	3871.68
Sikkim	2621.88	18869.67	1919.05	22844.28	842.42	26602.69	147.33	3381.78
Tamil Nadu	17306.07	43812.90	20901.62	37507.65	20275.98	46739.37	2384.97	6770.28
Tripura	8622.98	34345.90	3691.01	46871.12	1891.68	55157.19	144.83	6424.18
Uttar Pradesh	32795.59	103714.77	65763.07	114055.18	35892.46	135808.82	5186.35	11930.78
West Bengal	13340.09	49473.78	21843.38	68330.50	43201.63	68436.40	2264.56	8860.65
Total	337439.44	1111871.58	338842.50	1240576.45	507839.82	1426370.88	60095.25	151428.63

\* Includes Non-Plan Revenue deficit grants, Upgradation and Special Problem Grants, Grants for Local Bodies, Grant from National Fund for Calamity Relief, Centre's Contribution to calamity Relief Fund and Grants in lieu of Tax on Railway Passenger Fares but Excludes Devolution of Taxes to the States.

### Smuggling of Watches

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

7322. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check the smuggling of watches into the country?

(a) whether the Indian market has been flooded with the smuggled watches;

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

smuggling is a Clandestine activity and it is difficult to indicate extent of smuggling of watches, the reports/intelligence available do not support the contention that Indian market has been flooded with the smuggled watches.

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

(c) All the field units of the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are over vigilant and on alert to detect & prevent smuggling of contraband goods including watches.

[English]

#### **Funds for Natural Disasters**

7323. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has ordered to furnish the details of misuse of funds provided by the Union Government for "Natural Disasters" to the State Governments as reported by the Tamil Daily 'Dinamani' dated March 27, 2000;

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

(c) whether any special Committee exists in the Union Government to monitor such misuse by the State Governments; and

(d) if not, whether there is any proposal to set up such committee; and

(e) 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) to (e) Funds released for calamity relief are to be spent according to prescribed norms and on approved items. These items/norms are based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee and they have been communicated to all the State Governments by the Union Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture also call for periodic reports from the States (in a prescribed format) regarding utilisation of funds released for calamity relief. The Accountant Generals of the States have been requested to ensure that only expenditure on items approved by the Ministry of Agriculture for relief and rehabilitation in the wake of natural calamities is booked under the head '2245-natural calamities'. The Accountant Generals have further been requested that instances of diversion of funds from 1990-91 onwards which might have come to their notice be intimated to the Ministry of Agriculture in order to devise appropriate methods to

ensure that relief in the wake of natural calamities is reaching the affected people. These steps are intended as safeguards against misuse of funds.

#### **Dumping by MNCs**

7324. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Multi National Companies are engaging themselves in dumping activities;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received by the Government from the domestic companies during each of the last three years, company-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against the MNCs on the complaint of polyester manufacturers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government are also aware that European companies have also lodged a counter complaint to the European Union against the Indian Polyester Exporters;

(g) if so, its likely impact on our exports, item-wise; and

(h) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Complaints of dumping by some Multi National Companies have been received.

(b) A statement indicating complaints received from Domestic Companies during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) to (e) The designated Authority has received a complaint on Polyester Staple Fibre (PSF) imported from Korea & Thailand and has recommended the imposition of anti-dumping duty vide its notification dated 21.1.2000. The anti-dumping duty recommended shall be the difference between Rs. 46215 - Rs. 46607/ MT and the landed value of imposed in Rupees/MT.

In the case of Polyester Film imported from Korea & Indonesia, initiated on 29.3.2000, the investigations are in progress.

(f) to (h) Government of India has been informed by the European Commission vide its *Note Verbale* dated

8.12.99 that it has received the properly documented complaint requesting the initiation of anti-dumping proceedings against Polyester Staple Fibre imports originating in India. It is not possible to estimate at this stage the impact on our exports.

### Statement

#### *Petitions Filed with Anti-Dumping Division till date*

S. No.	Product	Country	Name of the Petitioner
1	2	3	4
<b>1997</b>			
1	Vitamin-C	Japan & China PR	Ambalal Sarabhai Pvt. Ltd.
2	Magnesium	China PR	Southern Magnesium & Chem. Ltd.
3	Met Coke	China PR	B.L.A Ind. Bombay, Copet Industries & Consumer Associates Dhanbad
4	Polystyrene	Korea RP, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia	Asso. of Polystyrene (Supreme Rajasthan, McDowell's)
5	Hot Rolled Coils	Russia, Kazakhstan & Ukraine	SAIL & Essar Steel Copet. Lloys Ind. Tata TISCO
6	Lovastatin	China PR	Artemis Pharmaceutical
7	Sea Water Magnesia	China PR	Birla Periclays
8	Pet Chip Bottle Grade	S. Arabia, Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia & Thailand	Pearl Engg. Polymers Ltd.
9	Industrial Sewing Needles	Germany, Japan, Korea, China & Czech RP	Altek Lammertz Needles
10	Chloroquine Phosphate	China PR	Tata Pharma Ltd.
11	Tin Plates	Brazil, Germany, Japan, Korea & U.K.	Tin Plate Co. India Ltd.
12	Black & White Picture Tubes	China PR	Samtel India Ltd.
13	Photographic Paper (old)	UK, France	New India Industries Ltd.
<b>1998</b>			
14	Ortho Chloro Benzaldehyde	China PR	Benzo Petro; Intl Ltd.
15	Acrylic Fibres	Italy, Spain, Portugal & Japan	Indian Acrylics Ltd.
16	Calcium Carbide	China PR & Romania	Indl. Chem. & Monomers
17	P Tert Butyl Catechol (PTBC)	France	Poonja & Sons
18	Citric Acid	China PR	M/s. Clurgia Chemicals

1	2	3	4
19	Industrial Sewing Needles	Japan, Korea, China	M/s. Altek Lammertz Ltd.
20	EPDM	Japan	M/s. Herdillia Unimers Ltd.
21	SBR	Japan, Korea, Turkey, China, Taiwan, USA, Germany & France	M/s. Synthetic Chemicals Ltd.
22	Acrylic Fibre	Mexico	M/s. Indian Acrylic Ltd.
23	Hard Ferrite Ring Magnets	China PR	M/s. Indian Hard Ferrite Manufacturers Association
24	Low Carbon Ferro Chrome (LCFC)	China, South Africa, Macedonia	M/s. Ferro Alloys Corpn. Ltd. TISCO
25	HR Coils	S. Korea, S. Africa & Turkey	Essar Steel Ltd.
26	Float Glass	Indonesia	All India Glass Manufacturers Ltd.
27	HCFC	S. Africa, Russia, Kazakhstan	Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. & Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.
28	Mono Methyl Aceto Acetamide and Methyl Aceto Acetate Ester	USA, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, Singapore, EEC	Avon Organics Ltd.
29	Sucker Rod Pumps	China	Simplex Engg. & Foundry Works Ltd.
30	Carendazium Techreal	China	Paushak Ltd.
31	Zinc Sulphate	China	Micro Nutrient Manufacturers Association
32	Polystrene (Review)	Korea	BASF Aktreige Sellschaft Ltd.
33	NDDB	E.U.	National Dairy Development Board Ltd.
<b>1999</b>			
34	PTFE	Russia	M/s Hindustan Fluoro Carbons Ltd.
35	PSF	Indonesia, Korea Rp, Thailand & Taiwan	M/s. Indo Rama Ltd.
36	Nylon Tyre Cord Fabric	Indonesia, Korea Rp, Thailand & Taiwan	Association of Synthetic Fibre
37	NBR	Taiwan	Gujarat Apar
38	Thermal Sensitive Paper	European Union, Japan	All India Paper Coaters Association
39	Sodium Cyanide	USA, EU, Korea & Czech Rep.	Cyanides Chemicals Co.
40	Polystyrene	China, Hong Kong, Singapore & Thailand	Polystyrene Products Assn. India
41	Barium Carbonate	China	Korea India Ltd.
42	Acrylic Fibre	Turkey	Forum of Acrylic Manufacturers Association
43	HR Coils	S. Korea, S. Africa, Japan, China, Australia	Essar Steel Ltd.
44	Zinc Oxide	China	Gem Techo Chemicals Ltd.
45	Poly Oriented Yarn (POY)	Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan	Indo-Rama Ltd.

1	2	3	4
46	Skimmed milk Powder	EU	Dynamix Dairy Industries Ltd.
47	HCFC	S. Africa, Russia, Kazakhstan	Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd.
48	Plastic Ophthalmic Lenses	China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brazil & Italy	Techtron Poly lenses Ltd.
49	Sodium Ferrocyanide	EU including Germany & UK	Cyanide & Chemicals Co. Ltd.
50	Aniline	EU	Narmada Chematur Petrochemicals Ltd.
51	Caustic Soda	USA, Japan, Indonesia, France, Arabia & Iran	Alkalies Manufacturers Association of India
52	Strontium Carbonate	China	TCIL Ltd.
53	Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA)	Japan, Malaysia, Spain & Taiwan	Reliance Industries Ltd.
54	Seamless Tube	Romania, Austria, Russia, Ukraine & Czech Rep.	Association of Seamless Tubes Manufacturers
55	Optical Fibre	S. Korea	Sterite Industries Ltd.
56	Soda Ash	China PR	Alkali Manufacturers Association of India
57	Acrylic Fibre	Taiwan	Forum of Acrylic Fibre Manufacturers Association
58	Oxo Alcohols	S. Korea, S. Arabia, Indonesia and Russia	Oxo Alcohols Industries Association
59	Vitamin-C	Russia and EU	Ambalal Sarabhai Enterprises Ltd.
60	Metronidazole	China	Aarti Drugs Ltd. & Others
61	Aniline	USA and Japan	Narmada Chematur Petrochemicals Ltd.
62	EPDM	Korea	Herdillia Unimers Ltd.
63	Phthalic Anhydride	Indonesia	Thirumalai Ltd. & Herdillia Chemicals Ltd.
64	Sodium Nitrite	China PR	Deepak Nitrite Ltd.
65	Photographic Paper	U.K., France, Hungary & Czech RP	New Industries Ltd.
66	Seamless Grade Alloy etc.	Russia, Ukraine & China	Ispat Profile India Ltd.
67	NBR	Korea	Gujarat Apar Ltd.
<b>2000</b>			
68	Bisphenol-A	EU and Taiwan	Kesar Petroproducts Ltd.
69	Hydroxy Amine Sulphate	USA, Japan, EU	Deepak Nitrite Ltd.
70	Polyester Film	Korea & Indonesia	Polyester Film Industries Association
71	Trimetho Prim	China	Alpha Drugs Ltd.
72	Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA)	USA, Singapore and Netherlands	National Organic Chemicals Industries



1	2	3	4
73	Hot Rolled Coils, Strips	S. Korea, S. Africa, Japan, China and Australia	S.R. Steel & SAIL
74	Ferro Silicon	Russia, China, Iran, Ukraine and Kazakhstan	Indian Metal & Ferro Alloys Ltd. Nav Bharat Ferro Alloys Ltd. & V.B.C. Ferro Alloys Ltd.
75	Partially Oriented Yarn (POY)	Indonesia, S. Korea, Taiwan, Thailand & Malaysia	Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry
76	Strontium Carbonate	China & Germany	T.C.M. Ltd.
77	Aniline	EU	HOCL & Others
78	High Styrene Butadiene Copolymer (HSR)	Polan, EU & Argentina	Apar Industries Ltd. & Apcotex Lattices Ltd.
79	Sodium Ferrocyanide	EU	Cyanide & Chemicals Company Ltd.

[Translation]

leted, under construction and still pending; and

**Water Projects in CIL**

(c) the amount sanctioned/provided for these projects?

7325. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects approved for the supply of potable water in each subsidiary of Coal India Limited including Central Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited during the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of projects out of those comp-

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) The details of potable water supply schemes indicating number of projects approved, completed and pending for completion alongwith sanctioned amount in respect of each subsidiary company of Coal India Limited including Central Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited during the last 3 years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given as under :

Company	Number of projects approved	Number of projects completed	Number of projects pending/under completion	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
ECL	3	—	3	888.00
BCCL	1	1	—	17.42
CCL	1	—	1	63.33
WCL	19	12	7	1015.20
NCL	No new water treatment plant or expansions were done since last 3 years. However, new conveyance line extended from the existing treatment plant to feed Jhingurdah, Singrauli and Kakri Project at a cost of Rs. 5.16 crores.			
SECL	2	—	2	302.82
MCL	1	1	—	43.73
CMPDIL	—	—	—	—

*[English]***BIFR**

7326. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of BIFR is very poor since its inception;

(b) if so, the number of cases of industrial sickness pending with BIFR, as on date;

(c) the reasons for pendency of these cases;

(d) the number of Benches of BIFR functioning at present;

(e) the reasons for curtailing the number of its Benches; and

(f) the steps taken for speedy disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Board for industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) was set up under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 with a view to tackle the issue of industrial sickness in an effective manner, to secure timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies owning industrial undertakings, speedy determination by BIFR of the preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures which were required to be taken with respect to such companies and the expeditious enforcement of the measures so determined. BIFR mechanism, however, has not been completely successful to effectively tackle the problems of industrial sickness. Major reasons for this inter-alia include restrictive definition of sickness, excessive protection of sick industrial companies under section 22 of SICA for automatic stay on all proceedings, slow and dilatory BIFR procedures and excessively long time taken for disposal of cases etc. It has been reported by BIFR that as on 31.12.1999 BIFR and AAIFR/Supreme Court had approved/sanctioned 616 and 27 Rehabilitation Schemes respectively. As on 31.12.1999 BIFR had 1003 cases pending at different stages of enquiry.

(d) At present three benches of BIFR are functional comprising six members including the acting chairman.

(e) and (f) Government is presently engaged in evaluating the functioning of BIFR mechanism and operation

of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 with a view to find out ways to tackle the problem of Industrial Sickness in a more effective manner.

**Border Trade**

7327. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Government for opening the border trade on the Moreh-Tamu sector;

(b) whether the Government have identified a site at Moreh to develop it as an industry centre in the State of Manipur; and

(c) if so, the future course of action plan formulated and implemented by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The border trade from Moreh-Tamu border points is already operational since April 1995, under the provisions of the Bilateral Border Trade Agreement signed between Indian and Myanmar on 21st January, 1994.

(b) and (c) Government of India has sanctioned the development of an Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre at Village Moreh, District Chandel, in Manipur at a project cost of Rs. 577 lakhs, of which Rs. 400 lakhs are proposed to be met by a grant from the Government.

It has also been proposed to develop four border towns in the North-East region, including Moreh, at a cost of Rs. 20 crores over the next two years. For development of border trade with Myanmar, a sum of Rs. 95 lakhs has been approved for the development of trade related infrastructure and facilities at Moreh under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme.

**Import and Agro and Non-Agro Products**

7328. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of agro and non-agro products imported in the country during the last one year alongwith the names of countries from which imports have been made and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the reasons for making such imports; and

(c) the price of imported products as compared to the domestic market prices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Imports are permitted in accordance with the Import Policy of the Government of India, as published in the book titled ITC (HS) Classification of Export & Import Items, 1992-97. Information on imports for each item providing details about country of origin, quantity and value are available in the monthly publication "Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India" brought out by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. Copies of these publications are available in the Parliament library.

**Spending Disinvestment Amount on  
Modernisation of PSUs**

7329. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRI SAHIB SINGH :

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to spend the disinvestment amount on modernisation and development of PSUs;

(b) If so, the names of PSUs on which the amount collected from the disinvestment is likely to be spent on this account;

(c) the estimated amount to be collected from disinvestment of PSUs during 2000-2001;

(d) whether there is a prospective plan of disinvestment of all PSUs for 5 or 10 years; and

(e) 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 amount collected from the disinvestment is deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India. All the expenditure of the Govt. including the amount spent on PSUs is met out of the Consolidated Fund of India. Details of Budgetary support to PSUs are given in Statement No. 9 & 14 of Expenditure Budget Vol. I (Budget 2000-2001).

(c) Rs. 10,000 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Funds to North-Eastern States**

7330. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of support provided to each of the North-Eastern States for their administrative and developmental needs by the Union Government during the last three years and to be provided during 2000-2001;

(b) the percentage of their total expenditure, the administrative and developmental expenses constitute;

(c) the amount of such support demanded by the respective State Governments; and

(d) how much amount was required and the amount spent on the security related matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Central Assistance is given to States, for meeting their developmental expenditure as per allocations made by the Planning Commission. Plan allocations are decided by the Planning Commission after taking into account the requirement of the States, the States, own resources for plan implementation and on the basis of the discussions held every year between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Ministers of the States. Statement-I indicating the Central Plan Assistance given to each one of the North-Eastern States during the last three years is enclosed. Plan allocations for the year 2000-2001 are yet to be decided by the Planning Commission. Being Special Category States, the North-Eastern States are allowed to divert 20% of their Normal Central Plan Assistance for meeting non-plan expenditure.

(d) Security Related Expenditure is reimbursed to the North Eastern States in accordance with the guidelines laid down for the purpose. Statement-II indicating the amounts sought by the North Eastern States and the amounts released to them during the last three years towards security related expenditure is enclosed.

**Statement-I**

*Central Assistance Allocated During 1997-98 to 1999-2000 to NE States and Sikkim*

(Rs. in Crores)			
State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1 Arunachal Pradesh	478.10	534.82	574.17
2 Assam	1308.77	1443.13	1616.11
3 Manipur	338.56	456.27	506.06
4 Meghalaya	327.31	344.45	421.77
5 Mizoram	309.08	335.56	384.67
6 Nagaland	350.72	347.40	394.76
7 Tripura	417.00	598.75	656.12
8 Sikkim	225.33	251.52	329.92

## Statement-II

## Reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure to the NE States

(Rs. in Crores)

State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Amount Sought	Amount Released	Amount Sought	Amount Released	Amount Sought	Amount Released
1 Assam	343.21*	131.91	245.18**	78.86	105.70***	52.19
2 Manipur	--	--	38.64**	19.43	82.59***	3.44
3 Nagaland	--	--	124.55**	35.61	11.94***	17.88
4 Tripura	--	--	44.52**	28.55	20.98***	17.53

\* Claim for 1990-95

\*\* Claim for 1995-98

\*\*\* Claim for 1998-99

## Banking Network

7331. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

SHRI A. BARAHMANIAH :

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to

state :

(a) whether RBI has permitted a number of commercial banks to open new branches;

(b) If so, the details of such permission granted by the RBI during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 to expand their banking network;

(c) the details of branches to be opened by these banks, State-wise;

(d) whether nationalised banks have sought only rural areas as the focus for all future expansion; and

(e) If so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that banking services are available in rural areas adequately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of authorisation issued to various banks during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for opening of bank branches reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are furnished in enclosed statement-I.

(c) State-wise position of authorisations pending

with banks for opening branches is furnished in enclosed statement-II. Bank branches at the allotted centres will be opened on completion of infrastructural arrangement etc.

(d) No, Sir. Out of 370 authorisations given for opening branches during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, 106 authorisations are for opening branches in rural and semi-urban areas.

(e) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

## Statement-I

Population Category-wise Number of Authorisations Issued to Commercial Banks for Opening Branches During the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

Category wise	Year	Bank Group			
		State Bank of India & Its Associates	Nationalised Banks	Private Sector Banks	Total
Rural	1999-2000	3	10	7	20
	2000-2001	1	0	1	2
Semi-Urban	1999-2000	15	24	39	78
	2000-2001	0	0	6	6
Urban	1999-2000	23	64	38	125
	2000-2001	2	1	2	5

1	2	3	4	5	6
Metro	1999-2000	22	47	50	119
	2000-2001	1	3	11	15
Total	1999-2000	63	145	134	342
	2000-2001	4	4	20	28

**Statement-II**

*State-wise Authorities Pending with Banks for  
Opening Branches as on date*

State/Union Territory	State Bank of India & its Associates	National-ised Banks	Private Sector Banks	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	23	25	13	61	
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	
3. Assam	3	5	3	11	
4. Bihar	7	39	3	49	
5. Goa	4	1	7	12	
6. Gujarat	13	33	15	61	
7. Haryana	13	32	8	53	
8. Himachal Pradesh	1	8	0	9	
9. Jammu & Kashmir	2	4	4	10	
10. Kamataka	26	35	18	79	
11. Kerala	7	16	20	43	
12. Madhya Pradesh	14	22	5	41	
13. Maharashtra	29	108	65	202	
14. Manipur	0	0	0	0	
15. Meghalaya	0	1	0	1	
16. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	
17. Nagaland	0	0	0	0	
18. NCT of Delhi	14	93	27	134	
19. Orissa	4	9	2	15	
20. Punjab	17	42	11	70	

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Rajasthan	16	28	5	49
22.	Sikkim	0	1	0	1
23.	Tamil Nadu	15	43	25	83
24.	Tripura	1	0	0	1
25.	Uttar Pradesh	18	81	19	118
26.	West Bengal	12	28	12	52
27.	Andaman & Nico.	0	0	0	0
28.	Chandigarh	4	16	0	20
29.	Dadra & NH	0	1	1	2
30.	Daman & Diu	0	2	0	2
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
All India		243	673	263	1179

[English]

**NIE System**

7332. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :  
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to abolish the New Investor Entitlement (NIE) system for readymade garments;

(b) if so, the reasons for abolishing this system;

(c) whether any study has been made regarding impact of such a change;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the main aspects of the NIE system; and

(f) the details of funds allocated/released under this system during the last year?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

(e) As per Garments and Knitwears Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy (2000-2004), 15% of the Annual

Level has been earmarked for New Investors Entitlement (NIE) System. Allotments under the NIE system would be made only to exporters registered as manufacturer-exporters who have invested a minimum amount of Rs. 50 lakhs in new machineries either in existing unit or in a new unit. The NIE has been linked to Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs). Further, it has been made non-transferable.

(f) Funds are not allocated/released under the Quota Policy for any system including NIE system.

#### **Price Stabilisation Fund for Tobacco**

7333. SHRI A. BRAHMANIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Price Stabilisation fund has been created for tobacco in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which it is likely to protect the tobacco farmers; and
- (d) the number of farmers likely to be benefited from this fund?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Involvement in State Governments in Export**

7334. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

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

- (a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Rs. twenty crore fund to involve the States actively in the export promotion efforts and have fixed a target of export growth at twenty percent;
- (b) if so, the details of the scheme and its modus operandi;
- (c) whether exporters are to be consulted for successful operation of the scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) With a view to making exports a national effort involving all the State Governments, a Scheme is being formulated for granting assistance to the States for development of export related infrastructure. The details of the scheme are being worked out.

(c) and (d) The scheme itself has been evolved on the basis of deliberations in the meeting of the Board of the Trade which is a representative body of leading exporters and various apex chambers of Commerce and Industry.

#### **FDI from UK**

7335. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a huge gap between FDI approval and actual inflow from UK;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) From January, 1991, till February, 2000 the total Foreign Direct Investment amounting to Rupees 16150.87 crores has been approved for UK; against this Rupees 2263.25 crore has already come into the country as inflow which is about 14.01%. The delay in realisation of inflows is more in the mega projects like power, telecom, infrastructure etc. where the gestation period is long and the inflow of funds take place in stages as per the needs of the project. Actual investment depends upon the commercial judgement and decision of the investors.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to boost the FDI inflows, inter-alia, include further enlargement of the automatic route for FDI upto 100% except for a small negative list, and time bound disposal of FDI applications.

#### **Pension to Master Craftpersons**

7336. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of persons who are availing benefit under pension to Master Craftperson in indigent circumstances, as on date;
- (b) whether the Government are considering to enhance the amount of pension under the above scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total number of applications pending with the Government regarding the above scheme; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The total number of mastercraftpersons availing of pensionary benefit as on date under indigent circumstances scheme is 179.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to enhance the pension to mastercraftpersons from Rs. 500 per month to Rs. 1200 per month under indigent circumstances.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Use of Jute Bags for Packing Grains**

7337. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed the FCI and State level grain procurement agencies to use HDP bags for packing grains;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make available jute bags to the procurement agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) In view of the strike in the Jute Industry in West Bengal (w.e.f. 22.3.2000) the Central Government after considering the recommendations made to it by the Standing Advisory Committee has reduced by a Gazette Notice dated 31.3.2000 (valid upto 30.6.2000) the percentage of foodgrains by 10% resulting 90% foodgrains to be packed in jute bags. This relaxation does not recommended use of HDPE bags. It only enables use of alternatives packing options for the foodgrains procuring agencies.

(c) In order to make available required quantity of bags for the procured foodgrains, Government has allowed the procuring agencies the use of surplus bags laying from the last session. In the wake of reopening of almost all jute mills extension of delivery period has been granted by some indentors so that jute bags are supplied to the concerned agencies.

#### **Autonomy to PSUs**

7338. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to give greater marginal autonomy to Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the scope of autonomy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) PSUs managements have been given due autonomy having regard to their categorisation. Furthermore, grant of autonomy to the PSUs is a continuous process in relation to emerging situations.

#### **Special Component Plan**

7339. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount released by the Government under Special Component Plan to various States during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding diversion and misuse or non-utilisation of amount;

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

(d) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Statement**

*Amount released under Special Component Plan during the last three years*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.N.	States	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2680.13	3388.78	4134.94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	142.18	596.66	695.31
4.	Bihar	2808.20	3620.07	3471.49
5.	Goa	3.83	2.72	5.49
6.	Gujarat	1659.99	371.40	682.27
7.	Haryana	546.41	741.77	840.36
8.	Himachal Pradesh	256.91	259.56	298.18
9.	J&K	73.87	132.80	183.44
10.	Karnataka	1389.35	1820.07	2097.36
11.	Kerala	645.94	724.54	813.24
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1945.24	2237.08	3303.27
13.	Maharashtra	1922.45	1673.92	2067.30
14.	Manipur	6.58	10.62	12.54
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	1925.47	2281.57	1907.72
19.	Punjab	—	1119.74	1280.29
20.	Rajasthan	2279.81	2575.48	2792.68
21.	Sikkim	4.44	4.03	22.37
22.	Tamil Nadu	1756.90	3236.93	4036.92
23.	Tripura	106.28	108.72	159.14
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7646.66	7518.15	9728.65
25.	West Bengal	2848.78	3378.39	4962.00
Total		30649.42	35803.00	43494.96

**FERA**

7340. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Enforcement proposes to investigate the transfer of funds through illegal channels in the recent match fixing case involving South African Cricket Team Captain;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made so far;

(c) whether the top narcotic dealers were involved in the match fixing case and Enforcement Directorate was probing violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) in the case; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Directorate of Enforcement has initiated investigation under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and as a result thereof, two persons have been arrested.

(c) and (d) As the investigation is at an initial stage, no definite conclusion can be drawn.

**Knowledge Based Industry.**

7341. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the report of Committee set up to give impetus to knowledge-based industries under the chairmanship of Murli Manohar Joshi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations regarding drug industry;

(c) whether the Government have examined the recommendations of the committee; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) A Task Force on Pharmaceuticals and Knowledge-based Industries was constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister HRD. The Task Force is yet to submit its report to the Government.

[Translation]

**Import/Export of Spices**

7342. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :



(a) the value of spices imported/exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the names of such spices alongwith the countries to which the spices were exported; and

(c) the details of export policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The value of spices imported/exported during each of the last three years is given below :-

Year	Value of spices exported (Rs. in crores)	Value of spices imported (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	1466.82	131.83
1998-99*	1758.02	293.58
1999-2000**	1861.03	79.00***

\* Provisional      \*\* Estimated

\*\*\* Data pertains to the period April to December, 1999

Source : Spice Board/DGCI&S, Calcutta

(b) The major spices exported to various countries are pepper, chilli, ginger, turmeric, cardamom, coriander, cumin, celery, fennel, fenugreek, garlic, curry powder, mint oil, spice oils and oleoresins etc. The country-wise exports during last three years are available in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers of the foreign trade statistics published by DGCI&S, Calcutta, copies of which are supplied to the Parliamentary Library.

(c) As per the Export Policy of the Government, all spices are freely exportable.

[English]

#### Recovery of Dues

7343. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether a large number of private companies and individuals have to pay crores of rupees to Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Doordarshan has taken any steps during the last few months to recover such dues;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which Doordarshan is likely to recover all the dues from private companies/individuals;

(f) whether the responsibility has been fixed by the Government on the officials who paid them huge amount; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Following steps have been taken by Doordarshan for recovery of outstanding dues and to ensure that outstandings are reduced to a minimum level:

(i) Outstandings are monitored on monthly basis and regular reminders are sent to the agencies for the clearance of the outstanding dues.

(ii) No fresh programme is allotted to any defaulting agency/producer.

(iii) Agencies, which have outstandings have been asked to follow a payment plan to wipe off the arrears in three months. All the producers/agencies are adhering to the payment plan. Those who do not, are not allowed the normal credit period of sixty days. In case the dues are not cleared, the normal credit period is suspended and agencies are allowed their programmes only on advance payment to telecast fee.

(iv) Defaulting agencies are allowed to run their programmes only on advance payment of telecast fee.

(v) To secure the DD's revenues and to cover the credit period, the Bank Guarantee amounts for running serials, running on normal telecast fee is increased to four times the telecast fee. In the case of high value of MG programme, this is the telecast fee for two episodes.

(e) Steps have been taken to recover the dues as early as possible.

(f) No payment is made to any individual or company. Instead, bills are raised for the air time sale on Doordarshan to the companies/agencies for making

payment within the specified credit period which is 60 days.

(g) Does not arise.

#### Statement

##### Major Defaulting Agencies for the Year 1999-2000

S. No.	Name of Agency	Outstanding As on 01.04.1999 (Rs. in lacs)	Outstanding As on 01.04.2000 (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4
1.	AALIYA Productions	0	75
2.	ABCL	1765	1765
3.	Ad Factor Advtg.	7	7
4.	Advance TV Network	230	248
5.	Anand Advertising	140	140
6.	APCA	0	99
7.	B Y Padhya	13	13
8.	BAG Films	2	43
9.	Bidhan Advertising	22	12
10.	Chaitra Advertising	6	3
11.	Cinema Vision	28	13
12.	Clarion Advertising	46	30
13.	Concept Advertising	156	208
14.	Contract Advertising	42	25
15.	Copy Desk	0	3
16.	Corrum Communications	17	21
17.	Crayon Advertising	18	6
18.	Creative Eye	315	0
19.	Dawnmod Advertising	0	421
20.	DAVP	28	7
21.	Drishti India	350	350
22.	Deptt. of Posts	8	0
23.	Enterprise Advertising	45	45
24.	Everest Advertising	56	45
25.	Film Craft	158	50
26.	Fame Communications	512	0

1	2	3	4
27.	Future Communications	0	28
28.	G N Communications	0	5
29.	Gold Video	13	10
30.	Guruji Advertisers	0	150
31.	High Definition TV	0	3
32.	HMT	17	0
33.	HTA	350	50
34.	Hansa Vision	744	122
35.	Innovision Film & TV Dist.	5	25
36.	Jatiyaar Pub.	34	34
37.	Jaya Advertising	60	60

[Translation]

#### Development of Handloom Industry in SC/ST Dominated Areas

7344. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is adequate opportunities for the growth of cotton handloom industry in the country, particularly in tribal and scheduled tribe dominant areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to find out the possibilities for the growth of handloom industry in the country, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) the assistance proposed to be provided by the Government to promote handloom industry particularly in tribal and scheduled tribe dominant areas during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Different Schemes are being implemented by the Government to promote handloom industry all over the country, including the tribal and scheduled tribe dominant areas in all States, including Maharashtra. For example, special dispensation has been made in terms of financial contribution from the Central Government for societies having 100% SC/ST population under Project Package Scheme. The release of financial assistance is considered on the basis of viable proposals from the State Governments.

#### Development of Handloom Industry

7345. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently assessed the performance of National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC);

(b) if so, the details of on going schemes/projects alongwith the financial and physical target fixed and achievements made during the each of the last three years, State-wise, Scheme-wise, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) the details of new strategies worked out for NHDC in the context of globalisation;

(d) the action plan finalised/under consideration for NHDC for 2000-2001 and for the next five years;

(e) the details of projects/proposals received from the State Governments, State-wise; and

(f) the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) Ltd., Lucknow is presently engaged in the supply of inputs to the weavers that is, Yarn, Dyes and Chemicals. The details of supplies of these inputs during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The new initiatives taken by the NHDC in the context of globalisation are as follows :

(i) Increasing coverage to far flung areas for raw material supply.

(ii) Entering into the area of exports and development of exportable products from specific clusters of weavers.

(iii) Distribution of imported silk yarn.

(iv) Providing of infrastructure facilities for the marketing of handlooms fabrics.

(d) Every year an MOU is signed between Government of India and NHDC when the Action Plan is finalised. The main features of this year's for the Annual Actions Plan are as under :-

(i) To ensure the availability of raw materials, like, Yarn, Dyes & Chemicals and other inputs to handloom weavers.

(ii) To contribute to the growth of infrastructure and appropriate technology.

(iii) (a) To create marketing opportunities for higher output.

(b) To add to marketing opportunities for exports.

(iv) To act as a channel for routing Central Government funds, loans and grants to Handloom Corporations, Cooperative Societies and other bodies or persons engaged in the production and development of the Handloom sector.

(e) and (f) NHDC does not receive projects/proposals from the States.

#### Statement

S.No. Name of State		Supply of Yarn						Supply of Dyes & Chemicals					
		(Qty. in lakh Kg. & Value in lakh Rs.)						(Qty. in lakh Kg. & Value in lakh Rs.)					
		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
						(upto Jan., '2000)						(upto Jan., '2000)	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.860	1629.00	11.106	1218.41	5.900	788.21	51507	146.28	49212	114.12	30337	88.85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.065	5.36	—	—	0.007	0.92	372	0.52	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	2.234	294.48	1.282	165.76	0.786	80.17	50	0.71	34	0.33	214	0.20
4.	Bihar	6.693	532.38	1.694	133.88	3.142	233.27	802	3.25	50	0.06	—	—
5.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	281	0.26	720	2.01	50	0.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
6.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	0.06	411	0.16	—	—
7.	Gujarat	0.899	114.20	0.450	51.17	0.070	7.79	—	—	50	0.19	—	—
8.	Haryana	10.056	809.79	11.192	885.13	8.126	626.75	29144	28.13	27625	77.76	36763	53.49
9.	Himachal	0.033	15.40	0.135	58.56	0.081	33.17	150	0.03	—	—	50	0.49
10.	J&K	0.069	6.07	0.914	46.21	0.577	27.62	—	—	—	—	815	0.49
11.	Karnataka	15.450	1626.87	20.092	2385.83	14.131	1633.14	33680	95.14	83398	236.80	115003	281.83
12.	Kerala	9.655	885.27	8.234	827.49	8.153	770.04	152779	236.08	192792	291.18	154132	247.30
13.	Madhya Pr.	1.372	141.51	1.833	167.86	2.071	158.89	336	1.52	196	0.18	843	3.09
14.	Maharashtra	5.222	491.30	6.670	567.02	4.944	413.89	5989	12.27	9658	37.21	54742	47.78
15.	Manipur	0.681	85.41	0.474	52.25	0.121	17.02	3357	7.64	2238	2.40	1336	3.41
16.	Meghalaya	0.092	8.79	0.010	1.40	0.007	0.84	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Nagaland	0.003	0.57	0.058	7.58	0.115	18.62	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Orissa	0.753	134.79	0.070	11.75	0.014	1.86	75	1.08	75	1.05	—	—
20.	Pondicherry	0.277	24.95	0.824	71.65	0.814	72.59	3407	18.24	1414	6.02	615	5.49
21.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Rajasthan	2.743	211.48	1.004	73.00	1.292	99.02	4139	5.33	1383	2.86	736	1.32
23.	Sikkim	0.027	3.15	—	—	0.020	2.33	—	—	—	—	10	0.05
24.	Tamil Nadu	28.254	2986.09	79.910	7722.06	84.911	8093.48	352552	623.84	388489	604.49	461103	669.72
25.	Tripura	1.315	124.94	1.244	130.58	1.073	117.68	1496	1.80	—	—	800	0.16
26.	Uttar Pradesh	26.996	2190.64	18.651	1545.35	17.261	1580.12	15967	41.47	25700	32.62	5432	4.71
27.	West Bengal	4.257	579.86	5.507	805.38	3.803	624.82	5157	17.89	2048	2.87	79	0.54

[English]

**Interest Rate of Banks**

7346. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the Reserve Bank of India slashes bank rate by 1 per cent, the industries' long pending demands of reducing the interest rate has been considered;

(b) if so, whether correspondingly the banks have reduced their prime lending rates;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this reduction of bank rate by 1 per cent has helped the industries; and

(e) if so, to what extent the industries have been benefited on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on April 1, 2000 a reduction in Bank Rate by 1 percentage point from 8 percent to 7 per cent. This reduction led to lowering of the Prime Lending Rates by banks.

(b) and (c) Reacting to the monetary easing measures announced by RBI, many banks reduced their Prime Lending Rate (PLR) by 0.75 to 1.0 percentage point. The PLRs of scheduled commercial banks in April 2000 were in the range of 9.75 to 17.5 per cent as against 10.5 per cent to 18.5 per cent in April 1999.

(d) and (e) The reduction in Bank has lead to lowering of Prime Lending Rate by banks. This will be beneficial to the industries as they will get a credit at cheaper rates.

[Translation]

#### Minerals Available in Ocean Bed

7347. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of various minerals available in the ocean bed under Indian territory and the estimated reserves thereof;

(b) the arrangements made so far for tapig these resources and the names of private companies besides Public Sector bodies to whom this work has been entrusted; and

(c) the reasons for assigning this job to foreign companies instead of Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) The ocean bed in the Indian territory is endowed with minerals such as oil and gas and heavy minerals sand. The available reserves of different minerals are given hereunder :-

- i) Oil and Gas : Initial in place reserves of hydrocarbons as on 1.4.99 underlying the sub-soil of sea in India are estimated to be 3.79 Billion Metric Tonnes of Oil and oil equivalent gas.
- ii) Heavy Minerals Sand : It comprises ilmenite,

rutile, zircon, sillimanite, monazite, magnetite and garnet.

The estimated reserves so far are limenite - 26.002 mt, Rutile - 0.397 mt, Zircon - 0.552 mt, Monazite - 1.868 mt, Sillimanite - 9.314 mt and Magnetite - 0.56 mt and garnet - 4.66 mt.

(b) and (c) Government has been taking/propose to take following steps to exploit oil and gas reserves :

- i) Mining leases and letters of authority have been issued in various sedimentary basins/ areas of the Indian continental shelf.
- ii) Besides ONGC, a number of private companies, both Indian and multinationals, are engaged in oil and gas exploitation in off-shore areas of the country. In order to attract considerable investment, augment production and to obtain state-of-art technology, several discovered fields have been awarded to various Indian private companies as also multinational companies for hydrocarbon exploitation. The names of these companies are as under :-

Calm Energy India Pty. Ltd., Videocon Petroleum Ltd., Ravva Oil Singapore Pte Ltd., Enron Oil and Gas India Ltd., Reliance Industries Ltd., Mosbacher India LLC, Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd. (HOEC), Energy Equity India Petroleum Ltd., Hardy Oil and Gas Ltd., and Tata Petrodyne Ltd.

Monazite is recovered as a by-product of ilmenite mining by the India Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (KMML), a PSU under the Government of Kerala. Monazite is processed for production of compounds of rare earths as well as of thorium and uranium.

[English]

#### Special Economic Zones

7348. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI ABDUL HAMID :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up the Special Economic Zones as per the new Exim Policy declared recently;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for setting up of the Special Economic Zones;

(c) whether a provision to allow 100% Foreign Direct Investment in all products in the zone has been made;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the functions of these zones; and

(f) the places identified to set up these zones in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f) In the Export and Import Policy effective from 1.4.2000, the Government has announced a policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country for promotion of exports. SEZs can be set up in the public, private, joint sector or by the State Governments. There is no proposal to set up any new SEZ by the Central Government. However, some of the existing EPZs are proposed to be converted into SEZs. The criteria kept in view while locating SEZs include size of the Zone, proximity to sea/airport, availability of basic infrastructural facilities like roads, power and water supply, banking, communication facilities and access to social infrastructure such as housing, health and educational facilities. Foreign equity upto 100% is permissible in the case of SEZ units.

#### **Mid-term Appraisal of Reforms Process**

7349. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations regarding a mid-term appraisal of the reforms process with a view to judging its overall impact on industry and trade due to disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Ministry of Finance has not received any specific representation regarding a mid-term appraisal of the reforms process with a view to judging its overall impact on industry and trade due to disinvestment. However, 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 reserves position, rate of inflation is under control and substantial inflow of foreign capital. Appraisal of reforms is a continuing process and appropriate steps are taken as and when required to safeguard the interests of Indian trade and industry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Action against Vanished Companies**

7350. SHRI RAMSETH THAKUR :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bombay Stock Exchange has taken action against the vanished companies on the recommendations of SEBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of such companies;

(c) whether BSE or SEBI has also formulated any regulation in regard to refund of money to the investors;

(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) 129 companies which have raised about Rs. 490 crores, have so far been identified as vanishing companies. The market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued orders to 57 companies and 214 promoters/directors of these companies, prohibiting them from associating with the capital market in any manner for a period of 5 years. SEBI has forwarded a list of such companies to all the stock exchanges directing them to suspend trading, if any, in these scrips. In this connection,

the Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE) has suspended trading in 25 scrips.

(c) to (e) A provision has been made under section 11 B of the SEBI Act that enables SEBI to take action against any person associated with the securities market provided the Board is satisfied that such action has been taken in the interest of the investors or of the securities market. Further, the SEBI Act is constantly under review with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness with regard to investor protection.

#### **Disinvestment in Sick PSUs**

7351. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission had listed 32 PSUs for early strategic sales;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission has recommended for strategic sale in respect of 29 PSUs. The name of such companies are listed in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Disinvestment is a continuous process and decision on the recommendation of Disinvestment Commission after considering various factors like market condition, financial performance of the company, advice of the professional consultants and views of the concerned Ministries.

#### **Statement**

S.No.	Name of PSU
1	2
1.	Air India.
2.	Bharat Aluminium Co. Limited.
3.	Bongaigaon Refineries & Petrochemicals Limited.
4.	Engineers India Limited.
5.	Fertiliser & Chemicals (Travancore) Limited.
6.	Hindustan Copper Limited
7.	Hindustan Latex Limited.

#### **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**

7352. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review certain sections of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (as amended in 1997);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

Action has been initiated to make comprehensive amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Act.

(c) Representations have been received largely in respect of the provisions relating to NBFCs and unincorporated bodies.

(d) Every representation or input received from any source constitutes a valuable input in the ongoing process of ensuring that legislative provisions meet the requirements they are intended to meet.

[Translation]

#### **Modernisation Scheme by BHEL**

7353. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has formulated any modernisation scheme worth twelve hundred crores of rupees to deal with the emerging challenges of world competition;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the extent to which BHEL is likely to promote its export business through the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) BHEL has embarked upon a holistic modernisation programme for its aged facilities at various manufacturing units, encompassing manufacturing, assembly and testing activities in an integrated manner. Simultaneously, modernisation of construction equipment and tools at BHEL's Power Sector sites has also been taken up.

So far, Modernisation schemes amounting to about Rs. 580 crores have been formulated. Out of this, schemes amounting to Rs. 310 crores have been approved and are under various stages of implementation. Modernisation of the remaining products are at various stages of formulation/appraisal.

These modernisation schemes are aimed at raising the company's facilities to the state of the art, in order to enable it to face the challenges of global competition.

(c) The modernisation schemes are aimed at improving the product quality and reducing cycle time and costs which in turn would improve export opportunities.

[English]

#### **Development of Mulberry Plantation**

7354. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking any steps to develop mulberry plantations in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of various schemes and projects through which the Mulberry Cultivation in these States could be improved and the funds allocated for these schemes/projects;

(c) whether the Central Silk Board have any plans to train the people in the field of silk technology and silk thread production from cocoons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons got trained through those schemes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes Sir, Govt. is taking steps for development of mulberry plantation in Tamil Nadu & Karnataka through various schemes of the Central Silk Board by efforts at research & development into higher yielding varieties for both irrigated & rainfed areas, training for transfer of technology, technical assistance, etc. In addition, under its Catalytic Development Programme, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing the following two schemes in the State of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for improving the mulberry cultivation in these States :

(i) Creation of improved Mulberry variety banks in the States

This scheme envisages that all States will be assisted by CSB to build up banks of high yielding varieties of Mulberry covering all the States including the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The scheme enables organised transfer of high yielding Mulberry varieties developed by CSB research institute to the field to increase the productivity. CSB provides on its own cost food plant materials of the chosen variety. The overall CSBs outlay for IX Plan under the scheme is Rs. 22.50 lakhs for Karnataka and Rs. 11.25 lakhs for Tamil Nadu.

(ii) Promotion of resource conservation technologies through drip irrigation :

This scheme envisages covering of 1466 H.A. and 510 H.A. of Mulberry plantation under drip irrigation system in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu respectively during the IX Plan. CSB's outlay for IX Plan under the scheme is Rs. 329.85 lakhs for Karnataka and Rs. 114.75 lakhs for Tamil Nadu.



(c) and (d) CSB imparts training in the aspect of post cocoon reeling and processing through various courses run in its institutions, namely Central Sericulture Research and Training Institute (CSR & TI), Berhampore, Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI), Mysore and Central Tassar Research & Training Institute (CTR&TI), Ranchi. The number of persons trained institute-wise during 1999-2000 is given in enclosed statement.

Besides the above, CSB also conduct Technology Upgradation Programme in Post-cocoon sector under the Enterprise Development Programme, during 1999-2000, five such programmes have been conducted in different States and around 423 persons have participated in the programme. The State-wise details are as under :

State	No. of Programme conducted during 1999-2000	No. of Persons participated during 1999-2000
West Bengal	1	114
Meghalaya	1	112
Madhya Pradesh	1	67
Maharashtra	1	60
Karnataka	1	70
Total	5	423

#### Statement

S. No.	Name of Institute	Name of the scheduled course	Duration in days	No. of persons trained							Total
				West Bengal	Kerala	Bihar	Karnataka	Madhya Pradesh	Tamil Nadu	NGO/ Pvt.	
A.	Mulberry										
1	CSR&TI, Berhampore	Reeling & Spinning	14	3							3
2	CSTRI, Bangalore	Short Term Course in Post cocoon Technology	90				6	3			9
3	-do-	Silk Reeling Technology	30			1	7		8	2	18
4	-do-	Silk Dyeing & Printing	21							10	10
5	-do-	Raw Silk Throwing & Weaving	30		3	1	1			11	16
6	-do-	Machinery Maintenance	6		2			2			4
7	-do-	Raw Silk Testing & Grading	14		5		7	2		5	19
B.	Non-Mulberry										
1.	CTR&TI, Ranchi	Reeling & Spinning	6							10	10
Grand Total				3	10	2	21	7	8	38	89

#### Mankad Committee

7355. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the

report of P.G. Mankad Committee constituted to suggest the measures to bring down high transaction costs of exporters;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the recommendation of the committee; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d) The High Powered Committee set up under the chairmanship of Revenue and Finance Secretary to go into the problems faced by exporters in the form of High Transaction Costs related to foreign trade licensing, tax procedures and banking system etc. Has since submitted its report in which wide ranging recommendations have been made. These recommendations are aimed at reducing and rationalising the procedural complexities, in order to minimise delays, reduce multiplicity of rules and regulations and infra-structural bottlenecks etc. These recommendations have been referred to the concerned Agencies/Departments for implementation/follow up within specific time frame.

#### **Development of Textile Industry**

7356. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number and names of schemes for development and expansion of textile industry in the country had been implemented by the Government;

(b) if so, the names of schemes which have been implemented during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, till date; and

(c) the names and details of the schemes out of these were implemented for promoting mills, powerloom and handloom industry, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the major plan schemes for the development of the textile industry, which have been implemented during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) Statement-II is annexed.

#### **Statement-I**

*Names of the Major Plan Schemes which have been implemented for development and expansion of textile industry in the country during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, till date.*

1. Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme.
2. Technology Mission on Cotton.
3. Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project.

4. Integrated Angora Rabbit Development Project.
5. Machine Shearing-cum -Training Project.
6. Wool Scouring Plant.
7. Wool Testing Centre.
8. Industrial Service Centre.
9. Area Based Project for Development of Wool & Woolens.
10. U.N.D.P. (CCF-I) for Angora Rabbit Development Programme.
11. Weaving & Designing Training Centre.
12. Market Intelligence Network.
13. Woolen Expo.
14. Human Resources Development.
15. Promotion Activities.
16. Schemes for extension of R&D, training, infrastructural and extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units and implementation of certain development/ incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices of production of quality silk.
17. North East Action Plan and Poorvanchal Sericulture Project.
18. 36 Catalytic Development Schemes during IXth Plan through Central Silk Board.
19. National Institute of Fashion Technology.

#### **Powerloom Sector**

20. Powerloom Service Centres.
21. Computer Aided Design Centre.
22. Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Weavers.
23. Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centres.

#### **Handloom Sector**

24. Project Package Scheme.
25. Worked Cum Housing Scheme.
26. Development of Exportable Products and their marketing Scheme.

27. **Market Development Assistance Scheme.**
28. **Group Insurance Scheme.**
29. **New Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers.**
30. **Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Unit Scheme.**
31. **Thrft Fund Scheme.**
32. **Mill Gate Price Scheme.**
33. **The handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.**
34. **Publicity & Exhibition.**

#### Statement-II

(c) Names and details of the major plan schemes out of the schemes mentioned in part (b) of the Question implemented for promoting mills, powerloom and handloom industry, are given below :

#### 1. **Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS):**

To improve the technology levels of the textile industry for making 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.

#### **Powerloom Sector**

#### 2. **Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs) :**

Government has set up 43 Powerloom Service Centres to provide training, consultancy, design development support, textile testing and information about the latest technology in weaving etc.

#### 3. **Computer Aided Design Scheme (CAD) :**

Government has taken up programme of setting up of CAD centres to provide design development and support to powerloom sector.

#### **Handloom Sector**

4. **Project Package Scheme :** The Scheme was introduced in the year 1991-92 with the objective to provide inputs in an integrated and coordinated manner to the handloom weavers. The funding under the scheme is on the basis of 50:50 between the Central and State Government/Implementing Agency. In case of North Eastern States and implementing agencies

having 100% women, the funding is on 75:25 between the Central Government and State/Implementing Agency.

5. **Workshed Cum Housing Scheme :** The Scheme was introduced with the objective to provide a dwelling unit and suitable work place to weavers to improve their productivity and earnings. The assistance under the scheme for Rural Workshed is Rs. 7,000/- and for Urban Rs. 10,000/-. For Rural Workshed-cum-House, the assistance is Rs. 18,000/- and for Urban Rs. 20,000/-.
6. **Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme :** In order to give substantial impetus to the export of handloom fabrics, made-ups and other handloom items from the country, Scheme for Development of Exportable products and their Marketing was introduced in 1995-96.
7. **Market Development Assistance Scheme :** With a view to ensure continuous production and employment in the handloom sector and to avoid periodic accumulation of stocks with the aid of rebated sale, the scheme of Market Development Assistance was introduced in the year 1989-90.
8. **Group Insurance Scheme :** Group Insurance Scheme was introduced in order to meet the socio-economic obligation of the weaver towards his family and the uncertainty of his working capacity in old age.
9. **New Insurance Scheme for Handloom Weavers :** In order to provide relief to handloom weavers, a New Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers was introduced in the year 1997-98 through United India Insurance. The New Insurance Scheme provides enhanced coverage against various types of risk at the same premium of Rs. 120/-. The share of Central Government has been increased from Rs. 40/- per annum to Rs. 60/- per annum and consequently the financial burden on handloom weavers towards payment of premium has reduced from Rs. 40/- per annum to Rs. 20/- per annum.
10. **Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Unit Scheme :** The scheme was in operation during 1993-94 to 1997-98. Under the scheme Central Assistance was provided for setting up of a handloom development centre and quality dyeing unit with a view to encourage cooperativisation and sustained employment to handloom weavers. The scheme was closed w.e.f. 1.4.98 and committed liabilities of earlier sanctioned projects would be cleared during remaining period of the 9th Five Year Plan.

11. **Thrift Fund Scheme** : The scheme is in operation since 1985-86 with a view to create fund in the nature of Provident Fund with 8% of wages earned as contribution from the weaver and 4% of the wages each from the Central and State Government.
12. **Mill Gate Price Scheme** : Under the scheme yarn is supplied through NHDC to the handloom weavers at Mill Gate price. The scheme was introduced in 1992-93 and cost of transportation is reimbursed to NHDC.
13. **The Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985** is in operation and 11 textile articles are reserved under the act for exclusive production in the handloom sector. At State level enforcement machineries have been set up to enforce the Act.
14. **Publicity & Exhibition** : Under the scheme assistance is provided to the State Governments/Handloom Agencies to organize Expos and District Level Events to provide marketing outlet to the weavers.

**Legality of Contingency Fund of India  
(Amendment) Ordinance, 1997**

7357. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a PIL has been filed in the Delhi High Court to challenge the legality of The Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1977;
- (b) If so, whether the High Court has directed the Union Government to file its reply;
- (c) if so, whether the Central Government has filed the reply; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for delay in finalising the matter?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise as the reply was filed in Delhi High Court on time and there was no reply.

[Translation]

**Leasing out Mining of Bauxite to BIG in Bihar**

7358. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Bihar, particularly in Palamu and Lohardaga districts where the Birla Industrial Group (BIG) has been granted lease for mining of bauxite;

(b) since when the lease has not been renewed;

(c) whether at the time of granting lease, the BIG had promised to set up an aluminium factory within a definite time frame at Latehar in Palamu district;

(d) if so, whether the promise has been fulfilled;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to cancel such lease since it has not fulfilled the promise even after elapsing of three years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) As per information furnished by the State Government of Bihar, M/s Hindustan Aluminium Company Ltd. (HINDALCO), a company under the Birla Industrial Group (BIG) have been granted nine mining leases for Bauxite during the period 1973 to 1985 over an area of 4969.14 acres in the district Palamu, Lohardaga and Gumla. In addition, two mining leases over an area of 476 acres have been granted to M/s. Minerals and Minerals, another company under BIG in Lohardaga district. Details of the mining leases are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) M/s. Minerals and Minerals were granted mining leases for a period of 30 years in 1965. The renewal applications for these leases are pending with the State Government of Bihar since 1995.

(c) HINDALCO had promised to set up an Alumina plant of 10 lakh capacity at Latehar in Palamu district and a Titanium dioxide factory elsewhere in Bihar. The promise was confirmed by their letters dated 16.9.91 and 11.2.92 to the State Government of Bihar.

(d) No, Sir. The Birla Group of Companies have instead set-up a Caustic Soda plant in joint sector at Garhwa district.

(e) and (f) The State Govt. of Bihar had prematurely cancelled three mining leases in September, 1995 and the cancellation orders of the State Govt. were stayed by the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Patna, Ranchi Bench vide their order dated 29.9.95, directing the State Govt. not to take coercive steps for execution of their orders till the Central Government passed appropriate orders in the revision application. The Central Government vide its Final Orders No. 90/99 and 91/99 both dated 15.9.1999 have set aside the cancellation orders and remanded the case to the State

Government of Bihar for reconsideration of the matter on merits and as per law. The State Government is taking action as per orders passed by the Central Government in this regard.

### Statement

*Details of the mining leases for Bauxite granted to Birla Industrial Group (BIG) in Bihar.*

#### A. Mining Leases granted to M/s. HINDALCO

##### Distt. : Palamu

1. Chiro & Kukud - 411.00 acres
2. Orsapat - 264.00 acres

##### Distt. : Lohardagga

3. Pakhar - 84.34 acres
4. Pakhar - 96.25 acres
5. Rudnipat - 240.15 acres
6. Karjo, Barchomano - 215.00 acres

##### Distt. : Gumla

7. Serendag - 995.00 acres
8. Jalim & Senai - 95.00 acres
9. Guadari & Ambakona - 2568.40 acres

#### B. Mining Leases granted to M/s. Minerals and Minerals

##### Distt. : Lohardagga

1. Salial - 340.00 acres
2. Pakhar - 136.00 acres

[English]

### Cut in Tariffs on Indian Fibres

7359. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States has demanded a cut in tariffs on Indian fibres, yarns, industrial fabrics and home furnishings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between India and USA in 1994. As per clause 4 and 5 of the MOU, India is to notify the binding at reduced levels for certain textile products indicated in the MOU. These textile products include fibres, yarns, industrial fabrics and home furnishings, beside others.

### Goods Imported under EPCG Scheme

7360. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of aggregate amount of Capital Goods imported under the EPCG Scheme during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount of obligatory exports made of such goods during the above period;

(c) whether the obligatory exports was not made by some organisations mentioned above during the above period; and

(d) if so, the names of such organisations and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) EPCG licences for import of capital goods for CIF value of Rs. 8805.80 crores, Rs. 4394.40 crores and Rs. 5676.24 crores have been issued during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively.

(b) to (d) Export obligation is imposed at the rate of 4 times and 6 times of the CIF value of capital goods imported under 10% duty and Zero Duty EPCG Scheme respectively. Such export obligation is to be completed over a period of 5 years and 8 years from the date of issue of the licence in the case of 10% duty and Zero Duty licences respectively. Such export obligation against these licences is being jointly monitored by DGFT and the Customs. Since the export obligation period in respect of licences issued during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is still valid the complete picture regarding defaulters will emerge only after expiry of the EO period. It is also relevant to note, that the export obligation fulfilment period begins only after a moratorium period of two years after the import.

[Translation]

### Financial Irregularities in DD

7361. DR. BALRAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been

drawn to the news item appearing in the "Dainik Jagran" dated April 28, 2000 captioned, "Dalmia Ne DD Ko 20 crore Ka Chuna Lagaya";

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government contemplate to take any action against the erring persons by conducting inquiry into the whole matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and by when; and
- (e) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Prasar Bharati have intimated that the report submitted by Shri Arun Agrawal, an expert appointed by Prasar Bharati to look into certain financial and procedural matter in Doordarshan was examined by the Prasar Bharati Board and appropriate action including referring to C&AG for separate Audit of the matter relating to sports programme acquisition has been taken during 1998.

[English]

#### **Decline in World Bank Loan**

7362. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether World Bank lending to India registered a decline during the fiscal 1999-2000;
- (b) if so, the details of the World Bank lending during the last two fiscals i.e. 1998-2000;
- (c) the details of projects/schemes adversely affected due to declining World Bank lending;
- (d) the impact on such projects in term of cost/time over runs; and
- (e) the steps taken to mitigate/neutralise the impact on such projects, especially those which are strategic in nature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In Bank's FY 2000 (July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000), the commitment for new World Bank aided projects is expected to be US\$ 1607 million. This is as against US\$ 1054.75 millions for FY 1999 (July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999).

- (c) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Income Tax**

7363. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Income Tax Department is auctioning some properties vested in the Central Government under Section 269UD(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961;
- (b) if so, under what circumstances the said properties were vested in the Central Government;
- (c) whether the Income Tax Department has taken over physical possession of these properties before putting them for auction; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Income Tax Department auctions properties which are vested in the Central Government by virtue of Section 269UE(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. When the Appropriate Authority comes to a finding that the apparent consideration for which an immovable property is purported to be transferred, is less than 15% of the actual fair market value of the said property, it may pass an order for the purchase of such immovable property u/s. 269UD(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, and such properties are then vested in the Central Government by virtue of Section 269UE(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Physical possession of such acquired properties is not always taken before putting them on auction. At times, the acquired properties are put to auction on 'as is where is' basis, without the Department taking actual physical possession of such properties. The details of properties sold in auctions during the last three Financial years are as under:-

Financial Year	No. of Properties sold
1997-98	5
1998-99	10
1999-2000	3

#### **Trade with Italy**

7364. SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

SHRI ABDUL HAMID :

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

- (a) whether any decision has been taken to expand

the trade in services in the accountancy sector between Indian and Italy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Joint Consultative Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Consiglio Nazionale Dei Dottori Commercialisti (CNDC) and the Consiglio Nazionale Dei Ragionieri (CNR) of Italy at its meeting held in New Delhi during March 3-4, 2000 has, inter-alia, decided to put in place a mechanism by which the services of the small and medium sized accountancy firms of both the countries will be available to the advantage of those who require their professional services in participating in the expanding trade between India and Italy.

#### Film Festival in Small Cities

7365. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to organize film festivals in small cities according to rotation basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons 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) The Directorate of Film Festivals organizes the International Film Festival every year which is held alternatively in Delhi and major film producing cities which are equipped with the required infrastructural facilities like international airports, hotels, cinema theatres etc. In addition, the Dte. of Film Festivals also organizes festivals of foreign films under the aegis of the Cultural Exchange Programme in various cities which are selected with the consent of concerned foreign missions in India.

(b) The International Film Festivals are organized at the following centres in different years :

January, 1999	Hyderabad
January, 1997	Thiruvananthapuram
January, 1995	Mumbai
January, 1994	Calcutta
January, 1992	Bangalore
January, 1991	Madras
January, 1990	Calcutta

This Directorate is also proposing to organize German film festival during the year 2000-2001 at New Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Calcutta and Thiruvananthapuram.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Tobacco Growers

7366. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether over 2000 tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh laid siege to the Tobacco Board Office in mid March, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Several hundred tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh assembled at the Tobacco Board Office on 16th March, 2000.

(b) To represent their demands.

(c) Government has taken following actions in respect of their demands :

- i) Meetings held with manufacturers, exporters and traders to purchase tobacco at platforms as per requirements indicated while fixing crop size.
- ii) Meeting held with farmers to solve the situation of over supply.
- iii) Inducting Government agency to enter the market.
- iv) Fresh registration of growers not to be undertaken for the time being.

#### Discussion with Media Baron Rupert Murdoch

7367. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether media baron Rupert Murdoch met him on March 15, 2000;

(b) if so, the main points discussed during the meeting;

- (c) the outcome of the discussion;
- (d) whether the Government have allowed global media baron Rupert Murdoch for setting up of a television programming center in Maharashtra;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the place where the center is likely to be set up; and
- (g) the area likely to be benefited therefrom?

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) It was only a courtesy meeting with no specific agenda. Hence no specific points were discussed.

(d) No such proposal has been received from Mr. Murdoch.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Alliance with Foreign TV Channels**

7368. SHRI AJAY KUMAR CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in the 'Times of India', dated April 6, 2000 under captioned "DD stops being coy seeks alliances";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to have an alliance with the foreign TV channels like CNN, BBC, SONY, NHK, etc;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with aims and objectives, of the alliance and the time by which the alliance is proposed to be made;

(e) the details of the benefits to the Doordarshan as a result thereof; and

(f) the extent to which TV programmes are likely to be affected?

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) to (f) Prasar Bharti have intimated that the discussion with foreign broadcasters as reported in the press were only of exploratory nature and inconclusive. They were aimed to improve Doordarshan's quality of transmission as well as content, thereby increasing Doordarshan's viewership and revenue.

[English]

#### **Alumina Plant at Visakhapatnam**

7369. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for setting up of an alumina plant in Visakhapatnam is pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **I.T. Collection in Orissa**

7370. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Income Tax collection in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of tax is due to be collected/ recovered for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken for recover of above dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) The total collection of Corporation Tax and Income Tax in Orissa State during the last three financial years are given below :-

Fin. Year	Collections	
	Corporation Tax	Income Tax
	(Rs. in crores)	
1997-98	363.94	137.18
1998-99	332.74	155.59
1999-2000	531.52	173.64



The figures of collection for financial year 1999-2000 are provisional.

(b) The total outstanding demand of Corporation Tax and Income Tax in Orissa State during the last three financial years are as under :-

Fin. Year	Total Outstanding Demands	
	Corporation Tax	Income Tax
	(Rs. in crores)	
1997-98	50.31	60.07
1998-99	55.00	70.31
1999-2000	51.66	56.93

The figures of financial year 1999-2000 is as on 31st December, 1999.

(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 involving 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.

#### **Grants to Tamil Nadu**

7371. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the various types of grants provided to Tamil Nadu Government during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the special assistance provided to the State to overcome the financial crunch and rebuild the infrastructure during the above period;

(c) whether the flow of funds from the Centre is very slow;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the amount spent in Tamil Nadu during the last three years for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(f) whether there is any check that the funds provided under the Central Schemes are utilised for the purpose for which these are provided and the Utilisation Certificates being provided by the State regularly; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the details of pending cases;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A statement showing the grants released to the State during the last three years till date is enclosed.

(b) No special Central Assistance apart from the Plan assistance and Finance Commission grants has been released to the State Government of Tamil nadu during this period by Ministry of Finance.

(c) and (d) The Central assistance and share in Central taxes and duties is released in monthly installments on 1st of every month. Other grants and assistance is released based on guidelines and utilisation of funds.

(e) to (g) Funds for implementation for Centrally Sponsored Schemes is released to the States by various Central Ministries. Utilisation of the funds so released, is monitored by the respective Central Ministries as per the relevant guidelines and utilisation reported by the States to them. All the CSS funds released to the States are subject to audit of C&AG. Any diversions of funds are pointed out in the audit reports of C&AG on the accounts of the Union Government. The Central Audit Reports are considered by the PAC of Parliament.

#### **Statement**

*Grants-in-aid to Tamil Nadu released by Ministry of Finance*

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Block Grants for State Plan	Upgradation & Special Problem Grants	Local Bodies Grants	Centre's Share for Calamity Relief Fund	Grant in lieu of Tax on Railway Passenger Fares
1997-98	438.13	0.84	100.71	46.97	24.54
1998-99	375.08	35.21	99.90	49.37	24.54
1999-2000	467.39	26.03	100.72	51.47	24.54
2000-01	67.70	—	—	18.59	5.26
till date					

**National Tobacco Policy**7372. **SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA :****SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :**

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

- (a) whether the Government have framed any National Tobacco Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status of the policy; and
- (d) the strategy followed or propose to publicly hold tobacco industry accountable for the negative impact of tobacco on health, economics and environment?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Absorbing of Seventh Batch of Students in GIC**

7373. **SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to absorb the Seventh Batch of GIC trained students in the GIC industry or proposed private sector industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the number of trained GIC students are yet to be absorbed, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Effective for admissions for academic year 1993-94 (Vth Batch), the job linkage have been withdrawn. However, it has been agreed that 25% of vacancies in Assistant's cadre which may arise in future will be set aside for the passouts of Vth Batch of General Insurance Vocational Course. As per the records available with GIC, all trained students upto Vth Batch have been offered appointment.

[Translation]

**Export of Mango**

7374. **SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of mango producing States in the country alongwith the names of the States which exports the mangoes;

(b) whether the mangoes are riped during transit due to insufficient cold storage facility in the Konkan area of Maharashtra;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to arrange refrigerators in a container as is done in the foreign countries, to increase the export of perishable fruits like mangoes;

(d) whether the Government contemplates to constitute a mango Board to promote the export of mangoes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The major mango producing States in the country are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. State-wise data on exports is not maintained. However, from available information, the major States from which mangoes are exported include Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

(b) and (c) Mangoes exported from the country, including from the Konkan region of Maharashtra, are shipped/air freighted under refrigerated conditions. The mangoes which are exported in raw but mature condition get partially ripened in transit. Efforts have been made by the Agricultural and Processing Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to arrange export of mangoes and other fruits through Controlled Atmosphere (CA) containers apart from reefer containers to increase the shelf life of these fruits. Experiments to adapt the CA technology to Indian conditions is presently on. Trial shipments of mangoes through CA Containers have been undertaken with some success so far. APEDA is developing protocols for export of various fruits including mangoes by CA containers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

**Computer Hardware Manufacturing Sector**

7375. **SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intend to give a boost to computer hardware manufacturing sector in the country;

(b) If so, the target set for export by the Government; and

(c) the details of the incentives the Government propose to give to the hardware manufacturers in the light of competition they face already from some of the Asian countries?

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

(b) The target set for export of electronic hardware including computer hardware is US\$ 624 Million for the year 1999-2000.

(c) In order to give a boost to the hardware exports the Government has allowed the following schemes/incentives:-

- Simplification of exports policies to encourage production for exports like extending the facility of import of capital goods under the EPCG Scheme on payment of 5% Customs duty. No additional Customs duty/countervailing duty @ 10% is required to be paid.
- Providing various incentives for export oriented units, which include duty free imports of capital goods, raw materials, components and other inputs, tax holidays against export and access to the domestic market. Such units can be set up under any of the schemes viz. Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP), Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU). The EHTP scheme has been designed to meet the specific requirement of a globally-oriented electronics hardware sector.
- Simplification of export related procedure/documentation like permitting foreign investment upto 100% in units set up solely for exports on automatic route, permitting a number of operations on the basis of self certification, as per Chapter-IX of handbook of Procedure (Volume-I), 1997-2002, simplification of sub-contracting of production process in DTA for EHTP units, making eligible EHTP units and manufacturers-importers of electronic hardware goods having investment of Rs. 3 crores and above for fast track clearance of goods imported by them.
- Providing Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate/Duty Entitlement Pass Book/Duty Free Replenishment Certificate Schemes for making available all inputs at international rates, reimbursement of duties paid, reimbursement of

duty free imported material used in the export product respectively.

- Providing a weighted reduction of 125% on the sums paid to any University, College or any Institution or a Scientific Research Association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research in order to induce more investment for R&D activities etc.

#### Revision of Rent of Properties under BIC

7376. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the area-wise details of residential and commercial properties in Kanpur (UP) being occupied by the British India Corporation Ltd. for more than fifty years or more;

(b) whether dispute on revision of rent have arisen between British India Corporation and owners/legal heirs;

(c) if so, details thereof, property-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to solve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a)

S. No.	Particular of property	Area	Built up area
1	Hamarain Bungalow, 14/46 Civil Lines, Kanpur	1.21 acres (5846 sq. yds.)	962.19
2	Clock View Bungalow, 14/109 Civil Lines, Kanpur	1.33 acres (5849 sq. yds.)	1013.38
3	New Land 14/99, Civil Lines, Kanpur	1.52 acres (7356.8 sq. yds.)	1906.12

(b) to (d) I) Hamarain Bungalow

As per indenture executed between landlord and BIC lease charge @ Rs. 360/- per month w.e.f. 1.1.87 was payable but the landlord filed cross writ before Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad requesting for fixation of rent and for payment of outstandings. Similarly the Corporation also filed writ against wrong fixation of rent whereas the property in question is lease-hold and payment of lease charges are governed by the terms and conditions of indenture. Both writs are pending before High Court, Allahabad.

(ii) **Clock View Bungalow and New land Bungalow:**

The rent is Rs. 210.55 per month for Clock View Bungalow and Rs. 195.30 per month for New Land Bungalow which are being deposited in Court because suits for ejectment have been filed by the Mutuwalvi of Waqf. of Sheikh Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. The case is pending in the court of II JSCC, Kanpur.

**Foreign Subsidiaries in Non-Banking  
Financial Institutions**

7377. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow foreign firms to set up subsidiaries in Non-Banking Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign firm has shown interest in setting up of subsidiaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per the guidelines for foreign equity investment in Non-Banking Finance Companies, setting up of subsidiaries is permitted with 51% or above foreign equity. For 51% foreign equity, a minimum capitalisation of US\$ 0.5 million and for upto 75% foreign equity, a minimum capitalisation of US\$ 5 million is required.

Where the foreign equity is more than 75%, the minimum capitalisation would be US\$ 50 million and the 100% foreign owned NBFC would act as holding company and specific activity would be undertaken by step down subsidiaries with minimum 25% domestic equity. It has been decided to grant permission to such a holding company to set up 100% down stream subsidiary with a minimum capital of US\$ 5 million. Such a subsidiary, however, would have to disinvest its equity to the minimum extent of 25% through a public offering only, within a period of 3 years.

(c) and (d) A large number of subsidiaries with 51% foreign equity investment or above have been set up in NBFC sector.

**Sambhar Salt Area in Rajasthan**

7378. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

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

(a) whether Sambhar Salt Area in Rajasthan was leased out to M/s. Hindustan Salts Limited, a Government of India Undertaking for the integrated development of the Sambhar Salt Area;

(b) if so, whether the integrated development took place;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan has been repeatedly requesting the Union Government for the return of Sambhar Salt Area; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not agreeing to do so?

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

(b) and (c) A sum of Rs. 368.69 lakhs has been invested for various development works including construction of Gudha Jhapog Dam and borewells and for installation of equipment, conversion of MG railway line into BG line and setting up of a Salt Washery.

(d) and (e) Government of Rajasthan had requested for re-transfer of the leased out area of Sambhar Salt. However, this request was not agreed to as it is not in the overall interest of the company.

[Translation]

**FDI and NRI Investment in Industry**

7379. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :

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

(a) the details of the industries provided financial and technical collaboration during the last five years with Foreign Direct Investment and NRI Investment;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme to encourage the NRI investments in the country in future and the sectors selected for this purpose in which the hundred percent NRI investment and FDI are allowed;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been provided by such foreigners and NRIs in Aurangabad, Maharashtra to some of the old industries as well as for setting up of new industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) A total number of 10,974 (financial and technical) foreign collaboration proposals which involve total investment of Rs. 1,82,292.84 crore foreign direct, investment (FDI) and NRI investment have been approved during the last five years (1.1.1995 to 31.12.1999).

(b) Government, on review of the policy on FDI, has decided to place all items/activities under the automatic route for Foreign/NRI/OCB investment, except the following:

- i. All proposals that require an Industrial Licence which includes (i) the items requiring 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.
- ii. All proposals in which the foreign collaborator has previous venture/tie-up in India. The modalities prescribed in Press Note No. 18 dated 14.12.1998 of 1998 Series, shall apply in such cases.
- iii. All proposals relating to acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company in favour of a foreign/NRI/OCB investors.
- iv. All proposals falling outside notified sectoral policy/cap 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 the automatic route.

(c) and (d) A total number of 35 proposals for setting up industries/joint ventures in Aurangabad (Maharashtra) involving FDI of Rs. 667 crores have been approved during the last five years.

#### Approach to Multilateral Agencies for Funds

7380. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have imposed ban on State Governments to borrow funds from multilateral agencies directly;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any directions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have received any objections from the State Governments on the issue;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. Under the provisions of the Constitution, executive powers of a State extend to borrowing within the territory of India. Also, under the 7th Schedule of the Constitution, 'Foreign Loans' come under the Union list.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) and (d) The Government of India, from time to time, has issued guidelines regarding formalities to be completed by the State Governments/Central Ministries before passing projects to external agencies for external assistance. According to these, the project proposals should be routed through the Central Line Ministries to the Department of Economic Affairs after ensuring Plan priorities, budgetary clearances, Administrative clearances, including clearances from the Planning Commission.

(e) to (g) No instance has been come to the notice where the State Government have objected to this process of submission of projects.

#### Exploration of Mines and Minerals in Kerala

7381. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated new schemes and plans to explore and exploit the mines (both ferrous and non-ferrous) and mineral prospects in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Kerala is abundant of minerals or heavy metals like uranium and thorium; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to exploit these minerals in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has undertaken following minerals investigations in 1999-2000.

- (i) Evaluation of resources potential of clay between Taliparamba, and Kannur in Kannur district and exploration for clay and associated mineralisation in Kasaragod district.
- (ii) Exploration for gold in parts of Attapadi valley (Kottathara block), Palakkad district.
- (iii) Detailed exploration for gold in Kurukkar Kundu-kallamala areas in Palakkad district, Kerala.
- (iv) Preliminary exploration for gold in parts of Attapadi valley, Palakkad district.
- (v) Regional resource surveys for dimension stones in Kasargod, Kannur, Wyanad, Kazhikode, Malappuram and Palakkad district of Kerala.

Department of Mining and Geology (DOM), Kerala is presently carrying out exploration for (i) china clay in the districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kannur and Kasaragod, (ii) lignite in Kasaragod area, and (iii) estimating the reserves of clay for brick and tiles making in Kollam, Thrissur and Malappuram districts.

A number of minerals like bauxite, fireclay, kaolin, limeshell, limestone, silica sand and beach sands containing ilmenite, rutile, zircon, sillimanite and monazite etc. are being exploited in the State.

(c) and (d) The State of Kerala does not have any independent deposit of uranium. However, heavy mineral sand deposits in Kerala contain monazite. Monazite is a mineral of rare earth phosphate and it contains up to 10% thorium oxide and upto 0.3% uranium oxide.

Monazite is recovered as a by-product of ilmenite mining by the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (KMML), a PSU under the Government of Kerala. Monazite is processed for production of compounds of rare earths as well as of thorium and uranium.

#### **Development of Patent Network**

7382. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated an action plan for the development, extension and strengthening of patent related Network of Institutions in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof including names/types/ category of institutions presently operating in each State with locations in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(c) the details of new Patent Organisation proposed to be set up at National and State level to cater the growing needs in the wake of globalisation; and

(d) the details of action plan proposed to upgrade Patent Information Centre at Nagpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) Patent Offices are located in Calcutta (Head Office), Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai. These offices function on the basis of territorial jurisdictions. The offices besides providing policy and advisory services to the Government, also administers the Patents Act, 1970 and the Design Act, 1911. Functions of this office include activities like grant of patents, registration of design, providing information relating to patents, amendment of patents, maintenance of register of patents, create awareness of IPRs, provide patent related services like supply of patent document, search services through Patent Information System, Nagpur, etc.

Government has a plan to modernise these offices and streamline and rationalize the procedure for grant of patents and designs. This include infrastructure development, human resource development. Computerisation and re-engineering of work procedures, networking of all the offices and elimination of backlog of pending applications, awareness creation activities, etc.

The Patent Information System, Nagpur which was earlier modernised in 1996 is also included in the proposed plan of modernisation of Patent Office so that its potentials are fully realised.

#### **Employees on Contract Basis in DD Kendras**

7383. SHRI V. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that persons are employed on contract basis as news-readers and announcers in various Doordarshan Kendras;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to absorb these persons in regular posts since news-reading and programme announcing works are of a perennial nature;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of persons working as news-readers and announcers on contract basis in Kerala Doordarshan Kendra?

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) No, Sir.

(c) The day to day professional and functional requirement of Doordarshan are served better by the present system of empanelling News Readers and Announcers on assignment basis.

(d) At present there are seven persons on the casual News Reader panel and sixteen on the panel of casual Announcers.

#### Export of Marine Products

7384. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of marine products registered a negative growth during 1998-99;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The export of marine products during the year 1998-99 as compared to the year 1997-98 in terms of major market/items has been as follows :

Q : Quantity in Metric Tons, V : Value in US\$ Million

Market	1997-98		1998-99	
	Q	V	Q	V
Japan	70955	641.67	67277	549.16
USA	32914	161.04	34472	147.68
European Union	34875	113.81	54261	163.78
South East Asia	218263	314.23	116610	183.27
Middle East	17618	39.91	17274	35.40
Others	11193	25.20	13040	27.62
Total	385818	1295.86	302934	1106.91

Q : Quantity in Metric Tons, V : Value in US\$ Million

Item	1997-98		1998-99	
	Q	V	Q	V
1	2	3	4	5
Frozen Shrimp	101318	866.37	102484	800.22
Frozen Fish	188029	200.47	108556	118.43
Frozen Squid	35095	74.73	32254	64.34

1	2	3	4	5
Frozen Cuttle Fish	37258	89.22	34589	65.39
Others	24118	65.07	25051	58.53
Total	385818	1295.86	302934	1106.91

Japan continued to be the major market with a share of over 49% in the total foreign exchange earned during 1998-99. The exports during this fiscal year marginally declined. India ranked second after Indonesia in exporting shrimp to Japan. Exports to the Chinese market declined substantially in terms of value and volume. Decline in exports to China has been due to mainly to non-realisation of export proceeds etc. Exports to market of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam declined considerably due to devaluation of their currencies. Exports of Cuttlefish and Squid which are major items in the export basket of marine products suffered a decline in volume and value terms, though the unit value realisation from squid increased. The export of frozen fish also suffered a decline.

(c) 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 include inter-alia, implementation of schemes for procurement of equipment used by the processing industry, development of new prawn farms, authorising MPEDA to conduct a market research in respect of US market, participating in seafood related fairs abroad, conducting market survey in the market of China, South Korea and Taiwan conducting demonstration programmes for propagating eco-friendly aquaculture, laying thrust upon diversified aquaculture, approving a project for identifying the problems aimed at containing disease in shrimp farms, 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.

[Translation]

#### Index of Industrial Production

7385. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA :

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

(a) whether 343 items used to be included until recently to work out the index of the industrial production in the country but the number of items has been increased to 543 now;

(b) if so, the reasons for the said increase and the names of items which have been added to the list;

(c) whether the items produced in the unorganised sector constitute only 25 per cent in the determination of the index; and

(d) If not, the facts in this regard and the names of items included which are produced in the unorganised sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The revised index of industrial production released w.e.f. 27th May, 1998 with the base year 1993-94 includes 543 items compared to 352 items included in the previous index of industrial production with the base year 1980-81.

(b) The revision of index of industrial production

(IIP) is effected from time to time to realistically reflect the changing structure of the industrial sector and its growth rate by shifting the comparison base to a recent period. With the change in the base period of the index, item basket also undergoes a change to correctly reflect the importance of items. This has necessitated inclusion of new items/groups in the new IIP series. The names of the new items are given in enclosed statement-I.

(c) and (d) Due to non-availability of regular monthly production data on the items of the unorganised sector, monthly data on only eighteen items are used for compilation of monthly IIP series. The names and weights of the items are given in enclosed statement-II.

#### Statement-I

##### *List of new item groups alongwith individual items in the 1993-94 series*

S.No.	NIC-87	Item Group	Individual item(s)
1	2	3	4
		<b>Mining</b>	
1		Dunite	Dunite
2		Laterite	Laterite
3		Perlite	Perlite
4		Shale	Shale
5		Minor minerals	Minor minerals
		<b>Manufacturing</b>	
1	2100	Deoiled mustard cake	1 Deoiled mustard cake
2	2100	Soyabean oil	2 Soyabean oil
3	2100	Sun flower oil	3 Sun flower oil
4	2113	Coconut oil	4 Coconut oil
5	2113	Cotton seed oil	5 Cotton seed oil
6	2113	Deoiled rice bran	6 Deoiled rice bran
7	2113	Ground nut oil	7 Ground nut oil
8	2113	Mustard oil / rape seed oil	8 Mustard oil / rape seed oil
9	2113	Rice bran oil	9 Rice bran oil
10	2113	Till seed oil	10 Till seed oil
11	2220	Indian made foreign liquor	11 Indian made foreign Spirit
12	2230	Country liquor	12 Country spirit
			13 Country Liquor



1	2	3	4
13	2471	100% non-cotton yarn	14 Acrylic yarn
			15 Fibre yarn
14	2471	100% non-cotton cloth	16 Grey cloth
			17 Polyester fibre cloth
			18 Synthetic cloth
			19 Jari silk cloth
			20 Synthetic cloth dyed
			21 Other dyed synthetic fabrics
			22 Polyester cloth
15	2471	Blended cloth	23 Blended Sorts
			24 Suitings cloth
			25 Mixed fabrics
			26 Terry cotton shirtings
			27 Suitings
16	2471	Blended yarn	28 Yarn other than cotton
17	2540	Yarn	29 Yarn
18	2600	Cotton hosiery cloth	30 Cotton knitted garments
			31 Women's clothing from other fabrics
			32 Garments all kinds
			33 Trousers/pants
			34 Knitted cloth cotton
			35 Shirt/bushirts
			36 Underwears cotton baniyan
			37 Dressing garments
19	2810	Corrugated boxes/cartons (all kinds)	38 Carton all kinds
			39 Corrugated boxes
20	2910	Shoe upper	40 Shoe uppers
21	2920	Leather garments	41 Leather garments
22	2920	Leather goods	42 Leather goods
23	3014	Endosulfan technical	43 Endosulfan
24	3014	Monocrotophos	44 Monocrotophos

1	2	3	4
25	3022	Synthetic resins	45 Epoxy resins
			46 Ion exchange resins
			47 Synthetic resins
			48 Other synthetic resins
26	3029	Metallised bopp films	49 Bopp films
27	3043	Hair oil/ayurvedic hair oil	50 Ayurvedic mediciner hair oil
			51 Hair oil
28	3059	Agarbathi	52 Agarbathi
29	3080	Fire works	53 Fire works
30	3080	High explosive nitro glycerine based	54 High explosive non-gelatinous
31	3092	Photo film/roll film	55 Roll film
			56 Photo film
32	3095	Adhesive all types	57 Adhesive all types
33	3121	Sheets (PVC/rubber)	58 Sheets
34	3140	Avation turbine fuel	59 Avation turbine fuel
35	3140	Bitumen	60 Bitumen
36	3140	Furnace oil	61 Furnace oil
37	3140	High speed diesel	62 High speed diesel
38	3140	Light diesel oil	63 Light diesel oil
39	3140	Low sulphur heavy stock	64 Low sulphur heavy stock
40	3140	Lubricating oil	65 Lubricating oil
41	3140	Motor spirit	66 Motor spirit 80
			67 Motor spirit 83/87
			68 Motor spirit 87/93
42	3140	Naptha	69 Naptha
43	3140	Natural gas	70 Natural gas
44	3140	Petroleum coke calcined	71 Petroleum coke calcined
45	3140	Superior kerosene	72 Superior kerosene
46	3150	Liquidified Petroleum Gas	73 Liquidified Petroleum Gas
47	3205	Glazed tiles/Ceramic tiles	74 Ceramic tiles
			75 Blocks & tiles
48	3213	Bottle/bottle glass wares	76 Bottle ware
			77 Bottle all types
49	3233	H.T. Insulators	78 High tension insulators

1	2	3	4
50	3281	Polished granite/stone chips	79 Stone chips
			80 Polished granite
51	3293	Railway/concrete sleeper	81 Concrete sleeper
"			82 Railway sleeper
52	3301	Bars and rods	83 Bars and rods, others
			84 M.S. bars and rods
			85 Steel bars and rod
53	3301	Carbon steel	86 Billets and slabs
			87 Blooms
			88 Steel ingots plain carbon
			89 Steel ingots
			90 Billets
54	3301	HR coils/skelps	91 Skelps
			92 H.R. coils strips
55	3301	Railway materials	93 Railway materials
56	3301	Stainless/alloy steel	94 Stainless/alloy steel
57	3303	Sponge iron	95 Sponge iron
58	3309	Plates	96 Plates
59	3313	Wire ropes	97 Wire ropes
60	3314	Electric sheets	98 Steel sheets, plates & strips
61	3314	GP/GC sheets (colour coated)	99 GP/GC sheets (colour coated)
62	3314	Tinplates (including WW)	100 Tin plates
			101 Tin plates & sheets
63	3319	CR sheets/coils	102 Cold rolled strips
			103 C.R. coils and sheet
			104 Cold rolled steel sheets & strips
64	3319	HR steel	105 Strips and circles all kinds
65	3320	Other ferro alloys	106 Other ferro alloys
66	3370	C.I. castings	107 C.I. castings
67	3402	Well/off shore platforms	108 Well platforms
68	3431	Agricultural implements	109 Agricultural implements

1	2	3	4
69	3469	Metallic utensils excl. pressure cooker	110 Aluminium utensils
			111 Steel utensils
70	3469	Pressure cookers	112 Pressure cookers
71	3519	Dumpers	113 Dumpers
72	3519	Hydraulic machines/hydraulic cylinders	114 Hydraulic machines
			115 Hydraulic cylinders
73	3519	Wheel MTD dump loaders	116 Wheel MTD front dump loaders
74	3544	Printing machinery	117 Printing machine
75	3545	Furnaces	118 Furnaces
76	353 & 354	Other industrial machinery	119 Other industrial machinery
77	3559	Sealed compressors	120 Sealed compressors
			121 Other Compressors
78	3561	Material handling equipments incl. wagon tipplers	122 Material handling equipments
			123 Spare parts
			124 Conveyors
			125 Wagon tipplers
79	3562	Monoblocks	126 Monoblocks
80	3562	Part & accessories (pump & compressors)	127 Part & accessories (pump & compressors)
81	3563	Gear boxes	128 Gear boxes
82	3570	Diamond tools	129 Diamond tools
83	3593	Washing/laundry machines etc.	130 Washing/laundry machines
			131 Micro electronic equipments
84	3603	Control panels/boards/disks	132 Panel boards
			133 Panel & control desk
85	3603	Protection system/switch board/switch gear etc	134 Protection system
			135 Switch boards
			136 Switch gears
			137 Elect. equipments/machinery
			138 Electric switching
86	3603	Switch gear (circuit breakers)	139 LT and HT circuit breakers
87	3604	Electric motors, phase one	140 Motor : phase one
88	3609	Stamping (lamination)	141 Stampings
89	3609	Turbine (steam/hydro)	142 Water turbines
			143 Steam turbines
90	3610	Insulated cables/wires all kinds	144 PVC insulated cables
			145 PVC insulated flexibles
			146 Rubber insulated cables
			147 Wire ropes (insulated)
			148 Wires

1	2	3	4
91	3631	Auto lamps	149 Auto lamps
92	3639	Lighting fitting & fixtures	150 Lighting fittings & fixtures
93	3720	Wheel and axle, complete set	151 Wheel and axle, complete set
94	3731	Chasis (assem) for HCVs (bus, truck)	152 Chasis (assem) - buses (diesel)
			153 Chasis (assem) - trucks, van (diesel)
95	3748	Engines	154 Engines
96	3748	Springs	155 Leaf springs
97	3801	Syringes all types	156 Syringes, kinds all
98	3871	Writing instruments	157 Ball pens
			158 Ball pen refills
			159 Fountain pens

**Statement-II**

*List of Items of Small Scale Sector included in the IIP series (Base 93-94=100)*

Sl.No.	Item Description	Weight out of 1000
1.	Biscuits (SSI)	1.7804
2.	Paper & paper board (SSI)	0.0176
3.	Leather footwear Indian type (SSI)	0.0521
4.	Paints, enamels & varnishes (SSI)	0.2605
5.	Optical whitening agent (SSI)	0.0019
6.	Soap all kinds (SSI)	0.4977
7.	Matches (SSI)	0.2565
8.	Pipes & tubes (SSI)	0.1002
9.	Steel castings (SSI)	0.1619
10.	Bolts & nuts (SSI)	1.7404
11.	Zip fastners (SSI)	0.2832
12.	Diesel engines (SSI)	0.0104
13.	Air and gas compressor (SSI)	0.0557
14.	Machine tools (SSI)	0.5002
15.	Power & dist. transformers (SSI)	0.0161
16.	Electric motors (SSI)	0.0578
17.	Electric fans all kinds (SSI)	0.0125
18.	Pencils (SSI)	0.7136
Total		6.4987

**Investment made by Fils**

7386. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the net investment made by Foreign Investment Institutions (Fils) in the capital market during the current year upto 1st half of April and how does it compare with the relevant period of the previous year;

(b) the total investments made by Fils during the last three years in the country and what are the unwinded positions in the debt market, year-wise; and

(c) the efforts are being made by the Government to attract more investments by the Fils, with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that Foreign Institutional Investors (Fils) had made a net investment of Rs. 6548.30 crores during the current year upto first half of April, 2000 as compared to the net investment of Rs. 1475.80 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) According to SEBI, the net investments made by Fils during the last three years in the country are as follows:

1997-98	+ Rs. 5957.43 crores
1998-99	(-) Rs. 1584.35 crores
1999-2000	+ Rs. 10121.93 crores

According to information provided by SEBI and RBI, the data on unwinded positions in the debt market is not maintained by them.

(c) In order to attract FII investments, Government makes necessary changes in the FII investment policy from time to time. Some of the changes made by the Government are given below :

- Permitting FIIs to invest in Government dated securities and Treasury bills.
- Increasing individual investment limit of FIIs/subaccounts from 5% to 10% of the paid up capital of a company.
- Increasing the aggregate limit of FII investment in an individual company from 30% to 40%.

#### Credit Deposit Ratio of Public Sector Banks

7387. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level Central Team visited various States to discuss the position of Credit Deposit Ratio of public sector banks during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome of the visit in respect of each of such State; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the Credit Deposit Ratio of public sector banks in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Convenir banks of some of the States with low Credit Deposit (CD) ratio were recently advised to arrange special State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meetings to review CD ratio of banks and also flow of banks' credit under various Government sponsored schemes. These meetings were attended by the Minister of State for Finance (Expenditure, Banking & Insurance) and other senior officers of the Ministry. Performance of banks under various schemes has been reviewed in details. It is expected that this will lead to improvement in performance of banks.

#### Requirement and Availability of Minerals

7388. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the present requirements and availability of various minerals namely Dolomite, Bauxite, Gold, Iron, Manganese, Copper, Zinc, Chromite, Lime Stone and Apatite & Phosphorite, separately, State-wise;

(b) the anticipated requirements and availability of these minerals after five and ten years; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap between the requirement and availability of minerals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) As per information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate organisation under the Department of Mines, the consumption and production of the following minerals in 1997-98 at All India level is given below. However, disaggregated information on State-wise requirements and availability of minerals is not centrally maintained.

(in tonnes)		
Mineral	Consumption	Production
Dolomite	2848500	3002880
Bauxite	5362800	6112131
Gold	*	2636 Kgs.
Iron Ore	33596700	75723000
Manganese	1097800	1641963 (Ore)
Copper	58705 (Metal)	4499716 (Ore)
Zinc	729903 (Metal)	292524 (Concentrate)
Chromite	574600	1515286
Lime Stone	95316350	110441000
Apatite & Phosphorite	2974400	1226575

\* Consumption figure of gold is not available.

(b) Demand and supply projections of minerals are done as part of the Five Year Plan exercises. Hence such projections for minerals are available for the Ninth Plan terminating in the year 2001-2002, and not beyond. Such projections also do not cover disaggregated information on requirements and availability of all individual minerals.

(c) The gap between the requirement and availability of minerals is normally met by import of the minerals/metals. The Government has taken long term measures for development of the mines and mineral sector. In 1993, the National Mineral Policy for the non fuel sector was framed. The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 was amended in 1994 and recently in December, 1999 in order to make the mining sector more investor friendly and progressive. The recent amendments have introduced the stage of reconnaissance operations in line with global practice, delegated more powers to the State Governments for grant, renewal and transfer of mining leases for cutting down procedural delay, empowered the States to prevent and take action against illegal mining etc.

#### Episodes of Serials on DD

7389. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADABA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the maximum number of episodes allowed to a serial on the Doordarshan;

(b) the names of serials which have been allowed more than 300 episodes and the reasons therefor;

(c) the revenue earned through advertisements during 1999-2000, serial-wise; and

(d) the number of episodes allowed to Mahabharata and Ramayana; and

(e) the details of new serials based on historical events which are proposed to be started during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) From the recent past, Doordarshan has started allotting 26 episodes initially to each weekly serial and 100 episodes to daily soaps. Extensions are granted on the basis of production quality, commercial earnings, TRP ratings (popularity), past performance of the serial and the payment due to Doordarshan. There is no maximum restriction on the number of episodes if the above criteria are met.

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

(c) Details are given in enclosed statement.

(d) Mahabharat and Ramayana have been telecast for 93 episodes and 104 episodes respectively on DD-1. Repeat telecast of Mahabharat was allowed for 94 episodes on DD-2. Ramayana was not telecast on DD-2.

(e) No new serial on historical events has been proposed during the current year. However, 'Maharana Pratap', a historical serial, is slated to be rescheduled during the year.

#### Statement

*Serial-wise revenue earned through advertisements during 1999-2000 on the National Network and Metro Network*

S.No.	Name of Programme	Amount (Rs.)
1	2	3
<b>National Network</b>		
1	Jai Hanuman	200,293,000
2	Om Namah Shivay	185,200,000
3	Noorjahan	88,368,000

1	2	3
4	Suraag	66,455,000
5	Jai Mata Ki	38,731,000
6	Geeta Rahasaya	34,196,400
7	Shrikrishna	32,500,000
8	Jai Ganga Maiya	31,536,000
9	Chandrakanta	30,904,000
10	Rajkahani	30,375,000
11	Ardangini	20,400,230
12	School Days	13,190,000
13	Wilayati Babu	12,330,000
14	Mile Sur Mera Tumhara	11,307,500
15	Fugitive The Most Wanted	10,630,016
16	Deewar	10,360,140
17	Aprajita	10,325,000
18	Beta	9,980,000
19	Tulsi	9,977,108
20	Intezaar Aur Sahi	9,737,106
21	Shaktiman	9,282,500
22	Kamyabi	9,258,284
23	Itihaas	7,400,000
24	Waqt Ki Raftar	7,050,000
25	Aurat	6,975,000
26	Maya	6,925,000
27	Betal Pachchisi	6,258,000
28	Dil Apna Preet Parai	5,500,000
29	Sunhere Pal	5,110,000
30	Lekin Woh Sach Tha	48,25,000
31	Bulbul Bagh	4,500,000
32	Raja Ka Baja	4,400,000
33	Aahuti	4,220,000

1	2	3
34	Amar Chitrakatha	4,116,250
35	Daya Sagar	3,925,000
36	Abhimaan	3,900,000
37	Ullanghan	3,600,000
38	Baldoot	3,240,000
39	Agni	3,225,000
40	Sapne Apne Apne	3,000,000
41	Kachchi Rahein	2,800,000
42	Idhar Udhar	2,570,000
43	Maharana Pratap	2,475,000
44	Meethi Meethi Baatein	2,400,000
45	Mungeri Ke Bhai Naurangi Lal	2,244,000
46	Daftarnama	1,650,000
47	Winnie The Pooh	1,075,000
48	Yaadgaar	975,000
49	Sitaroon Ke Sang	960,000
50	Swaraj	787,500
51	Saudagar	750,000
52	Aap Ki Shanti	668,000
53	Mayavi Nagri	650,000
54	Mahatma	493,750
55	Roop Suhana	406,500
56	Distant	400,000
57	Yug	300,000
58	Ek Kahani	225,000
59	Zindagi Navrang Hai	150,000
60	Ghar Sansar	114,000
61	Freedom Voyage	60,000
62	Brahmputra	32,000

1	2	3
<b>Metro Network</b>		
1	Nyay	19,200,000
2	Jaane Bhi Do Paro	11,560,000
3	Hindustani	11,335,000
4	Raja Aur Rancho	11,130,000
5	Captain House	9,830,000
6	United Tele Shopping	7,837,500
7	Music Station	7,090,000
8	Srimaan Srimati	6,160,000
9	Sea Hawks	5,665,000
10	Show No. 1	5,620,000
11	Bhabhi Maa	5,490,000
12	Sher Mera Yaar	4,880,000
13	Alif Laila	4,115,000
14	Cross Fire	3,927,500
15	Tere Ghar Ke Samne	3,600,000
16	Kismet	3,382,500
17	Disney Club	3,187,500
18	Aaghat	3,165,000
19	TV Brands	2,730,000
20	Front Page	2,475,000
21	Dhoop Chaon	2,430,000
22	Satya	2,420,000
23	Shikhar Tak	2,145,500
24	Zenith The Computer Show	2,100,000
25	Champion	2,097,500
26	Aaja Hasa Ja	2,040,000
27	Metro Mera Naam	1,991,000
28	Bandhan	1,800,000
29	Yeh Tera Ghar Yeh Mera Ghar	1,727,500
30	Agnipath	1,620,000
31	Ada	1,494,000



1	2	3
32	Rang Rangeele Chail Chabile	1,400,000
33	Five Days Thriller	1,245,000
34	Duck Tales	1,207,500
35	Feeling Fine	1,130,000
36	Bachon Ki Adalat	1,042,500
37	IBP Ustaad	1,000,000
38	Wonderlust India	945,000
39	Juhi	900,000
40	Flash Gordon	840,000
41	They Call Him Dangerous	700,000
42	Aap Ki Taarif	700,000
43	Travel Hour	690,000
44	Aap Ki Pasand	595,000
45	Circus	570,000
46	Panipat Ki Aakhri Jung	540,000
47	Swaraaj	525,000
48	Aakhir Kaun	510,000
49	Aashiyana	490,000
50	Mummies Alive	476,250
51	India Progress	455,000
52	Gul Sanobar	450,000
53	Made Line	423,750
54	Mickey & Friends	397,500
55	Goof of Troop	397,500
56	Defenders of the Earth	390,000
57	Adventure of Sonic The Hedg.	390,000
58	Chip & Dale	379,500
59	Quack pack	360,000
60	Denis The Menace	352,500
61	Sazish	350,000
62	Sunahari Yaadein	337,500

1	2	3
63	Fugitive The Most Wanted	337,500
64	IT Digest	322,500
65	Sapney	300,000
66	Anjaam	280,000
67	Adventure of Winnie The Pooh	255,000
68	Mickey & Donald	247,500
69	Dill-E-Nadaan	245,000
70	Kaun Hoga Warris	237,500
71	Merry Go Round	217,500
72	The Mask	195,000
73	Rangeele Sapney	180,000
74	Padosan	180,000
75	Cartoon World	180,000
76	Hum Honge Kaamyab	172,500
77	Adventure of Mickey	157,500
78	We Love You	153,500
79	Super Book	142,500
80	Raj Ki Adbhut Ghatna	142,500
81	Labodev Ki Nayika	140,000
82	Kashish	140,000
83	Aaina	140,000
84	Gummy Bears	127,500
85	Scooby Doo	123,750
86	Betal Pachisi	101,250
87	A Few Rupees More	97,500
88	Saudagar	75,000
89	Tom & Jerry	67,500
90	Dil Darya	60,000
91	Kala Parbat	45,000
92	Jawab Aayega	45,000

1	2	3
93	Tell Me Why	25,000
94	Jerem's Adventure	15,000

#### Mining Exploration By GSI in A.P.

7390. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Andhra Pradesh where the mining exploration/survey work is in progress by the Geological Survey of India and Mining Exploration Corporation Ltd.; and

(b) the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) are carrying out mineral exploration/survey in the following areas of Andhra Pradesh :-

#### Minerals Exploration by G.S.I. :-

##### GOLD :

1. Dona Sector, Jonnagiri Schist Belt, Kurnool district.
2. Boksampalle North Block, Ramgiri schist Belt, Anantapur district.
3. Pedapartikunta Block, Southern Kolar schist Belt, Chittoor district.
4. Gadwal Schist Belt, Gadwal area, Mahabubnagar district.

##### DIAMOND

1. Parts of Krishna, Khammam and Nalgonda districts.
2. Western, south-western and southern parts of the Cuddapah Basin and the adjoining granitic terrain in parts of Anantapur and Kurnool districts.
3. Along Hagari River drainage basin in Anantapur and Kurnool districts.

##### COAL

1. Dhammaracherla-Abbugudem block, Chintalchilka area and Santinagaram block in Khammam district.
2. Sitanagaram area and Siddhavaram-Alipalli area in Khammam and West Godavari districts.
3. Narsingapuram area, West Godavari district.

#### SURVEY WORK BY G.S.I.

1. Quaternary studies in inland river basins in Nellore and Prakasam districts.
2. Environmental studies in urban agglomerate of Kakinada town, East Godavari district, and along Yeleru canal in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam district.
3. Survey for dimensional stone resource in Kurnool and Mahabubnagar district.
4. Evaluation of Galaxy granite deposits in Chimakurthi area, Prakasam district, as a sponsored item of APMDCL

Besides, MECL is carrying out exploration and developmental mining for Coal in Khammam, West Godavari and Warrangal districts.

(b) : Achievements of G.S.I. are listed below :-

(i) Established resource potential of about 9 m.t. of gold ores at an average grade between 1.15 and 4.35 g/t., in Dona East Block and reserve of 0.4 m.t. of gold ores in Dona-Temple Block respectively.

(ii) Sporadic values of gold have been reported from Boksampalli-North Block, Ramgiri Schist Belt, Anantapur district, Pedapartikunta Block, Southern Kolar schist Belt, Chittoor district, and Atkur block of Gadwal schist Belt.

(iii) Exploration at Anumpalle in Anantapur district indicated that kimberlitic body is diamondiferous and covers an area of 60 hectare. Processing of 1434 t of bulk samples yielded 44 number of diamonds weighing 13.90 ct. out of which one diamond weighing 7.78 ct. is of gem quality and it is the largest crystal recovered so far from the kimberlite body.

Besides, a total of 13586.8 m.t. and 1827.59 m.t. of coal reserves have been estimated in Godavari valley by GSI and MECL respectively.

#### Cashew Plantation in Orissa

7391. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total areas brought under cashew plantation in Orissa, as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to involve local people in cashew plantation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total area covered under cashew plantation in Orissa at present is 114100 hectares.

(b) and (c) Orissa State Cashew Development Corporation is nodal agency which is implementing cashew development programmes in Orissa by selecting marginal and small scale beneficiaries including SC and ST farmers.

[Translation]

#### HMT Watches

7392. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government to promote the market for Hindustan Machine Tools Watches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the HMT watch industry is running in losses; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof and the measures being contemplated by the Government to bring down the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) HMT Watch Business Group is running into losses and has incurred a loss of Rs. 63.69 crores up to 1998-99. A comprehensive turnaround plan of HMT is under consideration of the Government which envisages financial and organisational restructuring and manpower rationalisation. The Watch Business Group is proposed to be revived under this plan into a profitable entity.

[English]

#### Export of Marine Products

7393. SHRI GEORGE EDEN :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

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

(a) whether the Government have specified any norms for Export Inspection Agency (EIA) code for marine exporting companies for export of marine products to Non-European countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications are lying pending for EIA code clearance in Cochin export area; and

(d) the steps taken for their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Norms for grant of approval and official processor code number for export of fish and fishery products are specified in the Export of Fresh, Frozen and processed Fish and Fishery Products (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 1995 as contained in Government of India Notification No. 730(E) dated 21.8.95. However, requirements, clarifications and guidelines for approval of establishments for export to countries other than EU have recently been further clarified by Export Inspection Council.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Import of Cotton

7394. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI TARUN GOGOI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to import cotton during this year;

(b) if so, the total quantity is likely to be imported in comparison to the last year;

(c) the details of those countries from which the cotton will be imported;

(d) the total foreign exchange likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of cotton to meet its demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The import of raw cotton is under Open General Licence (OGL) since 19.4.1994. The user mills and others relating to cotton and textiles industry can import cotton within the framework of the Government Policy.

(b) The Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) has estimated, in its meeting held on 10.3.2000 a likely import of 12 lakh bales (of 170 kg each) during the current cotton season 1999-2000 (Oct.-Sept.) as against the import of 7.87 lakh bales during last cotton season 1998-99.

(c) The major countries from which cotton is imported into India include West Africa (Ivory coast, Togo, Burkina, Faso), Egypt, Sudan, East Africa (Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, USA, Australia, China etc.

(d) The total foreign exchange likely to be incurred on import varies from time to time depending upon the prices in the international market apart from currency conversion rate. As on 28.4.2000, out of 13.69 lakh bales of cotton registered for import, only 0.843 lakh bales valued at US\$ 16.2 millions have been imported.

(e) India is self-sufficient in the production of cotton, however, import take place depending upon the price and quality parameters. Government of India has launched a Technology Mission on Cotton Development with objectives of research, dissemination of technology to farmers, improvement in marketing infrastructure and modernisation of ginning and pressing factories to increase the productivity and quality of cotton to meet the requirements of domestic textiles industry.

#### **Infrastructural Facilities to States**

7395. SHRIDALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give any relaxation in their criteria stipulated in the Central Scheme for assisting States including backward States, for development of infrastructural facilities;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States which have been defined as backward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Under the 2 Central Schemes namely Growth Centre Scheme and Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme, being implemented for the development of infrastructure to attract industries in rural/backward areas, the amount of Central assistance has been increased to Rs. 15 crore and Rs. 4 crore respectively for North-Eastern States as against Rs. 10 crore and Rs. 2 crore respectively for other States.

(c) The following 16 States and Union Territories have been listed as Industrially Backward in the Eighth Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Goa
4. Himachal Pradesh
5. Jammu & Kashmir
6. Manipur
7. Meghalaya
8. Mizoram
9. Nagaland
10. Sikkim
11. Tripura
12. Andaman and Nicobar
13. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
14. Daman and Diu
15. Lakshadweep
16. Pondicherry

#### **National Renewal Fund**

7396. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the achievements made by the National Renewal Fund so far;

(b) the budget allocation for 1999-2000;

(c) whether the Government propose to abolish this fund; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Assistance from National Renewal Fund (NRF) has been provided for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and the scheme of counselling, retraining etc. of workers rationalised from the organised sector. VRS assistance has been made available to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). According to information available, 1,36,110 workers have availed of VRS as on 31.3.2000. Under NRF, Employees Assistance Centres (EACs) have been set up to provide counselling, retraining of workers to facilitate their redeployment. 66

EACs set up under NRF are managed by 12 nodal agencies spread all over India and have retrained 47,050 employees rationalised from organised sector as on 31.3.2000.

(b) NRF has been maintained in Public Account till 1998-99. In RE : 1999-2000, a provision of Rs. 174.05 crore was made against the scheme of Grant-in-aid to PSUs for Implementation of VRS and Rs. 5.50 crore for the scheme of Counselling, retraining etc.

(c) and (d) The NRF was set up in February, 1992 by a Government resolution which provided for its operation for a limited period of time upto a maximum of ten years. The NRF in its present form is under review of the Government.

#### DEPB

7397. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs Department has unearthed Rs. 5 crore irregularities in connection with false availing of the Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme by exporters of glass beads; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government against such exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Customs House at Calcutta, in December 1999 and January, 2000 has detected cases wherein certain exporters had exported glass beads at a very high FOB value during April 1999 to June 1999, to fraudulently avail of Duty Entitlement Pass Book credit of approximately Rs. 5 crores. Out of this, Duty Entitlement Pass Book credit of approximately Rs. 1.54 crores has been denied by Director General of Foreign Trade. One of the exporter involved in the said cases was arrested and later released on bail under Court's order. Further investigations are in progress in all the cases and action will be taken against them as per law.

#### Utilization of Minerals in Orissa

7398. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any effective measures for optimum utilisation of available natural resources i.e. Bauxite, Coal, Marine life and tourism etc. in Orissa in order to improve the bottom of the State in the development index of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) It is primarily responsibility of the State Government of Orissa to take appropriate policy measures for optimum utilisation of natural resources available in Orissa. However, the Central Government has taken the following measures for optimum utilisation of natural resources of Orissa i.e. Bauxite, Coal, Marine life and tourism.

(i) Government has exempted setting up of Alumina/Aluminium Plants from the provisions of compulsory licensing. Any one who wants to set up Alumina/Aluminium Plants may do so by filing an Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memorandum (IEM).

(ii) National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO), Central Government Public Sector Company, is making optimum utilisation of bauxite resources of Orissa by producing Alumina and Aluminium. NALCO is also implementing two expansion programmes to increase the capacity of Bauxite Mines from 2.4 million tonnes per annum (TPA) to 4.8 million TPA, that of Alumina Refinery from 0.8 million TPA to 1.575 million TPA and that of Aluminium Smelter from 2,30,000 TPA to 3,45,000 TPA.

(iii) Detailed exploration of Coal deposits in the two coalfields of Orissa, namely, Talcher and Ib river is being carried out by the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) by deploying Departmental drills. A total of 3.08 billion tonnes of coal reserves have been established in Talcher and Ib river coalfields during the first 3 years of IX Plan. Government has taken effective measures for achieving the objectives of optimal utilisation of Coal resources in the State of Orissa. A production level of 43.55 million tonnes of coal has been achieved during 1999-2000 as against a production level of 22.60 million tonnes in 1991-1992.

(iv) For optimum utilisation of marine fishery resources, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Marine Fisheries is under implementation in the State. The scheme aims at technological upgradation of traditional fishing sector and development of small mechanised fishing sector to increase fish production and export of marine products from the State.

- (v) Central financial assistance for tourism infrastructure and fairs & festivals is provided to the State Government.
- c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Irregularities in Sale of Coal**

7399. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received complaints against the Central Coalfields Limited recently regarding irregularities and bringing in the sale of coal to the Industrial units/power plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such cases handed over to the Vigilance/Central Bureau of Investigation during the last five years and the number of cases out of these investigated so far; and
- (d) the details of the initiatives taken/proposed to be taken for effective sale/marketing of coal, abolishing the premium and to check the black-marketing of coal due to the imbalance between the demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No such complaints have been received in the recent past.

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

(d) After total deregulation of coal distribution and price with effect from 1st January 2000, the policy for sale of coal is being worked out by Coal India Limited to ensure more direct interaction with the consumers, simplification of system and procedures, supply of coal based on past trend in order of booking by individual consumers and making sizeable quantity available under open sales scheme.

[English]

#### **Share of Public Sector Banks**

7400. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some public sector banks have prepared a plan to offer IPO;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure orderly selling of shares by banking sector in order to avoid a glut of bank offering in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) According to available information, 6 public sector banks have initiated action to access the capital market in order to meet their increased capital needs. It might be inappropriate to disclose the names of the banks at this stage, since the size and timing, etc. of the public issue would be determined largely by external factors such as the condition of the stock market and its appetite for Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). The issue price, timing of the actual public issue, etc. to ensure the success of issue are decided by banks in consultation with their Lead Managers to the issue.

[Translation]

#### **New Channel in Bhojpuri**

7401. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new channel of Doordarshan in Bhojpuri language;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government have prepared any scheme to encourage the programmes in Bhojpuri language on national channel of Doordarshan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the adequate time slot is given to such programmes of Bhojpuri language on national channel of Doordarshan; and
- (g) if so, the time so given to such a programmes of Bhojpuri during the year 1999, in terms of hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) There is no proposal at present.

(b) As per existing policy of Prasar Bharati, Regional Language Satellite Services are started only in respect of languages recognized in the Constitution depending upon availability of resources and other inter-se priority.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) National Channel is meant for telecasting programmes mainly in national language i.e. Hindi. There is

no scheme for introducing programmes in any regional language on the National Network of Doordarshan. Accordingly, there is no question of allotting any time slot to any regional language, including Bhojpuri on National Channel of Doordarshan.

[English]

#### **Purchase of Tobacco by STC**

7402. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of tobacco purchased by the State Trading Corporation (STC) in April, 2000 from the tobacco growers;

(b) whether STC is not paying good prices for tobacco to growers;

(c) whether STC have got any export orders for tobacco presently;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to create a separate cell to obtain regular export orders for purchase of tobacco by STC?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) STC has purchased 1,75,601 kg of tobacco in A.P. auctions in April, 2000.

(b) STC is paying good prices.

(c) and (d) STC's efforts are on to secure export orders.

(e) No such steps have been taken by the Government.

#### **Board of Sterlite Industries Ltd.**

7403. SRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board of Sterlite Industries Ltd. is going for a major restructuring and has accepted the recommendations of the Arthur Andersen Consultancy on demerging the telecom business division into a separate company and consolidate the group on ferrous metals business by merging Madras Aluminium Company into Sterlite Industries;

(b) If so, whether it has also been decided to undertake any Greenfield aluminium project in future;

(c) If so, the major revamp made by the company; and

(d) the extent to which it will be beneficial.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Sterlite Industries Ltd. is a private company. Information obtained from the company indicates that the Board of Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd., is in process of restructuring its businesses and has accepted the recommendations made by Arthur Andersen India Pvt. Ltd. on demerging the entire of its telecom business into a separate company, subject to all necessary approvals as required by law. This was communicated vide a press release. Further, the Board of Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. has decided to merge the Madras Aluminium Company Ltd. into Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. The board of the Madras Aluminium Company Limited has also accorded approval to the merger scheme. The merger is also subject to all necessary approvals as required by law.

(b) The Company has decided not to undertake any Greenfield Aluminium Project at the present juncture.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

#### **IDBI's Support to Jain TV**

7404. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether on the eve of Lok Sabha election, 1998, IDBI made any advances or supported any amount to Jain TV;

(b) whether such decision was taken by the Board of IDBI;

(c) whether collateral securities were ensured by Jain TV; and

(d) If so, the estimated value of the collateral security vis-a-vis the amount given by IDBI to Jain TV?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported a loan of Rs. 24 crores was sanctioned to Jain Studios Ltd. in September 1999 for a project for setting up Gateway Earth Station and providing home shopping on T.V. Channel, E-Commerce and internet services. IDBI has further reported that against the sanctioned loan, the first part disbursement of Rs. 6 crores was made on April 11, 2000.

The decision regarding financing a particular economic activity by granting loans to individual entities is taken by FIs themselves based on their commercial judgement and the lending policy laid down by their respective boards within the framework of prudential regulations and exposure norms

prescribed by RBI from time to time. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst the banks and financial institution and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing the financial institutions and the provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to individual units is not supposed to be divulged.

[Translation]

**Income Tax Exemption of the Member  
of Legislative Assembly**

7405. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government have sent any letter in September 1998 seeking income tax exemption on the hiked salaries and allowances of the Members of Legislative Assembly; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) The exemption limit for the allowances received by the Members of any State Legislature or Committee thereof, was increased from Rs. 600/- to Rs. 2000/- per month vide Finance Act, 1997 w.e.f. 1.4.1998. No further increase was considered necessary thereafter.

**Boycott of Indian Rice by Britain**

7406. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foodgrains traders of Asia in Britain have been asked to boycott 'Basmati' rice first while boycotting the Indian products;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Reports have been received that a section of foodgrains traders of Asian origin in Britain, have launched a boycott of Indian rice. This follows a move of the UK's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to develop methods of authentication of Basmati rice and detection of non-Basmati rice in Basmati rice.

(c) The matter has been appropriately taken up with the concerned authorities.

[English]

**Financial Irregularities in Andrew Yule  
& Company Ltd.**

7407. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a number of representations regarding alleged financial irregularities and misappropriation of funds by the present Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(e) the further steps likely to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) Some representations have been received against the present Chairman & managing Director of Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. (AYCL). These relate mainly to some projects undertaken by the Company. Appropriate action, wherever required, would be taken after duly examining the issues involved.

**Rajya Sabha Election**

7408. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether, in view of the reports of money bags coming into play in the recently held Rajya Sabha elections, the Chief Election Commissioner has written to the Ministry of Finance to be on the alert against any moves to influence the outcome of the Rajya Sabha polls;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No written communication in this regard was received from the Chief Election Commissioner.

**Income of Sun T.V.**

7409. SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state : the details of Income Tax paid by Sun T.V. during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : M/s Sumangali Publications Ltd., Chennai (Sun T.V.) has paid income tax of Rs. 10,75,06,884/- for the assessment year 1997-98, Rs. 14,51,03,935/- for the assessment year 1998-99 and Rs. 14,85,50,911/- for the assessment year 1999-2000.

[Translation]

**Vacant Post in BALCO**

7410. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the post of Director (Personnel) is vacant in the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have constituted any panel for the selection of the Director (Personnel); and

(d) if so, the reasons for not appointing the Director (Personnel) so far from the panel of selected persons?

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

(b) to (d) The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has recommended a panel for the selection of Director (Personnel) in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO). Processing of this panel in accordance with the extant Government orders has been undertaken.

[English]

**Harassment of Female Staff of State Bank of Indore**

7411. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of representations received from the employees of Delhi Branches of State Bank of Indore regarding harassment to lady staff violation of headquarter orders by the junior officers during 1997-98 and 1999-2000, till date, branch-wise, case-wise;

(b) whether these representations of the employees have been inquired into by the bank; and

(c) if so, the action if any has been taken on their grievances?

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

**Purchase of Materials for Jhanjara Project**

7412. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some colliery and official materials are being purchased through the contractor for Jhanjara Project of ECL at the cost of more than 6 to 10 times than the market price; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No complaints have been received by the Government. It has been reported by Coal India that procurement of equipment is done strictly as per existing rules. For critical items/spare parts are purchased from original equipment manufacturer (in some cases imported) and their cost cannot be compared with local market price.

(b) Attempts are also made to find out indigenous spares made of proper material, specification and quality. Recently the import duties of imported spares have been reduced by the Government which has resulted in reduction of overall cost.

12.00 hrs.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

1. A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution :-

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Union Government (Commercial) (No. 1 of 2000) - Public Sector Undertaking - Review of Accounts for the year ended the March, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1912/2000]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Commercial) (No.2 of 2000) – Public Sector Undertakings – Comments of Accounts for the year ended the March, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1913/2000]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Commercial) (No. 3 of 2000) – Public Sector Undertakings – Transaction Audit observations for the year ended the March, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1914/2000]

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 of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Press Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1915/2000]

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) issued under section 57AC and 57AE of the Central Excise Rules 1944 :-
- (i) G.S.R. 368(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe the procedure for refund of the unutilised duty credit lying with the manufacturer of Goods which are meant for export.
- (ii) G.S.R. 369(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe the format for the monthly return as prescribed in the new CENVAT rules.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1916/2000]

- (2) The Central Excise (Fourth Amendment) Rules,

2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 249(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2000 under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1917/2000]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :-

- (i) The Dena Bank, General Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 142 in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 1999.
- (ii) The Andhra Bank General Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. 666/31/72/130 in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1918/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 183 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2000 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 573 (E) dated the 30th July, 1992 issued under section 29A of the Securities Contracts (Regulations) Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1919/2000]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 186(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2000 seeking to rescind Notification No. S.O. 2561 dated the 27th June, 1969 issued under section 16 of the Securities Contracts (Regulations) Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1920/2000]

- (6) A copy of the order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 28th April, 2000 issued by the President in pursuance of article 280 of the Constitution and the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951 published in Notification No. S.O. 425 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2000 making certain amendment in the Order published in Notification No. S.O. 557 (E) dated the 3rd July, 1988.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1921/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Omar Abdullah, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99 along with audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1922/2000]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam for the year 1998-99 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1923/2000]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1924/2000]

- (3) A copy of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for production) (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 340 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th

April, 2000 under sub-section (2) of section 19 of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for production) Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1925/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 405 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 25th April, 2000 making certain amendment in the Notification No. S.O. 557(E) dated the 26th July, 1996 issued under section 3 of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1926/2000]

- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1927/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Aluminium Company Limited and the Ministry of Mines and Minerals for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1928/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Copper Limited and the Ministry of Mines and Minerals, Department of Mines for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1929/2000]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat

Aluminium Company Limited and the Ministry of Mines and Minerals, Department of Mines, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1930/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Mines and Minerals, Department of Mines, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1931/2000]

12.01 hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'S BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

#### Minutes

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (ANANTNAG) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the First to Fifth sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bill and Resolutions held during the current session.

12.1½ hrs.

### BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### Ninth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.02 hrs.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

#### Second Report

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (BANDA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the Papers Laid on the Table.

(Interruptions)\*

12.2½ hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

#### First Report

[English]

DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH (ELURU) : I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme on Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation - proposal to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme.

12.03 hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

#### Seventy-ninth Report

[English]

DR. (SMT.) BEATRIX D'SOUZA : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Seventy-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Information Technology Bill, 1999.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How can we start in the middle? Now, the Papers are being Laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

12.04 hrs.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the remaining part of the Budget Session will consist of :-

1. Consideration of any Item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

\*Not Recorded.

2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills :-

- (i) The Information Technology Bill, 1999.
- (ii) The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2000.
- (iii) The Leaders and Chief Whips' of recognised parties and Groups (Facilities) Amendment Bill, 2000.
- (iv) The Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2000 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
- (v) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please sit down. Do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : I request the permission of the Speaker to include the following two items in the List of Business for discussion during the following week :

- (1) Largest Public Sector Undertaking in Kerala namely FACT (Fertilizers and Chemicals Trivandrum) is running at a loss due to non-marketing of Ammonium Sulphate.
- (2) Due to price rise, delivery of rice and other food materials from FCI godowns are at a standstill at Kerala. The open market prices have become lower than the price at the Central Department.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you wish to raise something, you can raise it in 'Zero Hour', not now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Mohale says.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please go to your seat. This is not 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in next week's business :-

1. In the year 2003, the big 'Kumbhmela' is going to be held at Nasik, Maharashtra. The areas of Devali, Nasikroad, Nasik Tryumkeshwar are covered under Mela Zone. The financial assistance from Center Government is necessary to provide facilities at Kumbh Mela.

2. There are large number of powerlooms in the Maharashtra State particularly in Malegaon, Bhiwandi, Ichikaranji. The fifteen lakh people depend on it, but powerloom sector is facing heavy economic crisis. The price of thread should be rendered, interest rate should be lowered and number of godowns should be increased.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may be included in next week's business:

1. The arrangement should be made to reopen the Angwal Coal Mine of Central Coalfields Limited at Bokaro and Kargil area without any further delay.

2. There is great need for allocation of special funds by the Government to set up Food and Processing Industry in the Adivasi area of Giridih district of the State of Bihar and for cooperation from public enterprises.

SHRI RAMJI LAL (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may be included in next week's business :-

1. To hold discussion on massacre of Dalits and atrocities committed against them in the entire country.

2. To hold discussion on the situation arising out of loss of life and property caused due to natural calamity cyclone and storm.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's business :-

1. The banks are putting hurdles in matter of giving loans sanctioned by District Industry Centre under Prime Minister Employment Scheme, in which loan upto Rs. 2 lakh is given to the unemployed youth. The youth are facing difficulties in getting loan despite making declaration that no family member has ever been declared defaulter. The Government should ask the banks to grant loans at earliest so that the unemployed should be able to get loan on time.

2. The Central Government should sanction 100 percent grant for installing tubewells and electricity arrangement in order to provide irrigation facility to the farmers in every village of the country.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please go to your seat. This is not 'Zero Hour'.

SHRIP.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZZHA) : Sir, following items may be included in next week's business :

1. The serious situation arising out of steep fall in price of tea and coffee have put farmers in gross distress. Excise duty on tea should be abolished and special aid to coffee growers sanctioned. ...(Interruptions)

2. Serious incidents of attack on girls in a Christian hostel in Nasik, assault on people who were holding a prayer meeting at Ahmedabad, attack on a convent in Jhansi and some other assaults on minorities within last seven days have caused serious apprehension. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. This is not 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dharam Raj Singh Patel, please go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, this is not the proper way. You are encouraging your Members.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (SIRSA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in next week's business :-

12,16 and 24 spindle in the motorised spinning wheels have been used successfully. The more job opportunity can

be provided in backward rural areas by encouraging its use in public and industrial sector, which could provide means of livelihood to the people. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to formulate an action plan at national level to encourage use of these spinning wheels in industrial sector.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please ask your Members to go back. This is not 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : If there is no consensus it means no bill ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the proper way. This is not 'Zero Hour' where you can raise such matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

SHRI A.P. ABDILLAKUTTY (CANNANORE) : Sir, I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda.

Developing the four kilometer long. Drive-in-Beach (Muzhapilargadi Beach, Kannur) as international tourist centre. It is one of the rarest beaches in India.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in next week's business :-

Recently, an announcement has been made in regard to creation of a new separate state out of Bihar. The new State consists of 18 districts, which are more capable than rest of Bihar. This State will have comparatively more sources of income, whereas area and population of this State are less. Vananchal will have its revenue from mines, industries and forests, but the rest of Bihar has only agriculture, which is also affected by floods as source of income. Today, it is a question of existence for the rest of Bihar...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now Calling Attention. Shri N. Jananrdhana Reddy.

\*Not Recorded.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM) : I want to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have called Shri N. Janardhana Reddy.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I want to raise a very serious matter. I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Now Calling Attention is being taken up. After that we will come to Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (BUXAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the killings are taking place in Bihar. We have given notice to raise this matter in 'Zero Hour'...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Chaubey ji, at present Calling Attention is going on, 'Zero Hour' will be conducted after this.

[English]

Shri Nawal Kisore Rai, you have not read out what you have given in your Submission. You have read out some other matter. Only approved matter should be there.

This is not the proper way in the House. Please do not do like this in the House. The House is an important place.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I have to raise a very serious matter through my Submission.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, you are always disturbing the House. Please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Even though I was given a chance, I could not read out my Submission.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Calling Attention.

(Interruptions)\*

12.17 hrs.

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Disproportionate representation from certain  
States in recruitment of constables for  
Central Para Military Forces**

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (NARASARAOPET) :

Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Situation arising out of disproportionate representation from certain States in recruitment of constables for the Central Para Military Forces and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, recruitment to the post of constable in Central Para Military Forces is made from the States and Union Territories and the total vacancies in each Central Para Military Force in a year are allotted to various States/Union Territories as per the following parameters :-

- (i) 90 per cent of the vacancies in BSF, ITBP and Assam Rifles and 100 per cent vacancies in CRPF/CISF are allotted among the States/UTs of the Union on the basis of population ratio of the respective State/UT.
- (ii) 10 per cent of the vacancies in BSF, ITBP and Assam Rifles are allotted to the border States where the concerned Central Para Military Force is deployed in addition to their quota under (i) above.
- (iii) In case sufficient number of candidates do not come forward for enlistment in a particular State/UT, these vacancies are diverted with the specific approval of the Director General to the other States/UTs.

A statement showing the State-wise representation as on 31.3.2000 in CPMFs is being laid on the Table of the House.

Whenever recruitment to a particular force is scheduled in a State/UT, the same is given wide publicity through leading local dailies/Newspapers.

The minimum educational qualification for recruitment as Constable in CPMFs is 10th pass and certain physical standards have also been prescribed.

It may be seen from the statement annexed that the shortfall in ratio of a particular State/UT varies from force to force. The shortfall in the representation of some of the States/UTs is due to non-availability of eligible and suitable candidates and in some areas due to lack of response. Whenever there is a shortfall from a particular State/UT, efforts are made to make up the shortfall by allotting more vacancies to such States/UTs in future recruitments.

States/UTs which are not adequately represented will be given additional vacancies in future recruitment drives.

*\*Statement showing State-wise representation in CPMFs as on 31.03.2000*

(In percentage)						
State	Population Ratio	BSF	CRPF	CISF	ITBP	AR
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>States</b>						
Andhra Pradesh	7.86	2.04	4.27	6.97	0.09	4.00
Assam	2.64	3.74	3.52	3.98	0.60	7.70
Arunachal Pradesh	0.10	0.03	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.59
Bihar	10.23	8.91	10.81	9.95	2.12	8.13
Goa	0.14	0.02	0.06	0.05	0.07	—
Gujarat	4.88	1.87	2.06	2.70	0.10	—
Haryana	1.93	8.99	7.17	4.48	10.11	6.07
Himachal Pradesh	0.61	3.04	2.88	3.07	23.30	6.75
J & K	0.91	5.71	3.63	2.53	6.56	0.90
Karnataka	5.31	2.65	3.22	4.19	0.42	2.69
Kerala	3.44	4.65	4.59	3.27	2.19	7.26
Madhya Pradesh	7.84	4.27	5.28	6.87	3.29	3.42
Maharashtra	9.33	2.43	5.23	6.29	0.40	2.00
Manipur	0.22	0.61	1.14	0.39	0.09	2.59
Meghalaya	0.21	0.36	0.14	0.12	0.007	0.81
Mizoram	0.08	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.007	2.42
Nagaland	0.14	0.38	0.09	0.16	0.007	2.75
Orissa	3.73	1.85	3.80	3.73	0.57	2.22
Punjab	2.39	6.18	4.89	5.27	5.49	5.82
Rajasthan	5.20	9.23	7.14	5.87	3.36	2.73
Sikkim	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.03	2.07
Tamil Nadu	6.59	3.28	5.28	5.43	0.66	2.32
Tripura	0.32	1.38	0.78	0.53	0.08	1.42
Uttar Pradesh	16.44	17.53	17.61	15.58	37.55	14.93
West Bengal	8.06	9.17	5.68	7.47	0.88	5.00
<b>Union Territory</b>						
A & N Islands	0.03	0.04	0.06	0.14	0.05	0.38



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chandigarh	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.06	—
D & Nagar Haveli	0.02	—	0.01	—	—	—
Daman & Diu	0.02	0.07	0.03	—	—	—
Delhi	1.11	0.83	1.35	0.67	0.57	—
Lakshadweep	0.01	—	—	0.01	0.07	—
Pondicherry	0.09	0.04	0.09	0.11	—	—

\* Also laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : The statement which the Home Minister has tabled has only certain points. He has not mentioned other points.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Sir, I have one supplementary to put which is very important.

MR. SPEAKER : No, there is only one name here. There is no other name except Shri Janardhana Reddy.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : All the recruits are required to have a fair working knowledge in English and Hindi. The written test for recruitment of constables in the CPM is being held both in Hindi and English. This is why, you are not able to fulfil the quota allotted to the States...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat. You cannot speak because there is only one name mentioned in the notice. There is not other name here. There is certain procedure to be followed in Calling Attention Motion.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : The recruitee who is qualified at 10th pass write English or Hindi, particularly people coming from non-Hindi speaking States. So, the handicap is there. That is why, the Standing Committee recently passed a resolution which the Home Minister knows pretty well. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the candidates appearing in examination for recruitment of constables in Central Para Military Forces should be given option to take examination in any languages as mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. At the same time, they should acquire working knowledge within the probationary period. There is a letter from the Service Commission also. The candidates who are appearing in the Civil Services Examination at the all-India level have been allowed to write all papers of examination not only in Hindi or English but in other regional languages also. When they are allowed to write like that, a constable who has studied only upto 10th class cannot be insisted upon to write only in Hindi or English. That is why, States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and all the non-Hindi speaking States have less recruitment.

The Central Industrial Security Forces have given a presentation in which the total number of constables is 69,000. Out of this, Tamil Nadu has got 473 and Andhra Pradesh has got 372.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (SHIMOGA) : What about Karnataka?

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Karnataka also has the same position. So, you yourself have mentioned in your statement that you are going to rectify this imbalance. I request you to look into the matter, give orders to recruit them through examination conducted in local languages and give proper weightage to those States which is less balanced than other States. I would request the Minister to give specific directions in this regard.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Sir, I have participated.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot deviate from rules. If you want, you can give a separate notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : There is only one selection centre in Tamil Nadu. There should be more than one selection centre so that young boys could come and join. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : I associate with what Shri Janardhana Reddy has said.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The desire of the Members of Parliament in so far as Armed Forces or Central Para Military Forces are concerned is, that there should be proper representation from all the States. This is a very legitimate and justified desire. In fact, in so far as the Armed Forces are concerned, there are complaints from certain sections in which, at one time, the representation used to be enormous. But, subsequently, after a conscious effort was made by the Government to bring in all the States, those States had their own representation reduced. They keep on saying, "Why

cannot the Armed Forces be purely on merit, on the basis of eligibility? Why are you trying them to have from all parts?" But I think the Government took a right step in trying to ensure that all States are represented in these matters.

The same approach applies to our Central Paramilitary Forces also. This matter has been raised in the Standing Committee on Home Affairs and discussed fully. It is after that this particular recommendation has been made in respect of language. It needs to be assessed as to whether this is a factor which does contribute because I find that insofar as Kerala is concerned, the representation is far more than the percentage. *...(Interruptions)* Let me complete it. So far as States like Maharashtra and Gujarat are concerned, the representation is far below. It is much below. It is much less than that of Kerala. It is much less than that of West Bengal and others. So, the issue how far this particular factor is responsible or other factors which I have already mentioned are responsible is a matter of assessment. But so far as I am concerned, the Standing Committee has made a formal recommendation. It has said :

"The Committee, therefore, recommends that candidates appearing in examination for recruitment of constables in CPMFs should be given an option to take examination in any of the 18 languages as mentioned in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. At the same time, there should also be a provision to ensure that the recruits acquire the working knowledge of Hindi during their probation."

So, I would like to assure the House that the Home Ministry is taking cognizance of this recommendation. We are examining it in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training because it is essentially their job to decide as to what schemes should apply. But our efforts are to see that recruitment is done in all the States and where representation is low, next time, next year the quota is increased. This would be a consistent approach. I could see the reason why this particular Calling Attention has arisen. It would be my endeavour to see that there is no part of the country which gets less representation in the Paramilitary Forces only because they have the handicap of language. This would be my earnest endeavour. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : What about the Selection Centre? There is only one Selection Centre in the State of Tamil Nadu. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : Sir, about the Calling Attention, Shri Janardhana Reddy has to seek some more clarifications. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : This matter was discussed in the Standing Committee. After examining why it

is happening, the Committee gave its recommendation. In Kerala, 80 per cent of the candidates are graduates. In Andhra Pradesh also, a majority of them are graduates who are able to get appointment. So, as you are having examinations for the All-India-Services in the regional languages, kindly consider this request also. You have also assured us. I request you to do this. Please make a commitment. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : We are examining it.

MR. SPEAKER : Before we take up the 'Zero Hour', there are two privilege notice to be disposed of.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have raised a privilege motion. You have to give a ruling. I made a speech on 29th November. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

I had made a speech on 29th November. I had made a mention in my speech in regard to the statement of the owner of NB Plantations company, the way he held press conference and his remarks on the proceedings of the House. You shall give ruling on it.

12.29 hrs.

## OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

### Question of Privilege

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : With regard to Shri Kirit Somaiya's privilege notice, I have to inform the House that on 8th December, 1999, Shri Kirit Somaiya, Member of Parliament had given a notice of a question of privilege against Shri Sundeep Maheshwari, Executive Director, Enbee Plantations alleging that Shri Maheshwari had cast aspersions on him in a Press interview as reported in *The Lok Satta*. According to Shri Somaiya, by levelling the allegations made by him in his speech in the House against Enbee Plantations as "arising out of business enmity" and "laughable", Shri Maheshwari had cast aspersions on him and thereby committed a breach of privilege and contempt of the House.

Shri Sundeep Maheshwari who asked to state what he had to say in the matter has since tendered a written unqualified apology to Shri Kirit Somaiya, Member of Parliament.

In view of the unqualified apology tendered by Shri Maheshwari, I have decided to treat the matter as closed.

†

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is one more notice of breach of privilege given by Shri Vijay Goel.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, the breach of privilege notice given by you against the Chairman, NDMC is under my consideration. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Zero Hour.

Shri Dasmunsi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMAT RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM) : What happened to my privilege notice? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already told you that your privilege notice is also under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can I speak? ...(Interruptions)

12.31 hrs.

*At this stage Shri Brahma Nand Mandal and some other hon'ble Members came and stood near the Table.*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Dasmunsi. Have you given any notice? Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (NAWADA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 16 Dalits have been massacred in Bihar. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will get an opportunity after this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Dasmunsi.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You will get opportunity after this.

\*Not Recorded.

[English]

I have called Mr. Dasmunsi. After him, I will call you. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

12.32 hrs.

*At this stage Shri Brahma Nand Mandal and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After him, I will call you. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.35 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up Item No. 15.

SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL\*\*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

\*Not Recorded.

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 12.5.2000.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I introduce\* the Bill.

14.06 hrs.

#### NATIONAL HOUSING BANK (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The National Housing Bank (NHB) was established in July, 1988 under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 to operate as a principal agency to promote housing finance institutions in the country and for providing refinance to them. It has also been entrusted with the task of regulating and supervising the Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) much in the same manner as RBI regulates and supervises the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs). The housing finance companies are a sub set of NBFCs. The proposed provisions will enable NHB to promote healthy and universal growth of housing finance companies as also to safeguard the interest of depositors.

The National Housing Bank is also being entrusted with the responsibility of developing a secondary mortgage market in the housing mortgages in the country.

There has been a long standing demand from the housing finance institutions for a speedier method of recovery of dues from the defaulting borrowers. It is proposed to provide for a simple, speedy and cost effective method of recovery of overdues by the housing finance institutions by providing for the sale of property charged as security for the assistance granted by such institutions through recovery officers. A provision is also being made for establishment of Appellate Tribunal to hear appeal against the decision of recovery officer.

It is also considered necessary to enlarge the capital and shareholder's base of the National Housing Bank. Consequently, it is proposed to provide for enhancement of the authorised capital of the National Housing Bank to rupees three hundred fifty crores with an enabling provision for

\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

further increase up to rupees two thousand crores. It is also proposed that the National Housing Bank may offer its shareholding to institutions, besides the Reserve Bank of India, in such manner that the Reserve Bank of India, the Central Government, public sector banks, public financial institutions or other institutions owned or controlled by the Government, shall in aggregate at any time hold not less than fifty-one per cent of the issued capital of the National Housing Bank. It is also proposed to provide for restructuring of the Board of Directors of the National Housing Bank.

In the light of the experience gained in the operations of the National Housing Bank since its establishment, it is felt necessary to bring certain amendments to the said Act for the smooth working of the National Housing Bank and to authorise it to undertake certain additional business of the financing of agricultural and rural development banks, making of loans and advances for residential township-cum-housing development projects, undertaking securitisation of loans, setting up of mutual fund and understanding or participating in housing mortgage insurance business.

Sir, I move that the Bill as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am also on a point of order. The Bill introduced by the hon. Minister is very good and important. It also seeks to establish a bank and everyone proposes to establish a bank immediately. But this Bill does not contain any statement of objects and reason memorandum. You may refer rule 64 and find out that every Bill before publication should contain statement of objects and reasons memorandum, but this Bill does not contain one. Then only you can permit it under rule 64.

[English]

...(Interruptions) It is not one amendment, there are several amendments, including increasing the quantum of the paid-up-capital from Rs. 350 crore to Rs. 2000 crore.  
...(Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SEN GUPTA (CONTAI) : It has been passed by Rajya Sabha.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : So what? Passed by Rajya Sabha does not mean that Lok Sabha should shut its eyes. We are, in our own sphere, competent enough to do it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am only making a request. I am not moving any motion. It is an important Bill. Such a thick and important Bill should be re-examined by the Select Committee and then the Government can get this Bill passed. It is not merely anything but it is a question of setting up a bank. We are going to pass a legislation for setting up a bank. Should we discuss this Bill and pass it within just one-and-a-half hours? This is my submission.

MR. SPEAKER : In the Business Advisory Committee, we have already taken a decision that this Bill should be passed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I am not questioning it. Sir, there is no Statement of Objects and Reasons here.

[Translation]

It has no objects, no memorandum, it has nothing. Number of amendments have been carried out. (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It was already decided that it will be passed without discussion. They don't decide, it's the problem. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You are referring to which bill.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We are referring to your bill.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It has been introduced and will come up on Monday (Interruptions) You are talking about the salary Bill.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Right from today itself. I support the Bill.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As per rule it will come up on Monday. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, Rule 64 says:

"The Speaker may, on request being made to him, order the publication of any Bill ..."

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to offer a clarification. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister wants to clarify.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I want a ruling from you because it is concerning the rules. How can the Minister reply to this? (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Let me correct a factual error. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This has never happened. I raised a point of order regarding the rules. (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am only trying to correct a factual error. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Every Member has a right to offer a clarification before the Speaker takes a decision. The Statement of Objects and Reasons has been there. (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, a Statement of Objects and Reasons is attached to the Bill. There are Notes and Clauses. There is a Financial Memorandum. There is a Memorandum regarding delegated legislation. All these are a part of the Bill that we have circulated. Therefore, Sir, this cannot be the reason.

Now, we are not going to set up a new bank. I said in my introductory remarks that the bank has already been set up and it has been functioning since 1987. We are merely trying to improve its functioning by bringing some amendments over a period of time. Similar amendments have been introduced in the RBI Act in 1987 to control the non-banking finance companies.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We are on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it about the Bill?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : No, Sir. They have told that Bill will come up on Monday. I will be available on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER : You may speak after the bill is over.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am on a point of order that country's population has touched 100 crores yesterday. And a baby born at Safdarjung hospital was declared as 100th crores baby. Mr. Prime Minister made this declaration outside the House whereas the Prime Minister should have made the declaration inside the House. It is a most important matter. It is not a political matter, nor it is a

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

matter of treasury benches and of the opposition. Our country's population is increasing whereas the land is shrinking. Resources too are decreasing. On the other hand you would see that unwanted expenditure is going on. *(Interruptions)* Since the session was in progress, the declaration should have been made in the House. Everyone would agree that the population should be controlled. They would say that a child is born. We are happy on his birth. We express good wishes for that family. But, why this issue is given so much importance that since a child is born everybody is celebrating it. It means produce more children and don't control population. Take the case of a village woman who has no such information, who has delivered a baby in such a village where there is no road, no water, electricity, cleanliness or even doctor. Has anyone picked up that woman's child? How the Government considered this very child as 100th crore Indian. It is a serious matter. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister was to make a statement in the House but the Members have not allowed him.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You will make a new capital. You will partition the States, will make capital, secretariat, governor's house and assembly and you will reduce the entire land. You will not control population.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not Zero Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is a point of order. It is wrong. I want the declaration to be made inside the House. Let us not make a practice of declaring outside. Today it is a matter of concern. It would be a matter of great concern when we would not be able to provide water, electricity, housing, bread. Country is going to face this situation. Therefore, this matter should have been declared there. It is improper to declare it outside. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Everyone shares Shri Mulayam Singh's concern regarding increasing population. Mr. Prime Minister has not made any declaration that country's population has touched 100 crores. Touching 100 crores population does not depend upon anyone's declaration, it does not need Government's declaration also. It is a continue process. I agree with Shri Mulayam Singh's point that who decided that the particular child born was 100th crores one, I don't know this. Because about 50 children take birth in a minute here. As per our clock, it is on to known which child was born at 12.56 hrs. He may be in any village, may be in a far-flung State. It seems the media was to have one or the other programme. Hence, they went to a hospital in Delhi and said it is 100th crores child. It has no scientific reason. *(Interruptions)*

As far as statement is concerned.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : One of the Central Minister took this child in her lap and child's family was given an award.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : May be, the Minister may have taken a child in her lap. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Kindly stop this matter. Mr. Mulayam may himself take a village child in his lap. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I will take a poor village child in my lap whom none picks up. There are lots of people who would pick up a rich family's child, but I will take a child who is dirty. I will take him up in my hands. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I request you to start discussion on National Housing Bank's Bill...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : About Shri Dasmunsi's objection, the Bill has been passed by Rajya Sabha. In such a Bill, the statement of objects and Reasons are appended at the introduction stage only. Copies are also circulated to the hon. Members.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : I welcome this piece of legislation brought by the hon. Finance Minister in this House. Every citizen in this country or everywhere has a dream to have his own house. Sir, food, clothing and shelter are the three very important issues before the people of India since independence. An extensive housing programme is the need of the hour. There is a large scale of influx from the rural areas to the urban areas. By that, we are able to see that slums are growing in the metropolitan cities and in other areas. The problems of the slums dwellers are increasing day by day. Right now, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav rightly pointed out that our population has touched one billion. This is a very serious issue.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (ANANTNAG) : Why is it a serious issue? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The population is growing and the housing problem is also growing along with this. This legislation seeks to amend the Act which was passed in 1987.

14.19 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

† The National Housing Bank was established in the year

1988 under the National Housing Bank Act. This is the principal agency to promote housing finance institution and provide refinance to the people. This organisation is primarily responsible for regulating and supervising housing finance companies as the Reserve Bank of India regulates and supervise the Non-Banking Financial Institutions in our country. This piece of legislation will enable us to streamline the activities of the housing finance institutions. Definitely, this is going to help augment the functioning of this institution so that more and more houses can be built in the urban and rural areas of the country.

The proposed provision to promote a healthy and universal growth of housing finance companies will definitely help our poor people who are living in the rural areas.

In this Bill one important feature which I am able to see is the method of speedy recovery of the loans. The speedy recovery of dues which is overdue is one of the important features in this Bill. By this amendment the Bank will be able to realise the loans very easily and also the appellate tribunal which is going to be set up will be helpful. Because if there is any complaint regarding the decision of the recovery officers they can approach this appellate tribunal to redress their grievances. This is very important and this will be helpful for the people. And the most important thing, which is mentioned in this Bill, is regarding the speedy recovery. Earlier there were cases about the realisation of the debts. That was the main problem before the financial institutions and banks also. By setting up this appellate tribunal people will benefit out of that. At the same time, the Bank will be able to realise the money easily and speedily.

This amendment is brought because of the changed atmosphere and the advances were given to townships. This will help the housing or mortgage insurance business also.

Another feature is the authorised capital which has been enhanced to Rs. 350 crore from Rs. 100 crore. At the same time the Central Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India by a notification can raise it up to Rs. 2000 crore. This will help because they are giving the loans and the time period for recovery will be long. The longevity of the loan period will always be a hurdle before the bank. By this amendment this problem will be solved. The mortgage facility is also creating the correct atmosphere in the functioning of the Bank.

I would only like to know from the hon. Finance Minister regarding the equity. Here it is said that it would be less than 51 per cent. The Government will be having 49 per cent only. So, for all practical purposes the Government should have 51 per cent so that Parliament can have control and the Government will have control. But it is seen that only 49 per cent should be given. It is a burning issue and I would like a

clarification from the hon. Finance Minister regarding the equity. That is only one point about which in future there can be lot of problems. So, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister why it has been kept at 49 per cent in this case.

I do not want to go into much of the details. This legislation is definitely going to help the people in our country. This is going to give a new atmosphere and the National Housing Bank can help the people in the rural areas for constructing more and more houses. The Government should plan an extensive housing programme throughout the country.

Madam, as I mentioned earlier, this is a burning issue before the nation. So, housing should be given more priority. By this amendment, I think, that an extensive housing programme can be taken up by the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Nitish Sengupta to speak now. You are allotted only ten minutes.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTA) : Madam, Chairman, I thank you very much. I will take much less than ten minutes since I do not have anything to criticise.

Madam, I welcome this Bill. I recall that when it came into being in 1987, it was a half-baked measure. It was kept just as an organ of the Reserve Bank of India with only one Director. There were not enough of checks and balances. With the result, willy-nilly, the National Housing Bank was drawn into the scam in very big way. The present Bill has done a lot to introduce there necessary checks and balances so that it can function in a foolproof manner as the apex body of a pyramidal kind of structure of the housing finances.

Madam, I have one or two short comments to make. One is that the authorised and paid-up capitals of the National Housing Bank shall be Rs. 350 crore. To my mind, this is absolutely inadequate and pittance. With the kind of activities we are envisaging for this Bank, I think, this proviso should be done away with and this capital should be fixed at Rs. 2,000 crore.

For housing activities where many thousands of crores are required and the kind of housing finance bodies which this Bank is supposed to service, I think, some of them may have larger share capital. So, without any further add about it, I think, the authorised and paid up capitals of the National Housing Bank shall not be less than Rs. 2,000 crore or something like that should be added. This uncertainty should be removed because very soon in the course of its working, I am quite sure, Rs. 350 crore will be found sadly inadequate. Then, again, the Government will have to come before the House with an amendment of the Act.

Madam, I think, Shri Dasmuni, did not really understand

[Dr. Nitish SenGupta]

the whole position. He brought it was a new Bill in actual fact, the National Housing Bank Bill has been in existences since 1987, when the Bill was first introduced. So, it should not be treated as a new Bill altogether and should be treated in that light.

I have to make another suggestion. Why is it necessary for the Government to hold 49 per cent of shareholdings? Why should the Government be at all in the picture? I think, the Reserve Bank of India should be the particular body to deal with this matter. I do not think there is any need for direct Government shareholding except for a token, let us say 26 per cent and not more than that. And in that way, public funds for which other bodies are starved, more essential fields are starved, I think, can be saved and use of unnecessary funds can be avoided.

Madam, I have seen the various checks and balances which have been proposed like utilising, recovering the debts, etc., as is a land revenue, under the Public Debts Recovery Act. It is very salutary. The provision about the Appellate Tribunal is also very salutary. I do hope with these checks and balances, the National Housing Bank will be in a position to discharge its full role in an area which is of utmost importance for the nation's economy because nothing is more important for growth of the economy than the fact that the housing sector is functioning properly. Therefore, more money flows into the housing sector. I think, there is a lot of opportunity and the country will grow.

My only other suggestion is that do not treat the National Housing Bank only as a body to finance housing finance bodies.

I think there should be some provision for it to directly lend to some of the big housing companies or co-operative or large municipalities or corporations. I think they need not operate only through the housing finance institutions; there should be some provision so that the National Housing Bank can operate directly in appropriate cases of very significant large-scale housing activity.

With these changes, I do hope that the scam which took place and obscured the whole scenario dramatically in the year 1991-92, where the Housing Bank, I remember, played a very big role, will not be repeated. In fact, the famous cheque issued by the Grindlays Bank to Harsad Mehta was made to pass through the Housing Bank, when the Housing Bank did not even have the funds to absorb that kind of money. Well, it was a rumour that the then Managing Director acted under some instructions from some resources and those sources eventually chose to simply not come out, and, therefore, poor Manohar Shervani, a very sincere and hard-working banker, lost his life on account of that. It was very very unfortunate and I do hope that all these will be things of

the past with these new checks and balances which have been suggested.

I welcome this National Housing Bank (Amendment) Bill. Thank you very much, Madam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri V. Radhakrishnan. Your name has not been sent as yet.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Now I am sending it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot respond to sign language from the front Benches.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Madam Chairperson, generally speaking, I cannot fully support this Bill. It is very unfortunate that we will have to discuss a lengthy Bill like this within an hour or one-and-a-half hour. This is an august House. We are elected to legislate but we are asked not to legislate. Lok Sabha is no substitute for Rajya Sabha. In the matter of legislation and in certain other matters, this House is supreme. Even if the Rajya Sabha differs, this House has the final word. But the Government thinks that they can move anything here after getting it passed in the Rajya Sabha and give us no time to discuss the matter. The heading will be "As introduced and passed by the Rajya Sabha." It is just to threaten us. They should not do this. They always bring legislation like this so that the Members need not take time, they need not discuss, they need not suggest any amendments. That has become the procedure of the day. I ask the Government, who gave them this power? How did they come to such a conclusion? The Constitution has given us the authority to take the final decision whenever there is a difference of opinion, and the Government takes it for granted to get the Bill passed within an hour or two, without undergoing the formalities and without even discussing it in the Business Advisory committee.

This is a very lengthy Amendment, more or less, like an original statute. If we have to read it, we will require at least one hour for a thorough reading of this Bill. They should not put us to such hardship. They should not harass us. Already we are harassed. At the time of legislation, matters like population control methods are taken up. Once the legislation is taken up, no other business should be taken up at that time. But here, everything is taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, please come to the Amendment.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : No, Madam, I will have to say this. Here, everything is spoken. There is no restriction. But legislation is the most important function of this House. When the matter is taken up, you are not expected to take up any other matter. But we are not following that procedure. I am sorry to say this.

In the instant case, this Bill is brought to find provision



for three years. This is the most important Amendment. They are very much concerned about the recovery and, therefore, the recovery proceedings have been brought in by this Amendment.

You are very much interested in recovery. But you are not interested in the disbursement of loans. Have you gone through the statements of the banks? The poor men are not getting the loans. The poor men will be embroiled in so many technical difficulties. They will ask the poor men to bring encumbrance certificate, property certificate and so many other certificates. They will be asked to submit all these things by the financial institutions. They will be put to so many difficulties. You must realise that a man's lifetime ambition is to have a house. It is everybody's lifetime ambition. It is very natural. It is vital that we go threadbare into this Bill. But, unfortunately, we did not get the time. We are not given the time to look into the technicalities involved in this Bill.

You have appointed an official receiver. The other difficulty is that when an order passed by the appellate tribunal, there is no appeal. No provision for appeal is provided. It is not a concession when you say that he can go to the court under articles 226 and 227. It is not a matter of concession that you are giving. This is a fundamental right given to every citizen of India. The hon. Minister sitting by your side, Shri Ram Jethmalani is fully aware of it. Is this a concession that you are giving to the citizens to take the matter to the high Court and the Supreme Court under articles 226 and 227? It is certainly not. You have said that they can raise the matter under articles 226 and 227 against the decision of the appellate tribunal. What is the difficulty in allowing an appeal? When the citizen is aggrieved by the order of the appellate tribunal he should file an appeal. Is the appellate tribunal a higher authority? The presiding officer of the appellate authority is the person who is having the status of a district judge. A person who is eligible to be appointed as district judge can be appointed as the presiding officer. That is his qualification. Then, what is the difficulty or legal sanctity of a decision of the appellate tribunal? Why not the citizens be given the right to appeal against its order? Why should you say that he could go to the High Court or to the Supreme Court under articles 226 or 227? Is it enough?

Secondly, why do you think of making the loan procedure simpler and easily accessible to the poor man? That is the crux of the problem. You think of recovery. It is all right. On the basis the loans are not given? A long period is given for recovery of the loan. I do concede it. But why do you not think of having easy methods of disbursing the loan? Supposing a poor man applies for a housing loan, he will get it in three to four installments and that too after waiting for one or two years. You know that the construction of a house is a very costly affair. If a day is lost or a month is lost, the prices of the materials will increase. He might have applied for a loan of

Rs. 10,000. But by the time the entire loan is disbursed to him, the cost of construction will reach Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000. He will be put to a lot of difficulties. If you have any care for the poor man, about his primary need, I would request you or I would appeal to you to make the disbursement procedure easy. It should not be in so many instalments. One can definitely put conditions to know whether the money is utilised for the same purpose for which it was granted. I agree on that. But do not put so many conditions. He is given the first instalment when the basement or the foundation is completed. The second instalment is given after a certain stage of completion and the third instalment is given after the completion of the house. Why do you put the poor man to so much of hardship for the simple reason he has applied for a loan from the financial institutions?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, You have to conclude now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am speaking only about the Bill. I am not going into politics.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that. The time is limited. The time allotted to your party is over.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : What can I do? This is a very important Bill. I have to refer to very important Sections.

Regarding Directors, the Bill provides shareholders or the depositors to elect two Directors. That is a good thing, but two other Directors have also to be appointed when there is a contingency with regard to Chairperson or Director or both. The Chairperson or the managing Director can either be full-time or part-time. It is not compulsory to have a full-time Chairperson or Managing Director. So, I would suggest that the Chairperson should be a full-time officer. It need not be a contingent affair. If the Chairman is absent, the Managing Director can assume office as a full-time officer. That is the rule which is now formulated. That is not enough. We have to think over it.

Regarding recovery, I would like to submit that revenue recovery proceedings should be initiated as the last resort when every other mode has failed....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are too many pages to go through.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am referring to a particular page....(Interruptions) It is provided that the Bank can issue a certificate for the amount to the Collector, and the Collector shall proceed to recover that amount in the same manner as the arrears of land revenue. It is also mentioned in the former part of the Section that the National Housing

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

Bank may, without prejudice to any other mode of recovery, make an application to the State Government for the recovery. My suggestion is that it should be used as the last resort after all other modes of recovery have been exhausted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will take twenty years.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Madam Chairperson, you may realise that in such matters the tendency on the part of bank people will be to put the poor man to harassment. His sheep will be attached, his cows will be attached, and even his house will be attached, but they will not take action against hundreds of other people having crores of rupees of arrears and they would be let free. There will be no Collector's report and there will be no revenue recovery proceedings in their cases. If a poor man, whose life's mission is putting up a building with Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000, defaults in repayment, there people will be very vigilant and they will write to the Collector. The revenue recovery proceedings will be initiated immediately and the Vigilance Officer will go to his house and attach everything he has. He will be put to starvation. Such is the experience we had throughout India. They will not take action against a person who has taken a loan of Rs. 20 lakh or Rs. 25 lakh for a double-storeyed building or even a five-storeyed hotel. No recovery proceedings will be initiated against them. So, the first thing I want to make it clear is that the disbursement procedure should be made easier. Not only one should be able to get loan as early as possible but he should get it without difficulty also. Secondly, the recovery proceedings should also not be so stringent and the poor man should get some relief. He should not be put to trouble simply because he has taken a loan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can speak on the whole Bill for two hours if you want, but the time is limited.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I could not refer to certain other aspects, for example, about the Board of Directors and about the powers of the Reserve Bank in relation to the Housing Bank. Previously, the powers were enjoyed by the Reserve Bank. Now, after this Amendment, the National Housing Bank will enjoy those powers. To what extent and how far it will work are matters, which we will decide afterwards. With our experience in the past, we should be doubly cautious. As pointed out in the Amendment itself that due to liberalisation, these changes have been made in the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to call the next speaker, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava. Please wind up.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Now, I would request the Finance Minister to go into the details. I do not ask for an amendment to the Bill, but my suggestion here is that these can be rectified in the rules to be framed later by the

Government. When the rules are made, please ensure that the proceedings are made easy, and the difficulties experienced by the poor man are removed. I think, the Minister will consider all these aspects with a humanitarian view.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can send in your suggestions for the rules to be drafted in writing. All your points have been noted. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, National Housing Bank was established in 1987. Hon'ble Minister has felt housing is a major necessity for the people, therefore he has brought many amendments to this Bill. I support this Bill and congratulate the hon'ble Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Shri P.R. Dasmunsi of Congress Party has said that it does not contain statement and objectives. I feel that when this Bill was brought in Rajya Sabha, it contained statement and objectives. It has so many amendments and therefore the Minister may not have considered necessary to bring them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, considering the time limit I have cut short my speech. It has been explained in the Bill that how much will be the capital, who would be director, how shall it function and what shall be the process of the registration of the company already working in the field of Housing. Besides if a company misappropriates it is also explained that how the amount shall be recovered. As the Collector recovers the dues under land revenue Act, the amount will be recovered from the company in the same way. In case of any embezzlement how the registration is to be cancelled. The company will be given a proper chance before cancellation of the registration. The right of appeal shall vest with Central Government. The Central Government may ask for penal interest. The recovery to be done through special audit will be made. In addition, the procedure for winding up a company is also explained. It is also stipulated that no individual can go to a court or a tribunal against the decision of National Housing Bank. Similarly, an appellate officer so appointed will hold office for five years, who will be competent to take decision. I feel that to solve country's housing problem allotment of houses to the people is very urgent. Keeping this in mind hon'ble Minister has brought a good and well thought amendments and I feel that he definitely deserves congratulations. It did not required statement of objects and reasons. Whatever amendments have been brought on to 1987 Act, I, on behalf of my party support them. I thank you for giving me chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Madam, Chairperson, I would like to express my views on the National Housing Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

Madam, housing is a Fundamental Right 'Right to Shelter' has been guaranteed under our Constitution. This is the interpretation of article 21 of our Constitution by a judgement of the Supreme Court. Now, this National Housing Bank (Amendment) Bill has been brought to cater to the needs of the Financial Institutions to build houses for people. There are also lakhs of people in every State who are living in the slums. For example, in Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi and in some other parts of the country there are people who are living in the slums. They have not been guaranteed any shelter. Instead, they have been evicted from their houses on the ground that they have encroached upon the Government land. The Central Government, at this juncture, while granting loan to the financially sound persons to build houses should at the same time concentrate on eradicating the slums and building houses for the poor people and the middle class people.

Sir, I appreciate the change of punishment for contravention of Section 49 by the Financial Institutions. Earlier, Section 49 read as under :

"Whoever fails to comply with any order made by the authorised officer under sub-section (2) of Section 36A, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to a fine of not less than rupees fifty for every day during which such non-compliance continues;"

This section has been dispensed with by section 52(A). Even then this punishment is warranted. At the same time, there is no provision in any of the Financial Institutions, except this National Housing Bank (Amendment) Bill, to impose a fine in the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT). The judge has no power to impose a fine on any individual or a corporate firm or any firm. This is a stringent provision for the Financial Institutions. It may not be on individuals. I am talking of section 52(A). The Financial Institutions are going to suffer the penalty and not the individuals. But even then it is a stringent provision. But for recovery, one has to use some coercive method to recover the money.

Sir, as far as the question of Presiding Officer is concerned, it has been said that 'he has been or is qualified to be a District Judge'. That is correct. But it has also been said, 'has been a Member of the Indian Legal Service'. I am not able to follow this 'Indian Legal Service'. Further it says, 'has held the post in grade-II of that service for at least three years'. What is meant by 'Indian Legal Service'? I do not

think, as on date there exists any service called the 'Indian Legal Service'. There is no Indian Judicial Service also. To decide a case, one should have a judicial behaviour. So, the first clause is sufficient to enforce this provision, that is, to adjudicate any dispute in cases between the Financial Institutions and the banks.

Sir, as far as the enforcement of order of revenue by a Recovery Officer is concerned, I would like to submit that it has to be there and it must be there. Otherwise, you cannot realise any loan unless you enforce an order through a Recovery Officer.

The appellate recovery tribunal, to be known as Housing Finance Institution Debt Recovery Tribunal, is given teeth.

I welcome this measure. At the same time, I urge upon the Finance Minister to concentrate his energies on building houses for the poor and on eradicating slums. He should have uppermost in his mind the interest of the poor man who is living on the pavements and in slums.

SHRIM.V.V.S.MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : Madam, Chairperson, this amendment to the Housing Bank Act, 1987 is a welcome measure. What we require today is to provide roofs over the heads of millions of poor Indians. I presume that this amendment will accelerate the activity of construction of houses for the poor people in the country.

As far as debt recovery is concerned, if the authorities concentrate on catering to the needs of 25 per cent creamy layer of the population, how can houses be built for poor people in the country? The Minister must evolve programmes wherein more houses can be built with less money, rather than just giving higher amounts to banks lend money for the purpose of construction of mansions and palaces. Seventy per cent of the country's population does not have houses to live in. Our laws should aim at constructing more houses for the poor people. I am sure that following this amendment, new houses would be constructed, with a liberal attitude and at a lower rate of interest, to the millions of poor people. I am sure the hon. Finance Minister will keep this in mind and strive to provide shelters to the homeless.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the National Housing Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2000 introduced by hon. Finance Minister was enacted in 1987. Now he has proposed amendments thereto and he has claimed that after making some amendments in 1997 the Reserve Bank was empowered to strictly enforce the regulations regarding non banking companies. In the context of the Act of 1997 it was observed that it failed to check the non banking companies which usurped the hard earned

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

money of the poor investors without leaving a trace. These companies vanished away with their hard earned money. Those poor persons are being tossed about from pillar to post and there is no one to listen to their woes. Then he claimed that he is empowering the National Housing Bank to regulate the non-banking financial companies on the same lines as he had empowered the Reserve Bank of India by investing more powers to it to put a check on the non-banking companies so that they may not be able to loot and exploit the people. He claims that through this Act, National Housing Bank will be enabled to take stern action against the non banking and subsidiary companies. The hon. Minister has been claiming so but I have my doubts over its efficacy for the condition of the general banks itself is so dismal that the cumulative non-performing assets have become Rs. 98,000 crore. What reforms the enactment of this Bill is going to bring about in such a scenario? The poor people have not even heard the name of the National Housing Bank. The poor person is not concerned about it in anyway. Skyscrapers are being constructed in the cities. Two building being constructed in Patna are named as Nilgiri and Himgiri. The owners of these buildings will take loans from the Housing Bank and they will sale it in parts. There is a clause in this Bill that the limit of the capital should be increased to Rs. 20 billion from the existing one of Rs. three and a half billion. This shows as to how liberal the hon. Minister is in this regard. A common man who is below poverty line does not get benefits even from Indira Awas Yojna. His condition is very miserable.

15.00 hrs.

You are divastating those who have been living in jhuggi-jhopris for the last twenty years in Delhi. You are allowing the bulldozer to crush their houses and nobody is there to stop it. And on the contrary, if the well-to-do people of society have any problem regarding finance to construct their houses then you have opened banks to provide them loans and other facilities. Shri Gopal Singh Nepali has said that it is not going to work. I would like to remind Shri Yashwant Babu that it was the first poem by Shri Gopal Singh Nepali :

Jab Chandra Kirno se  
Mahalon Ki Deewar Chamakti Rahti hai  
Chandni Jhopri se Lipat lipat  
Bhar Rat sisakti Rahti hai

Hence when I was going through the text of the Bill to check as to whether it contains any provision regarding the welfare of the poor or not, it became clear to me that there is nothing in it which reflects so, instead it has such a provision that only a clever and rich persons will be able to take advantage of it by securing loans for constructing buildings while a poor will become poorer. We wish that this Housing Bank may strictly deal with the defaulters and it may not lose

its money and may make the country to progress. But I do not like such laws which protect the interests of the rich only and neglect the poor.

Will anybody be able to construct his house in the village by seeking a loan from the National Housing Bank? Will anybody be assisted through it? No, surely not. This is such a law that a person will lose all his steam in completing the formalities for getting a loan and he will get nothing out of it. We expect from the hon. Minister to fulfil three basic needs i.e. food, cloth and shelter to the people. It is your responsibility to fulfil this dream as you are the Minister of Finance. You have increased the prices on commodities under PDS scheme. When we try to get an explanation from Shri Shanta Kumar for this hike, he tries to evade it. But all the fault is your's. You are trying to thrust the entire burden of the fiscal deficit on the poor. You are the Finance Minister of the country, hence I would like to expect from you...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARWAL) : The hon. Minister is from Bihar, hence he is being showered with lot of love.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It is true that he is from Bihar. But I never felt that he does not work for the development of Bihar. He works very stringently. People complain that he is from a BIMARU State. To criticise these States they allege that those states do not have any control over their population. Many States are lagging behind like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. All these States are called as BIMARU States. They are called BIMARU States because the population is not being controlled there or ...*(Interruptions)* Orissa is not included in BIMARU States. So you keep the chapter of Orissa separate. You were separated from us in 1937 itself. Till 1937 Orissa and Bihar were undivided. In what way you are different from us. Everything between us is alike. Hence the people; make fun of BIMARU States but simultaneously they must be lauded for there is not a feeling of regionalism among them. They intend to be in the mainstream of the country. Hence when the hon. Minister of Finance does not favour Bihar, we condemn him. But at the same time, we feel dignified that Bihar has produced the likes of Shri Jagjivan Ram, Subag Babu, Kedar Pandey etc. as Ministers. The Ministers from other States favour their own states and allocate more budgetary amount for their respective states saying that this is Bengali and that is Maharashtrian budget but the Ministers who hail from Bihar, have never favoured Bihar by giving higher share to Bihar. No such allegations have been and can be levelled against them. We feel proud and dignified over it. A Minister belonging to Bihar or to any other State, after all belongs to India only. Bihar forms the one tenth part of India. I want to apprise the hon. Minister of the suffering of Bihar as I also share that suffering. I would also like to say that until Bihar progresses, India can not make progress. John Hulton,

an IAS officer had written a book titled 'Bihar is the heart of India'. He was a British Officer and he had written this book at the time when our struggle for Independence was going on. Not even a single word has been mentioned for the people living below the poverty line in India. If you make some provisions keeping in view the poor, then only I will be satisfied, otherwise I always raise objections over the Bills which are sought to be introduced in the House. Every law is framed to protect the interests of the rich persons. Not a single wealthy person was affected with the burden of the measures being taken to reduce the burden of fiscal deficit.

....(Interruptions) The prices of kerosene oil was doubled.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak about the Housing Bank only.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Among the three basic needs of bread, cloth and shelter, shelter is also an important item. Our main concern is that the bank facilities should be made available to the poor people. But he is not getting anything like it. It would have been bitter, had there been a clause in the Bill that a poor person can avail loan facility to build his house without any problem. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA) : This particular Bill is beneficial for the poor people only but not beneficial to those who want to construct palatial buildings as they are prohibited from getting this type of fund. The middle class people are beginning to invest their savings in the housing area. They expect to own a house in their life time. That is the ultimate aim of their life. The hon. Finance Minister knows that there many societies in Madras which get lot of deposits from the middle class people. The Societies finance the amount for the purpose of constructing houses. In Madras there 10 to 15 such benefit funds with a total deposits of about Rs. 400 crore, but they are now closed. All the profits are taken away by the Board of Directors by diverting the funds to some other purposes. I suggest that when such large funds are entrusted to institutions, those institutions should have some credibility so that those funds are properly utilised and the investors should also be protected. The middle class people, and especially the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have financed the schemes for getting houses constructed. After the construction of their houses, they cannot even afford to repair their houses after three or five years. The Government is not having any scheme at the Central level or State level, to get their houses repaired. In the same way, the ordinary labourers also cannot afford to get their houses repaired. Government has got investment of 51 per cent. Some amount of money should be given for these poor and middle class people so that they get the benefit

direct instead of only getting their borrowings recovered. I am not saying that poor people are not repaying. They are repaying. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of this House to provision to 36 (e) which states :

"Make any default in repayment of any assistance or any instalment thereof or otherwise fails to comply with the terms of such agreement in instalment thereof."

Even if one instalment is due, the institution will come forward with action against the particular beneficiary.

Section 36T is much more dangerous and it says :

"Where an appeal is preferred by a borrower, such appeal shall not be entertained by the Appellate Tribunal unless such person has deposited with the Appellate Tribunal seventy-five per cent of the amount due from him as determined by the recovery officer..."

So, what will happen to the ordinary middle-class people who have defaulted for two or three instalments? They have to immediately borrow from other places and pay 75 per cent of the total debt. That is very stringent for the ordinary people. They will be debtors forever if this type of things are allowed.

There are national level institutions and State-level institutions that are getting funds and are levying service charges before giving them to the district-level institutions. I am saying this on the basis of the experience in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is having a Housing Development Society. It borrows money from various sources. They charge a certain amount and then give it to the district-level institutions, which, in turn, charge further service charges. Then, they are given to the primary banks. Thus, a three-way service charge is to be paid by the borrower. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the primary banks should be directly funded so that the service charges to be paid by the ordinary people could be reduced. Presently, they pay too much by way of service charges because the funds that they receive flows through different institutions. So, this aspect should also be taken note of.

There are three institutions that have been created for the recovery of the fund : one is through the Collector, another is through the Chief Judicial Magistrate and the third is through the Recovery Tribunal. I would like to suggest that instead of the other two institutions, we could straightway go in for the Recovery Tribunals.

I appreciate the drafters for giving benefits for the lawyers also to be appointed as judges, in 36K, it has been said :

"A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Presiding Officer of an Appellate Tribunal, unless he —

(a) is, or has been, or is qualified to be a District Judge;

(b) has been a Member of the Indian Legal Service and has held a post in Grade II of that Service for at least three years."

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

This type of a mention about practising lawyers to get such appointments in this type of Tribunals is very important because there are many people specialising in this particular field and their knowledge could be utilised for this purpose.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (NAWADA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important Bill. First of all I would like to congratulate the Government for understanding the need for National Housing Bank. Our brother Shri Raghuvansh ji has rightly stated that people do not know about it. This bank was set up in 1987 but people were not aware of it. But now I have full confidence that people will be familiarized with it. The amendments which were to be made earlier were not incorporated even in 10 or 13 years. Hon'ble Shri Vajpayee ji and Shri Yashwant Sinha have understood the need of houses and therefore this amendment has been brought. As many Members have stated, it is a good step in achieving the aim of providing 'Roti, Kapra aur Makan' to the people of our country. The amendment in the Housing Bank will facilitate the shelterless. People especially poor people to construct their houses. Rules have been simplified for this purpose. Earlier, the documents for seeking loan ran into number of pages, now this recommendation has considerably reduced the number of pages and forms have been simplified. It will really benefit the people and definitely the problems which arise in the construction of houses will be removed.

Construction of houses generate employment opportunities. Bricks, sand and other building material is required to construct a house, so means of employment are generated for other people also. So it is directly linked with the employment opportunities. Our hon'ble Prime Minister had committed to provide employment opportunities. The amendment in Housing Bank will definitely generate the employment opportunities. Shelterless will get the housing facility and unemployed will get the employment. After this amendment, National Housing Bank should work in coordination with PACKS and LAMPS of Panchayat. It should also work together with all the banking institutions like N.H.F.D.C. set up for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and N.S.F.D.C. for backward classes which would help in decreasing the unemployment which is more in O.B.C. It is a revolutionary step. This amendment will benefit the poor people.

You have stated that a borrower will be treated as defaulter if he fails to deposit an instalment and the N.P.A. will be increased. It is correct to declare a person defaulter on non-payment of an instalment. People often do like this, because there is no agency in our country who could strictly

recover the loan. Loan should be strictly recovered. It is a tendency of every Indian and poor to save the money. Everybody has a dream, they dream to own a house in their life time. That's why, they save money. If a loanee does not pay an instalment, he should definitely be considered as defaulter, whatever poor the person may be. Everybody has a love for his own house. You have rightly made the provision that the N.P.A. is increased the banks which are already burdened will not be overburdened and therefore, we agree with the provision made by you regarding defaulters. I hope that the rules will be followed strictly. It will provide shelter to the shelterless and employment to the unemployed.

With these words, I support this Bill and conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are two more hon. Members who want to ask some questions, for a minute each. First, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. What is the question that you want to ask?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : Madam, in view of the very important suggestions made by several of our colleagues here, in particular, Shri Sudarsana Natchiappan, may I request the hon. Minister to please refer this Bill to the Standing Committee or a Select Committee and not press for a vote this afternoon?

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (RAJGARH) : Madam, Chairperson, the National Housing Bank Act brought by the hon'ble Minister will be proved as a mile stone if the Government fulfils its promises made to the people to construct 7 lakh houses in a year. I am repeating that if it is successfully done then we are with you.

Madam, Chairperson, the rural housing and agricultural housing has been given the last priority in the statement of objects and reasons given in the Bill by the hon'ble Minister.

[English]

I hope it is the last and not the least.

[Translation]

In the end only you thought about the rural housing scheme and about the housing schemes for the people connected with agriculture. I would like that it should be given the top most priority. You have given some tax relief to corporate sector. You are going to help the corporate sector in solving their problems through N.H.B. As per my view, we should fix the priorities of our housing problem. Why the people of our country are being burdened to solve the housing problem of corporate sector.

Regarding Board of Directors, I would like to mention that only experienced people should be appointed there. The persons who are working in Habitat Centre should not be included. It's nomenclature is Habitat but everything goes on there except habitat. I would like that the hi-fi people should not be included in the board. Persons who are aware of the housing problems of backward states should be appointed. But it is not right to give an opportunity for foreign participation. It is not proper.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lakshman Singh, please conclude. The Minister has to reply and we have to finish it by 3.30 p.m.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : I will conclude in a minute. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister to fix a target in 9th Five Year Plan to solve the housing problem. We should think how we can get rid of this problem through National Housing Bank. This should be thought about. A provision of Rs. 350 crores to 2000 crores has been made for National Housing Bank. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that instead of increasing the funds upto Rs. 2000 crores, it should be kept limited upto Rs. 1000 crores only as National Housing Bank can achieve the priorities fixed regarding housing problem in 5 years. The funds can be increased later on but it would be important to increase the funds at one stretch as it will burden the people of our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lakshman Singh ji you have asked for 2 minutes. The time allotted to your party has been over. Many Members on the other side are left to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Housing problem is linked with the Bill and many Members have expressed their concern about it. Several people from villages come to cities to find a job and it can be estimated that the floating population in the cities like Mumbai and Calcutta would form half of the total population of these metropolis by 2015. To solve their housing problem a concrete plan, should be formulated, a target should be fixed through National Housing Bank so that maximum benefit could be achieved from this amendment.

It is a very important Bill and I support Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that the Bill should be sent to select committee as it is concerned with housing problem. People are not having houses to live. How can we pass it like this?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has already been passed in the other House.

Now, the Minister may reply.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : In its 12th incarnation, the Lok Sabha, discussed and adopted a National Housing Policy. This Amendment Bill is a follow up to that Policy that was adopted in 1998. Now, there are four aspects to this Bill.

The first aspect is regulating the Housing Finance Commission. The powers have already been given to the RBI under the RBI Act. It was long over due. Now, we are assigning improved version of powers given to the RBI to the NHB because that is the body which controls the Housing Finance Company. We are giving more teeth to it to make sure that depositors do not lose money. The second aspect is that we want to create a mortgage market. Why is housing activity not going up in this country? Basically, it is a question of money and it is a question of finance. We have not created a financial instrument in this country which will enable this sector to take off. This is a very progressive piece of legislation which will ensure this by creating a secondary market for mortgagors. If we want to create secondary market for mortgages, then it is essential that we make the process of recovery speedy. That is exactly what we have done. At the same time we are taking steps to ensure that laws of natural justice are not violated and that everybody is given enough opportunity to ensure that nobody is put to a loss as a result of any defect in the Act. We are emphasising on the speedy recovery because without that the secondary mortgage market cannot be created. Now, let me come to fourth aspect. When I was moving the Bill for consideration, I said in my introductory remarks that after this Amendment, National Housing Bank will be enabled to lend money to the Agricultural and Rural Development Banks, the erstwhile Land Development Banks. This is the provision we are making through this amendment to authorise the NHB to lend money to residential township and housing development projects. These are essentially slum development projects. Therefore, we have taken enough care to make sure that moneys are diverted for housing for the poor. So, let not anybody be under the misconception that it is going to help only the well to do and not the poor.

The primary purpose of this is to ensure that the poor get houses.

The fifth aspect of this amendment is to strengthen the NHB. I would like to say that the Government will retain 51 per cent control. Government means, the RBI and the financial institutions which we control. Through all these, it will be determined how much should the Government have and how much should the RBI have. But we will retain 51 per cent and the balance 49 per cent only will be given to the public at large.

As far as the paid-up and the authorised capital is concerned, we are merely taking the enabling power to raise

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

it up to Rs. 2000 crore. At the moment, through a Notification, the paid up capital of NHB is Rs. 350 crore. This is being regularised through this amendment. We will add to the paid-up capital and raise the limit as and when it becomes necessary. We are giving strength to the NHB and I am quite sure, as I said, Madam, that as a result of this very progressive piece of legislation, the poor will get the maximum benefit.

I am glad it has received the most widespread support in this House. I am particularly grateful to my friend Shri Chennithala for having set a very positive tone to the discussion. I would like to assure both Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Shri Radhakrishnan that we will take care of the poor. It is not that this is going to help the rich. It is basically going to help the poor. It is going to make sure that the housing for the poor people actually takes off. I would like to say that we have set a target of 2 billion houses. According to the figures which I have collected, we have reached a level of something like 1.7 million houses, either constructed or under construction in 1998-99. We are hoping to almost double the figure in 1999-2000, according to the information which we have. This is the matter in which we will continue to push through budgetary and financial institutions' support, the prospects of housing of this country. It is one sector which gives the largest employment. It supports a large number of industries like steel and cement and, therefore, in all my three Budgets I have given the maximum encouragement to housing. I would suggest, therefore, that the suggestion that Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : May I request the Minister to kindly reply to the point raised by a gentleman who defeated his predecessor in the last election? He has raised a very important point.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : He has raised some very important points. This is only to enable the lending company to be able to approach the recovery officer for the recovery of dues. That is the only thing. If you do not want that power then the mortgage market will not take place.... (Interruptions) Otherwise, your mortgage market will only take place. It has to be there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 29 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 29 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be Passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.29 hrs.

#### RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THIRD REPORT OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN) : On behalf of Kumari Mamata Banerjee, I beg to move :

"That this House approves the recommendations made in paragraphs 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 47 contained in the Third Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 1998 appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to Lok Sabha on 21st April, 1999."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House approves the recommendations made in paragraphs 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 47 contained in the Third Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 1998 appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to Lok Sabha on 21st April, 1999."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.32 hrs.

#### PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

##### Utilisation of Funds by the States

[English]

SHRI ANADISAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : Madam, Chairperson, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I rise



to support in a way the Resolution presented by Shri Ramanand Singh. What has been ailing us in different States is that funds that are being allotted for taking up different developmental projects for the poor are not utilised properly. It is a fact that there has been some sort of poverty alleviation over the years and the persons below the poverty line has come down to 37.7 per cent approximately. But the fact remains that in spite of making so many projects with a view to help poor, we have not been able to achieve what is necessary for us.

Going beyond party lines, let us analyse as to the manner in which funds are being utilised at different places in different States. I would not like to name the States, I would only confine myself to my State of Orissa. What is true of Orissa is definitely true of many States in this country. Take the case of water resources. Water harvesting structures are absolutely necessary for sustaining agricultural development in this country. If anybody goes to any place, he would be able to see that old water harvesting structures have become redundant or not functioning properly because of lack of afforestation of lack of many things.

15.34 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair]

We have had nine Five Years Plans. The Ninth Plan is going on now. Had we taken a little bit of steps to take care of the water harvesting structures and water harvesting projects, we would not have had drought whether in Orissa, in Andhra Pradesh, in Gujarat, in Rajasthan or in any other State of this country.

We have been crying hoarse that we are not getting water. But think of the money that has been spent over the years for getting water. Think of the money that has been spent for lift irrigation points. Think of the deep bore-wells that are dug to get water. We should have taken into consideration that over the years because of lack of rain or because of some calamities the water-level would be going down. This should have been taken care of by our planners and by the people who are working at different places.

We have been spending money on many aspects. Take the case of Employment Assurance Scheme. That scheme is laudable one which aims to see that the poor get some work at least. Only a year back, in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, this Government had passed a Resolution saying that if there is an exodus of people because of paucity of work or because of any other reason, at least 25 to 30 percent extra work is to be provided to the poor under the Employment Assurance Scheme, so as to ensure that people do not go out for work and they do not get dislocated from their hearth.

In my State we had faced lots of problems where people from my area who are accustomed to a particular type of climate had to go to Gujarat and other places with alien atmosphere to work hard in order to get a mere pittance for a living. They had gone to Arunachal Pradesh also where conditions are not conducive for them. As a result, whatever little money they might have earned in those places, when they came back, they were heart-broken and health-broken and many of them died because of other complications.

The Employment Assurance Scheme has had no influence at all in alleviating the poverty of the people. There is also absolute corruption at all levels of life. This is a matter which should agitate the minds of this August House which has passed so many good resolutions. Funds are being created for this purpose, but in the field no work is being done. Take the case of TRYSEM. We are imparting training to the needy young men and women, but after the training we do not provide them with any sort of work or tools so that they can take up small work. We are not motivating the banks to provide funds, so that they can take up small work here and there. You see any bank, they take a lot of time to provide funds. The District Industry Centre passes so many projects, but when they go to the banks, the banks are very conservative in giving the loan. For many projects the Government of India has been providing money to the banks to finance the people so that they can have self-help groups and they can find out work either individually or collectively for themselves. But banks are not coming forward to give the money on the plea that it is not recoverable. If it is not recoverable, why do we not devise ways so that people can get money and banks also can recover the amount?

I will give an instance. There is a Government of India project where people below the poverty line—some seven or eight of them forming a group—can buy tractors. The last point of my constituency is about 220 kms. away from Bhubaneswar. For getting a loan to buy a tractor, these seven or eight persons have to come together thrice or four times to Bhubaneswar, get it passed by the Government, by the Department concerned and by the banking institution concerned.

Now, for coming there three or four times, it requires time and money and nobody is able to spend money, although Government of India has been funding it. I am only giving one instance of it. There are many programmes, where there has to be a matching grant by the State Government concerned. In some cases, it is 50:50, in some cases, it is 75:25, in some cases, it is 80:20 and in some cases, it is 100 per cent grant from the Government of India. I would come first to the grants from the Government of India. The grants from the Government of India, for some work, go to the States. Government of India does not have any machinery to spend money in these areas of the States. When the money goes to the States, what do

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

they do? Due to financial difficulties, due to mismanagement of funds and due to the greedy nature of some people who are at the helm of affairs in the States, the money is diverted for some other purpose. As a result of this, the project which had been started earlier becomes almost a still-born project and after two years, if you want to take it up, you would find that the cost has gone up and whatever structure had been created earlier had already been demolished.

This is the position with minor irrigation projects. But think of the ayacut areas. Such is the fate with minor irrigation projects that when they are completed, there is no water and whatever little water is there it is not available at the tail end and we say the we have constructed so many minor irrigation projects. In the case of medium irrigation projects which are at the moribund state, water is not available to the people. In many places, water cess is being levied but water is not available to the farmers. Due to faulty procedure that we have been adopting due to lack of commitment on the part of the politicians and executing authorities, we are not able to achieve whatever we are thinking of.

Now, I will come to the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY) which has become *Jawahar Samridhi Gram Yojna* which is a self-employment scheme aimed at providing infrastructure at the village level. I need not say how it is working because all of us know as to the manner in which funds are being squandered in the JRY. Only vested interests are working in the areas where JRY schemes are implemented. We are not constructing any school buildings. We are not constructing small houses like *anganwadis* or something like that. Money is being spent only on paper.

I had been to a remote tribal village in my constituency. On paper, a school building has been constructed from JRY funds but I did not find a building at all because the ten kilometres trekking had never been done by the Collector and the MLA and I, being the MP there, also had not visited that area earlier in my election campaign. One has to trek ten kilometres climb three mountains and come down below without any water. The people who are staying there have to trek three to four kilometres to get a pitcher of water. Half the day, whether it is menfolk or womenfolk, is spent only for fetching water from far-off-places. The best method which they have found out is to take out and consume the fermented juice from the *salap trees* which keeps them fit for some time. As a result, they are almost alcoholic. I do not call them fully alcoholic but they do not have the zest for life. They do not have the intention of living at all. They live just for the sake of living, without the intention of doing anything meaningful. For the last 50-52 years, we have been thinking so much of poverty alleviation. We have been thinking of the poor in many respects.

We have been crying hoarse in the House. We have

been crying hoarse outside. We have been saying that we are the champions of the poor. Are we the champions of the poor? Kindly think of the MPLADS fund. How much money is being spent? There are allegations that certain MPs are taking a percentage while sanctioning the funds under the MPLADS. There are Collectors who have a stiff upper lip. They do not come forward to cooperate with some of the Members of Parliament to take upon themselves the task of providing funds immediately and getting things done. The rigmarole of the procedure is creating a bottleneck in spending the MPLADS funds. I saw this thing the other day that a sum of Rs. 1600 crore under the MPLADS fund is unspent for very many reasons. Maybe, we are at fault. Maybe, the executing agency is at fault. Maybe, the procedures provided are at fault. But we must think of it. This is the time when we must think that why should the money that is going from the plan-side, non-plan side and the MPLADS fund is not spent within the year prescribed. Why should it not be spent within the year prescribed?

I will give you one more instance where under the JRY only 70 per cent funds were spent last year. Let us ask ourselves this question. Why was only 70 per cent spent? Why was not 100 per cent money spent? When money is available, when projects are available, when people are willing to work, why was only 70 per cent spent? Accountability has to be there and heads must roll. Otherwise, this country cannot prosper and we cannot be a developed country in another ten to fifteen years of time. Why is it so? Let us ask these questions ourselves. Let us think of these projects and the funds which had been earmarked....

I will just give you one more instance of it. Money for a particular programme was provided in the Budget. It was amounting to Rs. 950 crore in 1999-2000. But it had to be brought down to Rs. 720 crore in the Revised Budget because work was not being done. I give only instances of such happenings in Orissa. As I said earlier, I would not go into details of other States because I may be treading on the toes of somebody and he may take umbrage.

About Orissa, I am giving you one other instance of the release of funds by the Central Government under JRY. The amount released was Rs. 46.95 crore till November 1999 but the expenditure was only Rs. 9 crore. It was a percentage of 11.36. Why was it so? I asked myself this question. I would also request all of you to ask this question yourselves in respect of your own States that why the money was not spent fully. Why, at least, 50 per cent money was not spent? In my State, up to November, Rs. 91.18 crore has been given by the Central Government in EAS and only 29.06 per cent was spent. The Central Government has its General Financial Rules. Unless you give the utilisation certificate, the second instalment will not be released. It is good. It is absolutely

necessary because unless money is spent, why should the Central Government give the second instalment.

Sir, you might have seen and those Members who are in the other Committees might have seen that the State Governments do not send the utilisation certificate because they know that the money has been diverted for paying the salaries or meeting the other obligations. As political parties, we have been telling others that we will do this and that too without thinking of the developmental process. The moot point is that the developmental process has to be uppermost in our minds.

So far as the Integrated Rural Development Programme is concerned, it is shared on a 50:50 basis. Have we achieved anything in that? We are now clubbing it with other developmental projects. The State Government has to give 50 per cent and the Central Government will give 50 per cent. The important point is that inflated estimates had been prepared in a way so that the State Government was not to pay the money. But at the same time half of it is squandered away because it is the Central Government's money and the project is left half-way through. In the *Indira Awas Yojana*, I have seen that for a poor man to get a house, the *Gram Sabha* is only a misnomer. No *Gram Sabha* meeting is held. Only the muselman or the *sarpanch* knows what to do.

They are strong in body and mild, not in spirit. They know how to get *Indira Awas Yojna* sanctioned. I would recall that there are three steps of corruption. In the first stage, you pay Rs. 1000 to the person who has sanctioned; in the second stage, you pay another Rs. 2000 to the Junior Engineer for saying that the work is half-completed; and the third stage is that when everything is completed, you pay Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1500 depending on the greed of the Block Development Officer so that you get the final instalment. We spend Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 22,000 for construction of a *Indira Awas Yojana* house and we say that we are providing shelter, we say that it is provided in article 21 of the Constitution and that it is a Fundamental Right. How unfundamental we are in thinking of constitutional right of the persons by taking Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000? Think of the pension of the poor man - whether it is widows' pension or old-age pension. Hundred rupees have to be spent or paid to process the application and Rs. 100 or Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 is spent, not only for the bureaucrats who are there, but also for the elected representatives. The elected representatives also take money. If this is the situation can we expect proper people to get the old-age pension or the widows' pension or anything of this sort?

Take for example, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). Under this programme, we have some lady officers who are supposed to go round to see as to who are the pregnant ladies, as to who are the weaning children and

as to what type of things to be given to them or as to what type of things are to be done for them. We have *anganwadis* also. I had been to another place, which is not in my constituency. I went in search of an old fort of the sixth or seventh century in Phulbani constituency of Orissa. I had to walk a distance. I saw thin emaciated young children moving around and pregnant women moving around. Out of my sheer curiosity, I asked: "Has any ICDS officer come to this place to see as to how you are living?" Pat came the reply "We do not know as to who he or she is". But money has been given, in the records of the Government and in the Block Officer, money has been given. I went there and just made a casual remark. Has Rs. 500 reached them? Earlier, it was Rs. 300, the National Democratic Alliance Government has made it Rs. 500. They said that money has been distributed. How has it been distributed? In a far off place, people have not got the money. The pregnant women or the weaning children, breast-fed children, etc. have not got the money. They have not been given money. In records, we say that funds have been given. In our records, we have been saying that so many women have been fed and that they are healthy. We say that healthy children are being born. Yesterday, the billionth child was born, by name, *Aastha*. Do we have *aastha* - confidence in ourselves? Have we been able to exude confidence to the poor people saying that we are for you, we are thinking of development? Have we thought of them?

Rural development has taken the prime of place in our developmental work. Every Plan, from the First Plan to the Ninth Plan, we have been thinking of rural development; we have been thinking of agriculture; and we have been thinking of ameliorating the conditions of the peasants and the poor. We have given seeds which are spurious in nature. What will happen to the crops when the seeds are not good? Insecticides that we have given are not proper. But we expect that the production should be good and we expect that farmers should be able to lead a good life.

We have fixed support price for 12 different commodities. Earlier, it was six. Maize is one of the products for which minimum support price has been fixed. In tribal areas in my constituency, maize is produced in abundance. There are two types of people in my constituency. One is the Tibetan peasants and the other is the tribal peasants.

The Tibetans are affluent. They have money on which they can live up to 8 to 10 months, whereas the tribals live a life of hand to mouth. Once the tribals bring maize, they have to sale at Rs. 300 per quintal whereas the Tibetan peasants keep it for six months and sale it as Rs. 600 per quintal. The Government of India has fixed the price at Rs. 600 per quintal. But we have not thought of those tribals who are selling their produce at distress prices. They sale their produce at distress prices because they have to live. We have not thought of a *mandi* for them. We only think that we have fixed the price and that is the be-all and end-all for the development of peasants.

Sir, I am only giving instances of how things are moving

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

in this country. We have records and statistics to show that we have progressed very fast. The statistics and the progress that has been made are for those unscrupulous people, whether they are politicians or bureaucrats or middlemen or the Panchayat-level people or the elected representatives at different stages. We should all think in what manner we can correct this malaise and take India to a better path, where development will be good, prosperous and better for the people.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not take too much time on the resolution subject on non-utilisation of funds by the State. I agree to most of the facts stated by my colleagues. There are elected bodies at every level in this country. There are approximately 2,27,698 Panchayats at the village level and are constituted by elected persons only. Moreover there are around 5,906 bodies at intermediate level and 4,074 bodies at district level. Around 34 lacs of Members are elected by the citizens of this country for the position of a Panchayat member upto higher levels. Participation of these 34 lacs elected members in various schemes, such as scheme of Central Government in which State Government are given funds to eradicate poverty, construct roads, houses, schools etc. for the common man and such other types of schemes is quite negligible. The most significant cause behind the medley, corruption in funds given by the Central Government to the State Government etc. is that we are not involving the elected persons in any programme. We are relying too much on bureaucracy, we are relying on a body which may have commitments to the country, but no commitment towards the common man or the poor man. The Central Government sends funds for specified schemes, but the State Government diverts the funds. Majority of the States lack funds, I am talking about the State of Uttar Pradesh in particular. In this State, money allocated for a particular purpose, is spent on some other work. It is used in giving salaries to the Government Servants. There are many Government Departments in Uttar Pradesh where government servants have not been given their salaries for the last five-six months. They are going to the World Bank for seeking help and are making agreements and bringing loan from there.

I want to say to the House that money brought from the World Bank would not be used for that very purpose for which it has been given, but would be spent on some other work. It would become difficult to repay the principal as well as the interest thereon. Until and unless we think sincerely for the eradication of poverty of this country cutting across the party lines, no change in the country can be brought about.

16.00 hrs.

Our country can never become strong, until and unless

we provide food, cloth etc. to all the persons in the country. Whole system is required to be changed. Whatever data I have and whatever Hon'ble friend, has said, I would not like to repeat. In Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna, the Central Government contributes 75 per cent of funds and State Government gives 25 per cent. But infact the State Government does not contribute even this 25 per cent of money and the money given by the Central Government is not fully utilised. Only 46.11 per cent of money has been spent. From 1985 to 2000, an amount of Rs. 9 Lac, 17 thousand 324 crores was given for construction of houses under the Jawahar Gram Yojna and Indira Awas Yojna. This is a very big amount. Has anyone every thought that where has this huge amount gone. How many houses were constructed out of this?

One of my learned friend has rightly laid that a poor man has to give bribe at all levels when to get his loan sanctioned for construction of his house. I was told in Uttar Pradesh that 32 percent to 40 percent commission is given to the officers right from the level of Junior Engineer to District Magistrate. I still remember the statements made by the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi that a common man gets merely 15 paise of a rupee sanctioned by the Government. Such a situation is really unfortunate. Unless we superwise it, keep a watch over it, no result will come out....(Interruptions) I am talking about the party politics here as to whether any improvement has taken place in your Government and not in other Government....(Interruptions) If there is a party-politics, then things would continue to be the same. Corruption in your Government is much higher than the previous Governments. In Uttar Pradesh, people right from the lowest level upto the Minister think nothing but to earn money through unfair means. I do not want to mention any name here in the House. But if you will ask me then I can also tell you the names of such persons and also their activities. I am not talking about the party-politics, I am simply and honestly saying that we shall have to do something for the poor man of this country. If party politics shall continue in the same way, the condition of the poor man would become from bad to worst. So we are required to think above the party-politics level. I have stated this a number of times in this House.

I would also say to Shri Ram Jethmalani who is present here, that there is no accountability of the District Magistrate as well as officers subordinate to him. Irony of the situation is that a person on passing the IAS examination after study of one or two years gets a permanent certificate for committing dishonesty and depredation in the country. A number of public sector undertakings are running in loss. We decide that such and such IAS Officer be made the incharge of a particular public sector and in this way give him a certificate. Birla's company earns Arabs of rupees and the Government's factory go in loss. Private person would ply the bus and earn a lot, but the Government buses would face loss. The electricity

of Government sector would not only be stolen but the company would go on loss also, where as the electricity from a private sector would earn profit. Who is responsible for this? All this is happening in front of so many people and we are unable to make any decision in this regard. We will have to change the entire system. And shall have to think about the executive body. There are around 34 lac people in this country, who are elected after every five years, they have to be involved in this. M.Ps should have an important role in the schemes that are funded by the Central Government. Chairman of such committees should be the Member of Parliament and such a Member should have the right to go and see as to how the funds are being used. Govt. should not sanction money without going into merit. M.Ps should have right to review it, take action against the guilty officers. And I am sure that if such rights would not be given to the M.Ps, M.L.As and such other persons at the lower levels, no changes can be brought about even if we keep on debating continuously on this subject.

The data of the government in connection with the Employment Assurance Scheme is forwarded by the district council after consultation with the M.P. 63.85 percent of money was spent in 1996-97, 67.37 percent in 1997-98, 83.98 percent in 1998-99 and 42.74 percent of money was spent in 1999-2000. So many M.Ps are sitting here, may I know as to which MPs consultation is taken by the district council and collector. It is my personal experience, if you talk on telephone, then it is considered to be a big thing. Officers would tell him that consultation means to give advice, now you have to decide. Ask the MP as to which road is to be constructed, they say that they are unable to understand anything, please construct the road as per your own will. Here there is corruption from top to bottom, bribe is taken at every level. I will tell you about my own area. A road in Amroha was to be constructed for a stretch of two kilometers, the government launched a scheme under which those villages, which are not connected by the metalled roads, would be connected. But the condition was that population of the village must be above one thousand and the village should not be connected with the metalled road. I surveyed the whole area, prepared a list of such villages and sent it to the government. The government wrote back that in such and such village, metalled roads have already been constructed. I asked the engineer to come with me and show as to where does such road exist. There are various kinds of unmetalled (Kachhi) roads, where even a cycle cannot be plying. Moreover, there are ditches of 2 to 3 yards deep, but it is written on the paper that road was constructed some 10 years back and is made of bitumen. It is good road and still exists. Every year amount is spent on the maintenance of this road. Government state that this road can't be constructed while it was constructed 10 years back. Now, what is the source with the M.P. through which he can get it constructed. People of the area are

demanding that the road be constructed. You can only give in writing but you can do nothing more than that. There is a dishonesty before your eyes, there is a corruption before your eyes. You are an elected representative but you have no law, no power to do anything in this matter. This is not a single example, I can give you many such examples, but I don't want to take more time. I want to say this with great respect.

Regarding old age pension and widow pension my brother has said that old age pension is being provided merely on paper. But I have many complaints from the people that they are not getting money. They come to collect the cheque one has to pay money to get his cheque. Can the Government not think that pensioner's account be opened and money be sent directly to his account through a crossed cheque. What is the problem in it but the problem is that the file has to move from lower level. Who has to write on the file that by which way money should be paid to him. If the Government get their account opened and send the money directly in their account, the dishonesty can be avoided and the old man and poor women will get their money directly. In this regard I want ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Alvi, please take your seat. Later on your speech will continue. Since upto 4.08 O' clock two hours have been allotted for this resolution and that period is going to be completed. If the house agrees, the time may be extended by one-and-a-half-hour, because the resolution is of important nature. Now, I have a list of eight hon'ble members, who are to speak on this subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : See, you have demanded one hour and he has demanded two hours so I extend the time for one and a half hour. Now, you may continue your speech.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, today's private members work will be taken up or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN : If this resolution is over within one and a half hour, next resolution will be taken up after your speech.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I am concluding my speech. The amount we send is not fully utilised. Instead, it is misused. The money we send is spent on giving bribe. I want to advise the Government that we fully support this resolution and I desire that people's representatives should play an important role in this matter. All the schemes funded by Central Government have an M.P. as it's Chairman. He should be given final authority. Other elected people too, may be included in it. I don't say that only M.P.'s should be inducted even Legislatures can be included in it, and they can be appointed as Chairman. But, unless the Government take such step, the money will be misused. I support this resolution strongly.

16.11 hrs.

[DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (MANDI) : Mr. Chairman, on fifth of May through a private resolution Shri Ramanand Singh has expressed concern regarding non-utilisation of funds allotted by the Central Government to different States under the programme of rural development and poverty alleviation and urge upon the Government to take appropriate action in this regard and expedite its implementation. I rise to support that resolution.

First of all, I would like to thank Shri Ramanand who has put up a very important proposal related to rural areas in the House for its consideration. There is no doubt that various ministries of the Government have launched many programmes regarding the development of rural areas from time to time. But there is an urgent need to ponder over it whether these programmes are being implemented properly in rural areas or not? What are the reasons for improper implementation of the programme meant for rural areas. We should think about it that whether the fault lies with the programmes or with implementation. I feel there is a fault at both stages. Most of the programmes are chalked out in the air-conditioned offices situated in Delhi. Such people formulates these programmes who have no experience of rural areas. I have observed that not a single people's representative is taken into confidence while preparing the programmes. It has also been observed that whenever there is a change in the Government new programmes are made. It makes the officers more happy because with a change in programme, the posts, that too on the higher level are created. People are more concerned about where which IAS or HSO officer or from any State such as U.P. of Himachal Pradesh cadre is to be made incharge, how the maximum number of the posts for the officers can be created and how the command of the programmes be taken in own hands but they are less concerned regarding implementation of the programmes.

Ramesh Chennithala objected as to why the name of JRY was changed. For his information I would like to submit that Jawahar Lal Ji's name has not been dropped, it is still associated with it. It is alright that he was a leader of your party but he was hon'ble and respectable to this nation also. You may have differences of opinion with us, it may be in respect of policies of the party, but there is no dispute or difference of opinion in case of national leaders. I agree with him on his point that mere change in the name of the programme or formulating new programme will not lead to development. There is a need to give more attention to its implementation. Today not one but many such programmes are being implemented. Whether you call it Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana or JRY or Gramin Samridhi Yojana. There is

no dearth of schemes, but we have to see the ground realities. The programme prepared without taking the grass-root workers in confidence will never be a successful programme. I would like to draw your attention towards JRY. Sahuji has spoken in details regarding this. But I would definitely like to say something regarding JRY. When this programme was formulated it was stated that fifty percent of the amount will be spent on labour so that the people can get opportunity of employment and twenty five percent of the amount will be spent on material but the geographical position of that place was not taken into account at all. What is the result and what is the base of giving funds for this purpose? Population is the ground in this matter and earlier also I have given an example that the estimate of the cost to be incurred on the construction of one kilometer road in rural areas such as Himachal Pradesh or North-Eastern States or Uttranchal State should be worked out. Nobody make such estimate. Now, if we spend twenty five percent on material, how that work will be completed. If a rock comes on the way entire amount has to be spent for breaking that. How much money we get? What amount is given to hilly areas? Since the population of these areas is very less, scattered, on average we are provided rupees fifteen thousand per pahchayat under JRY scheme and in lieu what they write that whatever the programme be, or work done, should be a permanent asset. What permanent asset can be created in fifteen thousand rupees, should we be satisfied by making two stairs in the house. Is any work possible with fifteen thousand rupees? I have raised this issue many time in the House that if the roads are to be constructed a provision should be made for the purchase of Gelatine so that if any rock comes in the way, it can be broken. If there is no provision for purchase of explosive how we will construct roads. But nobody listen. Instead, they say that material component is twenty five percent and labour component would be seventy five percent as such how the work can be done? Therefore, I want to say that geographical position of a State and its working season should be kept in mind while preparing a scheme. This amount does not get spent. Complete figures reveal why the amount is not spent. Because, funds are not released in the beginning of the year, and we start receiving telegram and faxes in month of January and February stating raise your demand for money. Where to demand and where to spend this amount? Where shall we do with that money when entire area is covered with snow? In the month of January and February work can't be carried out in our area but they insist that we should take money. They keep quite round the year and when winter sets in they ask to take funds. When we can't spend, they become liberal to give us money. Therefore, this all will have to be considered. Merely changing the names of schemes would not lead to progress. Bringing new schemes too will not lead to progress. I will even say that the time has come when we should review all the schemes and club them so that some work can be done and result can be achieved.

Similarly, I would like to draw your attention towards floriculture. The job of floriculture was given to the people living below poverty line. I.R.D.P. was launched with the object that they would cultivate flowers and would rise above the poverty line. People adopted this programme with great enthusiasm and when they produced flowers, there was none to buy them. When they come to sell their flowers in Khuranaji's Delhi, fifty percent of the flowers were rejected and were thrown aside. And as per report, people living below poverty line rose above poverty line. But the reality is that he has gone down below the poverty line, because the flowers he cultivates, don't have market. This is the reality. Merely preparing programmes does not help. It is said that the artisan living in the village will be given money to buy tools. Here you have talked about him but how many of them get tools? And what they get, are of no standard because of rate contract is prevailing every where. At the time of rate contract the seller presents good tools but the supply to the poor people is such that when you apply the hammer once it will be broken in two pieces. The tarpoline they supply is such that if one uses it in marriage it will tear. The material is of such kind that the rain water comes on our head. Therefore, unless we discuss all these issues seriously there will be no use of it. Similarly funds are provided for EAS. The funds are provided to the villages for employment generation. In this case also funds are given on the basis of population. Thus hilly areas get less funds. You understand well what is our great difficulty. This august house knows it very well. We get money on the basis of population. If we increase our population, it is also a problem. It is already hundred crores, if we increase further, it will be a miserable position....(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : We can increase the population, but how we would change geographical condition. How we will stop snowfall in January, February.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : We are linking everything with the population. On the one hand the Government may be of any party, say that increase in population is not in the interest of the nation.

It should be decreased but on the other hand they say if you need money, increase your population. Who's order we should follow. Khanduriji is right in saying if the population is increased what shall we do in the event of snow fall. Our this area is covered with snow for six months. Therefore, I would like to say that these things should be kept in mind while preparing programme. I would strongly urge the rural development ministry to consider whether population will be a criteria in EAS programme. For the information of the House I want to tell that in our State there are 47 to 50 panchayats in one block. As regards the area, Himachal Pradesh looks a small State but it is spread over 55 thousand square kilometers.

One day Mr. Minister was telling that Arunachal Pradesh has very less population.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, speak on relevant subject. State Governments are not utilising the funds allotted by the Central Government.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : I don't think I have gone out of subject. I am not going out of the topic. I am telling, one day Mr. Minister has said that if you send money order to Arunachal Pradesh, people there will be happy. Because there the people are such. On the other hand they are not realising that what will be the results if the people of there hilly areas, of caves are not included in the main stream of development. We should consider about all these things.

In the end, while taking little time of the House and giving three for suggestions, I would finish my speech. Now the time has come when what so ever the development programmes are formulated or propose to be formulated, for all these programmes committee at Central level should be constituted. Minister himself should be Chairman of that committee and an experienced member of Parliament from each state should be made member of such committee which would review all these programmes. As far as possible, all these programmes should be clubbed together and there should be a nodal agency which would oversee how the funds received from different ministries is spent and what programmes are made. Sometimes even parallel programmes are made. Irrigation schemes are being formulated simultaneously at various levels i.e. by the main department, Block Development Office and at the District Magistrate level under LDA and funds are also being released. Virtually nothing is being done. As a result, these schemes are also meeting the same fate as the schemes under which roads exist only on papers. Therefore, it is imperative to carry out review of these schemes.

Secondly, on the line of MPLADS, Local Area Development Fund has also been constituted for the members of Legislative Assembly. It has been constituted in Maharashtra and some other states are also going ahead with this scheme. Entire amount is spent by the Block of the recommendation of the MLA. Major portion of the funds under MPLADAS is spent through the Block. So far as staff is concerned, I would like to cite the example of Himachal Pradesh. There are only two J.Es for the entire Himachal Pradesh and there is only one SDO for three or four districts. Not only this there is a tedious procedure for administrative approval. If limit of expenditure exceeds eighty thousands i.e. if it reaches one lakh approval of XEN (Executive Engineer) is necessary for it. XENs are also appointed by the public works department. I want to know whether the Ministry of Rural Development does not have its own SDOs and XENs? These posts are filled up with the people who are good for nothing. These people are asked to take care of the block development work

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

where work load is comparatively less. I suggest that there are XENs and SDOs of PWD in every district, why can't these people be posted there. For this work they can be paid allowance. I am of the view that there should be more staff in the field. These programmes cannot be successful by posting IAS officer for this work. If we want upliftment of our villages we will have to pay more attention towards them. Besides the places where air-conditioned or other vehicles cannot ply, these officers will have to go there on foot. Therefore, more field staff should be recruited. These programmes should also be reviewed at the Central level. The states which are performing well under this programme should be rewarded and encouraged at the end of the year and the states which have not performed well should be penalised and warned. There is need for making distinction between those are performing well and those whose performance is not upto the mark.

Sir, he has suggested to make the Member of Parliament Chairman but I think that all States will not accept this suggestion. There can be some difficulty in it but one thing can be ensured that the convenience of the local member of Parliament should also be taken into consideration with regard to meetings of DRDA generally it is seen that a particular political party is in power in the state and the local member of Parliament belongs to some other political party. The State Government deliberately convenes the meeting at a time when the member of Parliament is in Delhi so that he could not attend the meeting. Sir, most of the meetings are convened during the session of the Parliament. Sir, they are aware that Saturday happened to be Parliamentary holiday so they convene the meetings on Saturday as it is not holiday in States. They convene meetings of DRDA on the days for which whip has been issued for the members to be present here in the House. It is not inconvenient for us because in our State our own party is in the power. But we have the experience of days when we were the members of Parliament belonging the party in opposition in the Parliament and some other party was in power in the State. We are well aware of the inconvenience caused deliberately. They convene the meeting at such times when it is impossible for us to attend those meetings.

Sir, all the hon'ble Members have made their points here by rising above the party politics and have demanded that the Chairman of DRDA should be the member of Parliament because he is the representative of the Union Government. If it is not possible for some reason his participation in the meetings of DRDA should be ensured and meetings should be convened as per his convenience I am very grateful to this House and I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKER MAHALE (MALEGAON):  
Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank the hon'ble Member for bringing

this Resolution in the House and I also thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Sir, the Lok Sabha is like a temple and first of all those 60 crores of electorates should be worshipped here in this temple who had elected us for this august House but it is not so. You may have to face some sort of calamity. Calamities are of two types one is natural calamity and the other man made i.e. created by the government. About the calamity created by the Government. I can say that it is a vicious circle and the 60 crore electorates have always to face this vicious circle. We have successfully faced the Kargil conflict but we have not found ways and means as to how this can be settled for ever. This is my question. We have to ponder over as to how we can solve this problem.

Sir, during the course of natural calamity several difficulties arise as has been experienced recently in a state during the occurrence of natural calamity. I would like to cite an example in this regard. Once I went to see Shri Morarji Desai when he was the Prime Minister and I requested him that work on five small dams in my parliamentary constituency had been stalled for want of funds. He immediately called his secretary and directed him to arrange funds at any cost for the dams in my constituency on which work had been stalled. The completion schedule for those dams was five years and they were completed in two and half years. Such things had never happened earlier. Shri Morarji Desai himself said that there was ample scope for corruption in the work which lingers on unnecessarily, therefore the work should be completed within the fixed time frame. During that period fifty small dams were constructed in my constituency. Today also my constituency is at number one position with regard to production of grapes and vegetables. This problem is created by the government. Discussion take place on this but we do not discuss development with open mind. Just now there was a mention about Babuji and bureaucracy. Besides the government we are also equally answerable about the bureaucracy. We too are not good people. We also contribute in corrupting the officers. The people's representatives should think on this aspect also. If attention is paid towards this everything will be all right and poor will be benefited. I don't think that only the government is responsible for this state of affairs we are also equally responsible for this.

Sir, circumstances are very tough and we should think to resolve them. Our beginning itself has not been good. Today, I went to the office of hon'ble Shrimati Maneka Gandhi where a saint was propagating against Alcohol. He was not carrying proper papers with him in this regard and Shrimati Gandhi told him that he had not brought proper papers with him. He replied that the department of Audit has demanded rupees fifty thousand from him to get the papers corrected. Sir, this is today's incident. He was asked to pay Rs. 50 thousand to get the correct papers. He was to get rupees two lakhs. How can such a thing be allowed? The clever person like me does not pay anything to anyone and yet gets the



papers corrected. He feels proud that he has not bribed anyone. We should think over it.

We always keep on telling the Prime Minister about forests but action is not taken. Things cannot work this way. So far as forests are concerned situation is very grim. Officers have allowed destruction of the forests. Earlier forests were the source of revenue to the government but now revenue is not being earned from the forests. People have destroyed the forests. We should think in this regard also and we should think about the all round development. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (DAMOH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member Ramanand Singhji has put forward a proposal regarding the non-utilisation of funds by the states being allocated to them by the Union Government for implementing various centrally sponsored schemes especially those in the areas recognised under the poverty alleviation programme. The hon. Member has expressed his deep concern over it and Lok Sabha and the entire House is also of the same opinion. Hence, Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is necessary that the money which are allocated by the Centre for the rural development may not be misused and the various schemes may run smoothly and properly. I would like to put forward some figures before you. As regard to the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana only 46 percent of the funds earmarked for Madhya Pradesh have been utilised. Similarly 58 percent of the total funds have been spent under the Assured Employment Scheme. I am giving the figures of Madhya Pradesh only. The Members who have spoken prior to me have also presented the figures and have told that merely 50 percent of the total allocated funds by the Centre is being spent and its misuse also takes place. Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, it is a matter of grief that the money collected in the name of Kargil war fund was distributed to the employees under salary head. The money allocated under the pension scheme for the poor is also being misused.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it to your notice that the money allocated for these various schemes is not spent on their implementation but is misused in performing various impertinent and unrelated activities. The speakers who have spoken prior to me have expressed their concern over the tendency and suggested that proper monitoring of various schemes should be done by appointing an M.P. the Chairman of D.R.D.A. in every district of each state, only then the real significance of these schemes can be reflected and the money earmarked for various schemes could be utilised.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister of Rural Development, while replying a question had proclaimed that hon. Members would be appointed as chairman in their districts, besides giving participation to the elected representatives. The accountability of even the Government should be fixed in it so

that proper utilisation of money could take place and benefit could percolate down to poor along with the development of the villages.

With these words I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to express my views on this Resolution moved by Shri Ramanand Singh.

The utilisation of funds by the States is a moot question. The non-utilisation of funds is one thing and the diversion of funds by the States is another thing. Certain States are in severe deficit. This morning, when the hon. Minister was answering Question Number 663. He has listed out the States where there are large amount of loans which are outstanding. He has listed out all the States. I would like to say that when the States are not able to meet the loan advances, is there any possibility of them diverting the fund given by the Central Government to the States? I was told from different quarters that certain States have diverted the funds allotted for the purpose for which it was allotted, which has not been spent.

The funds or the Budget is voted here in Parliament. We debate it. The M.Ps participate in the debate and then the Appropriation Bill is passed. After that the Members of Parliament have no role to play in the utilisation or non-utilisation or even the evaluation of the work done by the State Governments through the funding by the Central Government. As many hon. Members have said, the Member of Parliament should be entrusted with the power of monitoring the funds granted by this House to the States. Take for example the schemes like the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme or the IRDP.

The funds are given under these programmes to the State Governments to alleviate the poverty of the common man. We have to see whether the common man has actually benefited and whether the common man gets the maximum benefit of these schemes. I know that there are listed contractors who take these contractual works *benani* whether they are in the name of BPL, APL or the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. No programme of the Central Government has virtually the common man. It is eaten up by the middleman. It is not even reaching the common man, the residents of the area. Suppose, a tank is to be desilted and an amount is sanctioned. It is taken by local *panchayat* President. Sometimes they do it by themselves and sometimes they get it done through their agents. So, there should be a permanent monitoring mechanism with the Member of Parliament as it

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

head at the District Headquarters to monitor the functioning of the schemes and the utilisation of the funds. How will the States like Uttar Pradesh, which have the utilisation loan amount of Rs. 33.78 crore, will be able to utilise these funds? Orissa and some other States have written off their loan advances. So I would urge upon the Finance Minister and the Minister for Rural Development to appreciate the fact that a monitoring mechanism should be evolved. That is the first part of my submission.

Then, there is a lot of corruption in implementing these programmes. There will not be a tank and there will not be desilting of a tank, but still the Measurement Book will be prepared by the local Junior Engineer of the Panchayat Union. They all will conclude and pass the bill while there will not be existing the tank which is shown as being desilted. The same is the case of rural roads. The village roads are not repaired at all. The common man is living in villages. He is not living in Delhi, District Headquarters or State Headquarters. So, these programmes should reach all the villages. We go to villages. Mr. Chairman Sir, I have visited almost all the villages during election, and after election, whenever I go somewhere I use to go to villages only because the villagers have the highest expectation from the Members of Parliament.

Now, the members of the Assemblies owe their allegiance to the local ruling Governments but the Members of Parliament have risen above their party affiliations. We are all talking above party affiliations. So, the District Panchayat President, the State Government, the Collector or the local BDO should before taking action, before implementing any provision, before earmarking any work—where it is being done through the Central funding—get prior approval of the Member of Parliament because he has toured the entire area and he can assess whether the amount is actually spent at all. The Ministers in the State will not be interested in works done through Central funding. They will be interested in executing their own Budget Estimates. Here, the Central Minister can confer with Members of Parliament. We are easily accessible and he is also easily accessible and therefore, there can be a close association and close coordination to execute these programmes.

Finally, all these programmes are earmarked for the poor people. We have to find out whether, after having implemented these programmes and projects, the common man has come up in his life and whether the villages have developed to a certain extent. It is not so.

Every year, we are passing the Budget and, every year, it is going into somebody's coffers or pockets. Only the contractor is benefited in the whole of India. If you take a railway contractor, he is a rich man; if you take a highway contractor, he is the richest man because they are handling

public money. They can collude with the officials and everybody else and they can get the money. As far as the other non-executive officers are concerned, they are not able to do like that. Therefore, the Members of Parliament should be nominated in every committee that deals with Central funding, and not a single *paisa* should be allowed to be spent without their approval. The Minister should evolve a programme to protect the public money. Every year, we are giving 500 crore, Rs. 600 crore or Rs. 1000 crore to every State, but where is the progress? There has been no progress at all. Some States have diverted the funds to some other projects. Some States are spending the money on laying highway roads, but they are not bothered about village and Panchayat roads. Some States are not able to pay the matching grants to the Panchayats. When they have huge deficit or a huge outstanding running into crores of rupees, how will they be able to pay the matching grants to the Panchayats to execute the work?

This morning, the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, said: "We have no power to monitor the financial discipline of States under the Federal structure." A person who gives the money has the power to monitor. Therefore, Parliament, which approves and gives the money to the States, can become the monitoring body. They are accountable here, and they cannot be accountable elsewhere because it is debated and vetoed here. I would say that the uppermost thought in the mind of every citizen should be to utilise these funds for the benefit of the common man.

I welcome this private Bill. I actually seized the opportunity to deliberate on this issue. The Central Government should monitor to see whether the State Governments are executing the work, whether or not they are utilising the funds allocated to them, and whether they are diverting the funds to any other project. Some States may build bridges, but they may not be laying the roads. Without the roads, the bridges are of no use. The transport system has failed in almost all the States. Throughout India, be it in Delhi, Mumbai, Tamil Nadu or anywhere else, the transport system has failed. As per a news item appeared in some *Star News* programme, wherever the transport system failed, the State concerned has become bankrupt. Therefore, you must assess the state of bankruptcy of certain States first and then only should allocate funds. If the outstanding dues of any State are very high, then you should waive the loans. That is why, this morning, I said, "What is the criteria for waiving or to write off the loans of certain States?" You have written off loans in respect of certain States like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and some small States also. The same yardstick should be followed in respect of Tamil Nadu and other States, which have a financial crunch. If a State is in a financial crunch, it will not be able to do anything for the common man.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : There is no problem in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I am sorry. I will then delete Madhya Pradesh.

I seized the opportunity to express these views. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

[Translation]

\*SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Respected Chairman Sir, at the outset, let me congratulate the hon. Member for bringing this important resolution. In our country, we have umpteen projects. There is no dearth for projects as such. But the real problem is in the non-utilisation of such projects. In this very House, yesterday, we had a heated discussion about this. It was about the various aspects of the Local Area Development Fund of MPs. It is a fact that no proper utilization of that fund is made in time, even though the Member concerned has given the release. A few days back, a news item appeared in a local newspaper in Kerala. The said article has alleged Members for non-utilisation of the funds at their disposal. It had put us in a very difficult situation. The root of this news item was a letter sent by the Central Government to the State Government stating the percentage of utilization in the State. The letter was only meant to remind the State Government about the real merits of utilizing the funds fully and fruitfully. It goes on to State that about 59% gross utilization is there in the State and the break up with regard to every member is also shown. My break up is shown as 59.9% I was taken aback for a second because I had sanctioned more than what is really allotted to me.

Sir, it is really difficult to hold back the funds because the demands are numerous and in the State of Kerala, we, Members of Parliament function like Panchayat members. I don't think that there will be any dispute in this regard in my State because we have a number of programmes for the grass root level and we do really reach out to the poor with such programmes. So, the news item alleging the non-performance on our part was like a bolt out of the blue for us. But in this case utilization was calculated from the information they gathered from the utilization certificate of respective schemes and not based on the amount we sanctioned for such schemes. Ultimately we were made the culprit which was really sad.

Now, let me come to the crux of the discussion. We have hundreds of projects and schemes for those who live below the poverty line. Differences galore as to whether these funds are utilized properly or not. But there is a different aspect to this confusion. The major problem is that there is a marked difference between the Central and State Government statistics about the number of those who live under the poverty line. At times, there is huge difference in the figures arrived at. The Central Government data says that only 25%

in Kerala are below poverty line but according to the State Government data it is 42%. So, Sir, there should be some way out to reach a consensus and to solve the problems related to that. The PDS is badly affected in my State due to such confusions. I have a feeling that the need of the hour is to evolve apt concepts regarding BPL and research should be conducted to evolve a foolproof procedure to find the real BPL group.

I may be permitted to repeat one point, a very important one, which many of my colleagues have raised. Sir, many States are not in a financial position to contribute the 50% share which they are expected to pool in, in the centrally sponsored schemes. So, the right option, or rather a solution would be the suggestion made by the Standing Committee on Rural Development. The report suggests that the Central Government may allocate 100% funds to the States for such schemes and can go for redeeming the 50% later, considering it as a loan to the State. Sir, accepting this suggestion will be a fruitful step towards solving the problems related to the lack of funds.

It is a known fact that corruption prevails at every point in the execution of the schemes. As the layers of the administrative process increase, the layers and quantum of corruption also increases. Is it not a shame that we accept the fact that only 16 paise, out of one rupee reaches the beneficiary while implementing Government schemes? We should not accept things lying down. We have to react and take steps to root out corruption from this country. One such step is to ensure timely release of money and to ensure its reach at the grass root level. DRDA should be strengthened. I would like to associate with the suggestion made by my colleague Mr. Pandian. He said that the Members of Parliament should be made the Chairman. In fact, I am going one step ahead in saying that it is not proper, or rather not advisable, not to make the MP the Chairman of a Committee in which he is a member. Because the bureaucrat Chairman is forced to oblige, at times, to a member of that Committee by virtue of his position. Protocol demands that. But on many occasions they might even ignore the member. That is another cruel fact. So, if a Committee is set up related to the funds allotted for a particular project sponsored by the Central Government the member of Parliament himself should be made to Chair the Committee to ensure proper monitoring. Moreover, the members should be given the right to send his nominee, in case of any other urgent work expected of him. If you have the nomination facility in Committees, a Member can ensure learned participation in the form of some person who can represent him/her in the Committee.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, Panchayat Raj has become a reality. In many States it functions effectively. So, utilizing this opportunity many Central Government schemes can be coordinated and implemented with the people's participation, at the level of Panchayati Raj institutions. I would also like to refer to the

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

participation and performance of banks in the disbursal of money sanctioned under various schemes. It is seen that officials in such financial institutions put unnecessary hurdles in the path of the poor beneficiaries of such schemes. Even in the case of PMRY schemes, the poor youth who ultimately manages to become a beneficiary is denied the money which should go to him through banks, due to the evil designs of a single official at that end. It is very unfortunate, Sir, it is an aspect which is to be looked into.

Diversification is another serious problem, Sir. Let me narrate my experience. In my constituency in Mulanthuruthi Block, under a scheme sponsored by the Norwegian Government, money had been sanctioned for the computer education of poor rural women. Even after one and a half years a single paise from the sanctioned 4 lakhs could not be used. The real reason was the underlying politics and the rivalry between two State Government department concerned, Social Welfare Department and the Women's Welfare Department. Sir, this is a problem with multifarious causes and tones and the solution is not that easy. But immediate and effective steps should be taken to evolve a solution so that the real benefit goes to the poorest of the poor in this country.

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (BULANDBAHAR) :  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the proposal put forward by hon. Member Shri Ramanand Singhji.

17.03 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

If the work to alleviate poverty and to check its further spread is undertaken in true spirit, it will definitely help in uplifting the standard of the poor and it will definitely prove to be effective in the poverty alleviation. Money is directly sent to the State Governments by the Centre for various centrally sponsored schemes and its hundred percent utilisation is not being done for any of the scheme. No State can fully utilise the money given to it for the implementation of a scheme and that is to be adjusted in the budget of the next year. Money is directly given to the States under various schemes as Family Welfare Scheme, Indra Awas Yojana, Awas Yojana for the destitutes, Drinking Water Scheme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, TRISEM, DWARKA, Assured Employment Scheme, Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana etc. but the situation is such that no officer in districts wants to implement these schemes in its letter and spirit by utilising the budget earmarked for various schemes. As regard to the Indra Awas Yojana, Members who have spoken prior to me have also pointed out that a poor is not allotted a house until he gives 20 to 25 percent of the money as a bribe to the administrative officers and officers of the development block, despite the proposal being recommended by the Pradhan of the village. All these things are

truly taking place for the exploitation of the poor and our plans are not being implemented due to it. A lot of States are facing problem due to the non implementation of drinking water scheme while the drinking water is not available to the people. The women have to travel three or four kilometers to fetch water. Cattle wealth is depleting and we are unable to make available the drinking water in the villages. This is happening because our plans are not being implemented. There was a Central Government plan to construct a pond but the money earmarked for this plan is not being utilised. Had the ponds been dug in these States then there would have been a reduction in the menace of drought problem which is prevalent so extensively and the water level too would have risen. I would especially submit to the Union Government to set up a monitoring cell in those States, especially the States in North India which are not spending the money over various schemes. There should be separate monitoring mechanism in each State. A Central team should visit these States and hold a meeting with them every three months wherein it should be asked as to why no progress is taking place with regard to these schemes and they should be told clearly that unless these schemes are implemented at a fast pace, other funds would be stopped.

Right now, the Member who spoke prior to me has said that the administrative expenditures are increasing. It is true. I would like to mention my State Uttar Pradesh. 94 percent of the budget passed in Legislative Assembly is spent on administrative expenditure. Only six percent is sent for the development works and everybody admits that the corruption is prevalent in development works. We can easily imagine as to how much development work can take place within six percent funds.

No one should have any objection over changing the name of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The name of Jawahar Lal Nehruji is still connected with the scheme. No State works in consonance of the target being fixed for creating 'Shramik Divas'. Ponds, dams and roads can be constructed and well can be dug under this scheme but the money earmarked for this scheme is not being utilised properly. TRYSEM has been started for our unemployed youth, but still they are wandering on roads without any work to do. They should be provided the employment opportunities in the villages itself and the training too should be imparted to them there, tool kits and technical know-how should also be provided to them. There are many schemes but they are not being implemented and owing to it the number of unemployed youth is increasing day by day especially in rural areas. The names of five crore youth are registered in various employment exchanges of the Country. But the youth two times this number have not registered their name in employment exchanges. The boys in the villages do not think it necessary to get their names registered in employment exchange even after passing high school and

intermediate as they are aware the they are not going to get employment even after getting their names registered in the employment exchanges.

Under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana, there is a provision for granting loan to the extent of Rs. one lakh in urban as well as in rural areas. A subsidy of 10 percent is given for it. But on the one hand, while the State Government do not take interest in it, on the other banks too prove as a hindrance in it. If anybody submits a project in the bank for approval of the loan, no sanction is given until some bribe is given to the bank officials. The hon. Minister of Finance is not present here. I would like to convey to him that he should also pay attention towards banks. Only 10 percent of the files submitted in the banks regarding Prime Minister's Employment Scheme get approval from the bank, 90% files are rejected with one objection or the other. Funds are being released by the Centre for electrification of the villages but the problem is that administrative officers claim that a village has been covered under the electrification scheme even if they erect only 4 electric poles there. The main village where the population is around two thousand, is declared as electrified and is not included in the next approved list of villages to be electrified even if a thinly populated pocket of the village is covered under electrification. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Rural Development and Employment who is present in the House to talk to the Minister of power who must be attending cabinet meeting besides him that a provision should be made that if in a village main village or a big village where the population is sizable, has been left without electrification, such villages should be included in the list of villages to be electrified through the Member of Parliament or the M.L.A. of that area. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are five more hon. Members to speak. Each of them is to be given two minutes. All of them are from the BJP. Since you have taken ten minutes, the Minister may straightaway start his reply and no other person shall speak.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : All these schemes should be wound up and only one scheme with the name "Gram Uthan" should be introduced and the member of Parliament should be appointed as its chairman as the funds are directly released by the centre and the MP knows about the requirement of a village. As hon'ble members have given suggestions, Member of Parliament should be the chairman of D.R.D.A. He should be given privilege to effectively monitor the funds released by the Central Government for this scheme so that the scheme could be implemented effectively.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, I would appeal to the hon. Minister, through you, that he should not be very impatient because this is a very important subject. I would not just repeat whatever other hon. Members have said. I would give some suggestions.

You should not think in terms of finishing this debate by 5.30 p.m. and say that everybody would speak for only two minutes. Two minutes is not time enough for us to make suggestions.

There are hardly 25 Members present in this House and the Press Gallery is totally empty. It sometimes seems as if it is not worth discussing such important subject under such circumstances.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Khanduri, how much time should I give for these five hon. Members from your party?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, you may give three minutes each.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are hon. Members only from your side to speak. The hon. Minister is here to reply. What do you suggest?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : The hon. Member, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad is also here. We would like that his Resolution is also introduced.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : If that is so, you may give the time to somebody else. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may please make your points. I will allow you. The hon. Minister has to start his reply at 5.30 p.m.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is with regard to the Employment Assurance Scheme. Under the EAS, the Central Government has divided the blocks into three categories with regard to the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population. The allocation for 'A' category is Rs. 1 crore, for 'B' category is Rs. 75 lakhs and for 'C' category is Rs. 50 lakhs every year.

In the Employment Assurance Scheme, the guideline of the Central Government is to prepare a muster roll of the people who are to get the daily wages, who are to be provided with work, etc. In Orissa and in several other States also, I have never found any muster roll. As per the guidelines, 40 per cent of the work under this scheme should be undertaken with irrigation, construction of some roads or some school buildings, etc. But nowhere, the guideline is adhered to. You can find in any State that the Panchayat Samiti Chairman or the Collector would say that they do not have any money to

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

build any pucca roads. The guideline here says that 75 percent of the money should go towards the labour component and 25 per cent should go towards the material component. If you adhere to this guideline, then you can have only *kucha* roads. It is because the guideline says that 75 per cent of the cost should go towards labour. But if you build a house or a school building or a pucca road, then the material cost will be much higher than the labour cost.

My suggestion here is that the system of preparing a muster roll and the system of allocating 75 per cent of the money towards labour component should be done away with. This is my first suggestion.

The second suggestion is with regard to *Indira Awas Yojana*, the Old Age Pension and Widows Pension. It is the *Gram Sabha*, where the beneficiaries are to be identified. What happens is that in most cases, the *Gram Sabha* is not at all convened by the *Sarpanch*. Suppose it is decided at the block level that two persons from the village will be provided with housing, then about 50 other people will say that they should be the beneficiaries since they are eligible for that. What happens then is that the *Sarpanch* would think of not displeasing anybody and so, he would prepare a list of all the 50 persons. But the rule is that the *Gram Sabha* should recommend the names of only two beneficiaries. The *Sarpanch* recommends the names of about 50 persons, with the result at the block level, the party in power or the MLA or whosoever is more powerful recommends the names of two, whom he wants to recommend and who may not be the proper beneficiaries.

In Orissa, there are many people who are having four sons and earning about Rs. 20,000 per month and who are having 20 acres of land; but they all will also get loan for *Indira Awas Yojana*. There are also many families where the husbands are getting Old Age Pension and the wives are getting Widows Pension! This is happening in a State like Orissa.

Here, my suggestion is that there should be a Committee, which should consist of MP, who should have some Prominent position, the MLA and the *Sarpanch* so that they can select the names of beneficiaries. It should not be left to the *Sarpanch* alone to decide the matter. The Committee may hold three or four meetings. Now-a-days, no new person is being given the benefit. If one beneficiary dies, then only, in his place, another person is being given the benefit.

Some rule should be made under MPLADS that if a Collector or an Officer deliberately puts some hindrance in the implementation of the work, then some sort of a punishment should be given to him. Previously we were under the impression that we can bring a Privilege Motion against him, if he does something like that. But the other day, during a

reply to a discussion, hon. Minister, Shri Arun Shourie asked us to bring a Privilege Motion and see the position, indicating that there will be no result and that this cannot be covered under 'privileges'. That means that the Collectors or the Officers know that even if they do not take up any work, no action will be taken against them. So, at least some mechanism should be found out whereby if they do something wrong deliberately, they could be punished.

Finally, I still believe that the functioning of the Central Government is much better than the State Governments. The MPs should be made more powerful. Previously people were thinking that the MPs are going to Delhi to give *bhashanbaji*, but after the MPLAD Scheme, when the MPs are given an amount of Rs. 2 crore, which is in the hands of MPs, the expectations of people have gone up.

Now, the people think that we will be able to provide them rice, wheat etc. But we find ourselves helpless. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister that MPs should be given more powers and they should be associated with all the Centrally Sponsored schemes so that they can monitor all those schemes.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, after first Five Year Plan was formulated in the year 1952. 9th Five Year Plan is going on today in the year 2000. Had the funds released for the plans formulated for rural development not been misused, had these funds reached the right hands in the villages and had the officers done their work with sincerity, our villages would have been in a different shape and poverty would have been removed. However, even after 53 years of independence and after the golden jubilee of our Republic Day, if we assess the condition of our villages, we will find that the same problem of poverty is prevailing there. I quote the words of a poet —

"Shvanon ko milta doodh,

Bhookhey balak akulatey hain,

Maan ki chhati sey chipak,

Sisak-sisak reh jatay hain."

Sir, it is a very pathetic situation. In 1971, late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had given a slogan "Garibi hatao". Since then 29-30 years have passed but poverty could not be removed rather it has increased. In his resolution, Shri Ramanand Singh has expressed his serious concern towards the fact that the States are not utilizing the funds allocated by the Central Government under the various schemes sponsored by it for the poverty alleviation in rural areas. Sir, States have limited resources. The 73%–80%

share of the funds given by the Central Government are used to pay the salaries of the staff or on other expenses of establishment under non-plan head due to which development works do not take place there. A Sarpanch of a village takes interest in the development work to be taken up only in the hamlet where he lives. However, a Panchayat consists of 5-7 hamlets and a main village. The Sarpanch favours the persons who support him in the main village but other hamlets remain neglected in every aspect whether electrification or anything else. Therefore, I request you to adopt a 6 point programme which includes agriculture, water, electricity, education, road and health services. Government should concentrate on these 6 points. Agriculture Production of the farmers should be increased, adequate means of irrigation should be provided to them, Land Reforms Act should be implemented, timely availability of seeds, should be ensured appropriate steps should be taken to provide educational facilities, roads should be constructed for transportation of goods and good health services should be made available in villages. Attention should be paid to rural development on the basis of these 6 points and appropriate monitoring and coordination should be ensured for the funds released by the Central Government. Only then, I think condition of the villages can be changed.

Sir, as you know,

[English]

Where there is a will there is a way.

[Translation]

Poverty cannot be removed merely by talking.

"Kathni thohti jagat mein, Karani utam Saar,

Keñ Kabir Karni sabal, utary bhav-jal paar."

Today bureaucracy is prevailing in our country. Bureaucracy who formulate the schemes sitting in air-conditioned rooms of cities are not familiar with the actual conditions of the villages. They do not pay attention towards the circumstances arising there, and know nothing about what facilities should be made available and how the development could take place there.

Sir, I strongly support this resolution and request the Central Government to make adequate arrangements for its monitoring. States have been given the responsibility to undertake rural development. However, when the Central Government allocates funds for it, it has full rights to give directions and orders in this regard and also to monitor it for its proper implementation. Yesterday, a reply was given to a question that Rs. 30 crores were to be spent on each of 452 schemes of the Central Government. About Rs. 52987 crores were to be spent on 205 schemes. But now Rs. 84167 crores will be spent on them. It means the entire system is faulty. Sir,

through you, I would like to request that the funds granted by the Centre should be properly utilized and the "Swarn Jayanti Gramin Swarozgar Yojna" and "Gram Samridhi Yojna" stated by the hon'ble Prime Minister which cover all the 6 points should be given full consideration. The work can be implemented effectively with time-bound programmes, adequate monitoring, co-ordination and by giving right directions. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH) : Thank you, Chairman, Sir. I will take only two minutes and make a few suggestions only. At the outset, I congratulates Shri Ramanand Singh for bringing this very very important Resolution.

Though there are a number of schemes in the rural poverty alleviation sector, poverty remains where it was. The root cause of this is, all these schemes are formulated at the Centre. Such poverty alleviation schemes should be planned at the grass-root level. In the State of Gujarat, recently we have formulated a scheme by the name *Gokul Gram Yojana*. This scheme was not only formulated by the local people but also implemented by them. Ours is a vast country. If a scheme is formulated at the Centre, it may not be useful in all parts of the country. A scheme which is good for the South may not be good for the North. So, whenever such schemes are formulated, the local people should be involved. Instead of formulating these schemes at the Centre, they should at the most be formulated in the concerned zone.

For the sake of argument, one would ask why some States like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh are facing drought. I would say that it is because the schemes are not formulated according to their requirements. In my own State Gujarat, there is a fall in the average rainfall. In my constituency, Kutch we had only 32 droughts in the last 50 years. There is no ground water at all. Farmers cannot cultivate anything there. They can survive only if they get water from Narmada. Narmada dam is the only solution. We have to bring water from a distance of about 700 kms. Certain environmental activists are objecting that big dams are not useful. If Bhakra Nangal Dam was not there or the Visveswara Dam built by Engineer Visvesariya in Mysore was not there then what would have been the fate of those people? Big dams are the only solution. Without building big dam at terminal point, crores of gallons of water goes waste in sea. If this was not the position, Kutch and North Gujarat would have been a surplus State in foodgrain. I would say that we have poverty because we do not have big dam.

I may also add that being border State, people are migrating to our State. So, population is another factor responsible for the poverty of the State. So, I would suggest that the schemes should be formulated at the local level so ,

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]  
that we could do something for the farmers. In the end, I would heartily congratulate Shri Ramanand Singh for having brought forward this Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I welcome the Resolution relating to development moved by Shri Ramanand Singh in the House. It is really praise worthy and the hon. Members have given good suggestions in this regard. I would not like to repeat them, but would certainly throw light on a few facts that have not been mentioned. There are many voluntary organisations that are working in the name of development. Funds for such organisations are sent to the districts. I am here talking about Bihar. At block as well as district level it is not known how the funds released for the purpose of rural development are spent? Estimates are made while sitting in Delhi, council for Advancement of people's action and Rural Technology (CAPART) is one such organisation. N.G.Os take money on the pretext of family planning, environment and literacy. Infact the amount which the Central Government gives for rural development at block and district level, should not be given further until and unless a certificate to the effect that the money released earlier has been spent, is issued. Money is mis-used at many places. So until and unless stringent action against such persons who usurp funds without accomplishing the work, is not taken, we shall keep on making statements here, you will keep on releasing funds in the same manner and corrupt persons would continue to indulge in embezzlement. If the funds released for the poor and villagers, are not spent honestly with good intentions and are not invested in developmental schemes, the very purposes of giving money for development purpose would be defeated.

Mention was made here about the development of villages. The poor people are in dire need of houses, roads, power and hospitals in the villages. On the one hand, government says that everyone should be educated and thus become literate, but on the other hand one feels very awkward while observing the condition of villages. All the hon'ble members, who are elected, belong to the villages. If there are no schools in the villages then teachers are not there and if there are teachers available in the villages, then there are no school buildings. All these facts should be taken care of. Schools and roads may be constructed in such villages. Farmers should get a remunerative price of whatever he produces. If stress is laid on all these things then only development of villages can take place in the real sense. None is there to take account of the funds that the government is releasing. Plans and schemes are formulated while sitting in air-conditioned offices only. The officers are not at all aware of the facts as to which of the villages require a proper road or a school etc. It is ironical that check dams are constructed where there is no water and road is constructed

at such sites where there is no use of it. Plans should be formulated after consultation with the representatives of the people, then only the funds would be spent properly. It should be prevented. Keep such elements under control, otherwise they are at liberty to usurp these funds.

Hon'ble Members have given many suggestions. A committee should be constituted to supervise the appropriation of amount released by the Central Government. This committee should comprise of representatives of the people. Members of Parliament should be made the Chairman or head of such a committee. This would streamline the process. Notice of the meeting to be held in districts in the name of development programme is often received after the date of meeting itself and meeting is called when the Parliamentary session is going on. In order to avoid such overlapping, the only remedy for this is that the people's representatives and Members of Parliament should be involved in this, it is after such a measure only that proper supervision would be done and plan would be prepared in time. The situation right now is that whole work remains pending for four-five years and is not completed in time. As there is paucity of time, so I extend my thanks to you and support the Resolution moved by hon'ble Ramanand Singh ji. He deserves a applause for this. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : Sir, the Resolution moved by the hon. Member, Shri Ramanand Singh is arising out of the concern of the House and it expresses the desire of the Members belonging to the different parties in proper implementation of the rural development schemes so that the funds utilised by the States to the fullest extent and the benefits reach the poor in the rural areas. The Government allocates very large amount of funds for these schemes and it is imperative that the benefits of these schemes reach the poor without leakage. In the lively discussion that took place in the House today and also the last day when this Resolution was discussed, the hon. Members raised various points which are very important and need full consideration.

I compliment the hon. Members for the lively discussion on this Resolution and for bringing out many useful issues.

Sir, the views expressed by the hon. Members may be classified into four categories. Firstly, non-utilisation of funds by the State Governments; secondly, delay on the part of the State Governments in implementation of the works; thirdly, empowerment of Panchayati Raj institutions more; and lastly, the role of Members of Parliament in the schemes. The Government shares the concern expressed by the hon. Members equally, if not more. The Government is already seized of the issue of making the rural development schemes



effective and vibrant. With this in view, the Government have already initiated many steps, the results of which will be visible shortly.

Sir, with your permission, I will now list out some of the actions taken by the Government towards this end.

As regards the utilisation of Central funds by the States, the Ministry has been able to ensure that all the funds released by it were utilised by the States and Union Territories in the year 1998-99. The percentage expenditure to available funds, including the State share and the opening balance available with the States, under various programmes during 1998-99, as reported by the States, was 83 per cent under JRY, 84 per cent under EAS, 82 per cent under IAY, 82 per cent under IRDP, 78 per cent under NSAP, 95 per cent under ARWSP and 116 per cent under CRSP.

The percentage expenditure to available funds, including the State share and the opening balance available with the States, under various programmes during 1999-2000, as per reports received so far, is 51 per cent under JGSY, 56 per cent under EAS, 59 per cent under IAY, 32 per cent under SGSY, 62 per cent under NSAP, 96 per cent under ARWSP and 41 per cent under GRSP.

The figures for 1999-2000 are, generally, up to the months of December/January and in the case of some States, up to October only. The total expenditure for the whole year is yet to be reported by the States. This is one of the reasons why the expenditure figures are less than 100 per cent under most of the programmes. I hope that there will be considerable improvement when reports are available for the whole year. The performance under the programmes is not uniform for all the States. In 1998-99, as per the reports received from the States concerned, the expenditure in Madhya Pradesh was 90 per cent of the total available funds and in Bihar it was 74 per cent.

The implementation of the employment generation programmes in 1999-2000 was relatively slow due to their restructuring. A new self employment programme, namely Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, SGSY, was initiated with effect from 1.4.1999 by restructuring the IRDP and allied programmes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for discussion on this Resolution is over at 5.38 p.m. If the House agrees, we may extend the time till 5.50 p.m.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time is extended. The Minister may now continue his speech.

SHRI A. RAJA : SGSY has been launched, keeping in

view the deficiencies of the earlier programmes in making the desired impact in alleviating the rural poverty and it has been conceived as a holistic programme of self-employment in rural areas. Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, JGSY, was also launched with effect from 1.4.1999 after restructuring the erstwhile Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, JRY, with the main objective of developing rural infrastructure while its secondary objective remains to be employment generation for the rural poor. Employment Assurance Scheme, EAS, was restructured with effect from 1.4.1999. During the first six months of 1999-2000, the pace of implementation of these schemes was slow, owing to factors such as the time involved in finalisation and circulation of the revised guidelines and in sensitising the agencies involved in the implementation.

The implementation of these programmes were also seriously affected in 1999-2000 due to the ban on taking up new schemes, imposed by the Election Commission after the general elections were announced in the country.

In order to ensure timely utilisation of funds by the States, the Ministry has incorporated the following provisions in the procedure for release of funds :

Funds are released under different programmes to the States in two instalments. The second instalment of funds is released only when the State/district has utilised 60 per cent of the funds available with it under the programme.

Audit Reports and utilisation certificates are insisted upon while processing the proposals for release of funds.

Cuts are imposed on the funds to be released to the States, if proposals for second instalment are received late after December. If the proposals are received in January 10 per cent cut on the second instalment is effected. If the proposals are received in February, the cut is 20 per cent and if the proposals are received in March, the cut is 30 per cent. The carry over limit of funds from one year to another has been reduced from 25 per cent during 1998-99 to 20 per cent during 1999-2000. It further been reduced to 15 per cent with effect from 1st April, 2000.

These conditions of release of funds compel the State Governments to ensure that funds are utilised by them to the extent possible. As otherwise they would not be getting their full allocation. In addition, Ministry of Rural Development from time to time has advised the States for ensuring utilisation of funds. The Ministry full recognises the need for an efficient monitoring mechanism, with the active participation of the people. The Ministry has advised the State Governments to constitute Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State, District and Block levels to supervise, exercise vigilance and monitor the implementation of all the programmes under its purview. These committees would also look into the complaints

[Shri A. Raja]

of misutilisation of funds of various poverty alleviation programmes in the districts. The State Level Committees have, amongst others, one representative each of national level parties, recognised by the Election Commission and represented in the State Assemblies. The District Level Committees have MPs and MLAs of the district as members. The Block Level Committees have MPs, MLAs as well as representatives of National Parties, recognised by the Election Commission and represented in the State Assemblies as members.

The Ministry conducts concurrent evaluations of its programmes to assess the impact of the programmes, identify the bottlenecks being faced in their effective implementation and to take midcourse corrective action, wherever found necessary. The Ministry has also started quick evaluation of all the important programmes during the current year. The Ministry fully recognises the active role to be played by the *Panchayati Raj* Institutions for ensuring better implementation of the programmes. Involving *Panchayati Raj* Institutions in the implementation of the programmes has already drawn the attention of the Government. Therefore, care has been taken to include this vital aspect in the guidelines of the programmes.

With regard to the role of MPs, many Members who spoke on this subject are known advocates who know that DRDA is an agency registered under the Society Registration Act under the State Legislatures. On the one hand, it is a State subject and on the other hand, there are *Panchayati Raj* Institutions whose representatives are planning, sanctioning and implementing the schemes. Without any detriment to these two systems, I assure that we will do our best to stimulate the programmes, within the scope and ambit of the Constitution.

With these words, I conclude and I request the hon. Member to kindly withdraw his Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (SATNA) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am happy that members in large numbers including the senior members, have participated in the discussion on the Private Members Resolution and have given their valuable suggestions. During the discussion, it is now amply clear that a huge amount of funds is given to the State Governments to alleviate poverty, but it is not utilised properly in the States. This discussion has, therefore been very meaningful. I am thankful to Shri Radhakrishnan ji, Shri Chennithala and Shri Pandiyan ji as also the treasury benches and opposition members for having given their suggestions cutting across party lines. This parliamentary democracy and the federal system in our country shall certainly succeed, because here we have Members who think for the welfare of the country by

rising above their party politics. It seems that we have members, who think sincerely and seriously for the country and in such a spirit, democracy would definitely have a bright future.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to say that the reply given by the hon'ble Minister is right, but I also request that the system needs continuous monitoring. Not even 50 per cent of funds given by the government for alleviation of poverty, have been spent in a majority of States so it is very necessary that it should be continuously reviewed and monitored. You will have to involve the Members of Parliament at one or the other stage. It has been repeatedly said that this is a State subject. When hundred percent of the funds are being provided by the Centre, then one should not ignore the subject by making such statements. Our hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal ji is a very noble person, he does not want that any State should complain that the Centre is interfering in its matters. Now the time has arrived as crores of rupees given for various schemes, going on for a long time, have been mostly, misused and the money could not somehow go into the right hands. As various members have stated that if the implementation of various schemes, pending since 1952 could have been done in a proper manner, then the condition of villages would have been much better. Therefore, you will have to re-consider the role of Members of Parliament in implementation of such schemes. The cabinet, hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Minister of Rural Development should take notice of this. Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development Shri Sunder Lal Patwa had stated in his reply to a question that the Members of Parliament would be made Chairman of D.R.D.A. Now, we belong to the ruling party, therefore we are unable to bring forward motion for breach of privilege, but principally speaking, if a Minister makes announcement in the House and that announcement or promise is not kept, then it becomes a matter of breach of privilege. It is only for the second time that I have been elected to the Lok Sabha, but my parliamentary carrier started in 1967 in the Legislative Assembly and I therefore request that please think properly before making any announcement or promise, as no announcement should be made in a haste. Please ensure that involvement of Parliament should be made at some level in the process of providing funds by the Centre for alleviation of poverty and the practice of holding meetings without the presence of Members of Parliament should also be stopped. You should write a letter to the Chief Minister stating that meeting should be held in the presence of MPs and they will have to take approval of the MPs before implementing these schemes. Whether you make an M.P., the Chairman of such committees, or you act according to the situation, but please check the practice of mis-appropriation of money as the funds are spent

without prior approval of M.Ps. I don't say that approval is to be taken from the MPs in all cases, but I certainly say that this is the money of the Centre, and we are acting as representatives of the Centre there. Therefore, the involvement of MPs should definitely be ensured. We are not fully satisfied with the formal answer given by hon'ble Minister. I urge upon you that please consider about the participation of MPs and take a decision, otherwise this struggle would continue and deserving persons would be devoid of the benefits of these schemes.

Before concluding my speech, I extend my thanks to all those who have participated in this debate. Scholars like Radhakrishnan ji, Chennithala ji and Pandiyan ji have given their important suggestion in this regard. I am happy that this will make the future of our country bright. Hon'ble Minister has given a broad reply to this question. Hence it is clear that the Government intends to introduce reforms in this field and therefore I trust the Government.

Sir, I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

*The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

17.49 hrs.

#### **Participation of Gram Sabha in Poverty Alleviation Programmes**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up the Resolution on Participation of Gram Sabha in poverty alleviation programmes by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

Before we take up the Resolution for discussion, we have to fix the time for this Resolution. Shall we fix two hours?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, we fix two hours for this discussion.

Now, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to initiate the discussion.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House urges upon the Government to ensure the participation of Gram Sabha in identifying the beneficiaries under various rural poverty alleviation programmes of the Central Government such as public distribution system and other programmes." Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to extend my thanks to the veteran socialist leader Shri Ramanand Singh ji who had expressed concern earlier in the previous private Member's Resolution that the funds allocated by the Centre to the State is not fully utilised. I would like to make two amendments therein. Firstly the quantum of funds has been reduced now. Secondly, the funds allocated are not fully utilised and thirdly, it is misused. All these three points are covered in the Resolution moved by me. I remember Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan, Late Karpuri Thakur who had visualised that the nation will be strengthened and developed only when the empowerment of the villages takes place. In this context, I would like to cite Article 243 A and 243 B of the Indian Constitution :-

[English]

243. (b) "Gram Sabha" means a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.

243A. A Gram Sabha may exercise such powers and performs such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide.

[Translation]

It shows that the empowerment of Gram Sabha has been emphasised in Article 243 of the Indian Constitution. Besides Gram Sabha is the only way through which democracy can be established and strengthened. My point is that there should be participation of the Gram Sabha in all the poverty alleviation schemes and all the decisions related to these schemes should be taken by the Gram Sabha.

The Government claims that it gives a subsidy of Rs. 8.5 crores in respect of public distribution system. As per the 1991 census, total population and the number of families was less at that time. It was estimated then that there were 16 crore families in India out of which 6 crore families were below poverty line. But now that the population of the country has

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

risen to 100 crores, my estimate is that there would be 20 crore families in India, out of which 8 crores families might be below poverty line. When we go to villages the villagers say that they do not have 'red cards' which means that their names are not registered for the purpose of availing facilities provided to the people below poverty line. If you meet 100 people, you will find at least 15-20 such persons who are really landless. They get food only when they work and if they fail to get a job, they have to observe fast or they remain hungry. The names of such persons have not been included in the list of people living below poverty line as yet. I hope that the Government will ponder over it and ensure that no poor person or the family living below poverty line is left out from being included in the lists of beneficiaries of these schemes. Survey should be conducted for this purpose.

The resolution moved by me a kind of help to the Government. The Government has declared the year 2000 as the year of Gram Sabha, but it is merely a declaration. The objectives set for the Gram Sabha Year has not been fulfilled. Instead the year 2000 has been considered as the year of Gram Sabha on the papers. The Minister of Information and Broadcasting is present here. These days, Doordarshan is engaged in publicising meaningless things (unt bunt).

DR. M.P. JAISAWAL (BETTIAH) : What is this "Unt bunt" ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Watch the news and you'll see what they are showing. The Government has merely declared this year as the year of Gram Sabha. Due attention should be paid to the village in T.V., Radio and other mass media. The Prime Minister should visit Gram Sabha. Minister of Rural Development, Chief Minister of the States, Ministers, MLAs and MPs should visit Gram Sabha so that its importance may enhance. Instructions have also been on papers given to hold Gram Sabha but that is false and the meeting of Gram Sabha is not called.

If the Government has declared year 2000 should be celebrated as the year of Gram Sabha, then there should be empowerment of Gram Sabha and there should be grass root democracy. If we want to strengthen Gram Sabha, then it should be given due coverage in media and newspapers. I & B Minister supported our cause but now has moved to other side. We expect that Gram Sabha should be publicised through mass media. When we visit villages, we find that persons having 5-10 Bigha land get their names registered in the list of persons below poverty line and the persons who are

really poor and fulfil the criteria for being registered in that list are left out. The Gram Sabha should be empowered to convene meeting and determine as to who are below the poverty line and who are above the poverty line. Only paper work will not do. You say that it is written in the paper and, I say I have seen it. I have detected these irregularities by touring those areas. The Gram Sabha should be entrusted the responsibility of identifying the persons living below poverty line for the public distribution system and due importance should be given to Gram Sabha.

Kerosene, rice, wheat etc. are supplied in the name of poor people but the stock is sold in black market. The Monitoring Committee has also not been constituted. It was said that in order to monitor the operations of public distribution system a Monitoring Committee will be constituted at Panchayat level. It was said that shop-wise Monitoring Committee will be constituted and beneficiaries will be the Members of this Committee but that was not done. There is no such Committee at Panchayat level throughout the country and at place monitoring committees have been constituted in the name only. Hence the meetings of the Gram Sabha should be convened and transparency should be maintained in supply and distribution of the goods and the Gram Sabha should keep account of all these things. Under the P.D.S. those persons who are below poverty line and have been left out should be given Red Card or the blue card as the case may be because in some States blue cards have also been issued and it should be decided by the Gram Sabha. Last year, the Government announced "Annapurna Scheme." Ten kg. of foodgrains will be given to the old, helpless poor and destitute persons. However, for the last one year not a single person has been benefited. This year, a provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made in the budget but I do not know, if it will be of any use or not. This power should be given to the Gram Sabha and it should be decided by the people of the village as to which families and which person should be given 10 kg. of foodgrains, free of cost. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had said during his tenure as the Prime Minister that if one rupee is released, only 16 paise reach the village. It can be remedied. Gram Sabha should be empowered. Decisions regarding land and the responsibility of monitoring, should be given to the Gram Sabha. There would be around 6 lakh villages which are poor. Gram Sabha has been given constitutional status in Indian Constitution. Lok Sabha may be dissolved, Legislative Assembly may be dissolved, if election of Panchayat are not held then it may be dissolved, but Gram Sabha can not be dissolved, because this status has been conferred on it by the Indian Constitution. It is the real grass root institution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, now it is six o' clock. You may continue next time.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) :  
Thank you, Sir.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 15th May, 2000 at 11.00 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 15, 2000/Vaisakha 25, 1922 (Saka).*

---

---

**© 2000 By Lok Sabha Secretariat**

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in  
Lok Sabha (Ninth Edition) and Printed at Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006

---